

## Housing Supports

The City is asking the Government of Alberta to invest in the creation or continuation of 70-100 bridge housing spaces for 2023 and onward so that spaces can continue to be available to those who are desperate to transition out of homelessness.

In order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Edmontonians, the following is required:

- Deep Subsidy: Approximately 10,600 deeply subsidized units will be needed by 2026 to meet the needs of Edmonton's lowest income households (earning less than \$15,000 annually), with monthly rent at or below \$375 (adjusted for inflation).

- Shallow Subsidy: Approximately 48,830 affordable housing units will be needed by 2026 to address the shortage for the two lowest income category households (earning less than \$45,000 annually), at monthly rent levels of less than \$1,100 (adjusted for inflation).
- A detailed plan and strategy regarding hospital release and correctional release from the respective levels of government. There is a substantial gap in comprehensive support for those being released from facilities outside of municipal jurisdiction. Given the number of health and correctional facilities in the capital region, these numbers are significant.

The urgency and complexity of affordable housing and homelessness issues in our city are beyond the capacity of the City of Edmonton to address alone. We are asking for the Province's collaboration on a number of high priority funding priorities.

Supportive housing for people transitioning out of homelessness is a top priority for the City of Edmonton, and is aligned with Action 1.6 from the [Stronger Foundations Strategy](#), the Province of Alberta's 10-year strategy to improve and expand affordable housing released in 2021. In 2022 alone, 436 units from eight supportive housing projects in Edmonton are scheduled to be completed. For these supportive housing projects to be open and ready to accommodate Edmontonians transitioning out of homelessness, the City is requesting that the Government of Alberta increase Homeward Trust Edmonton's Outreach and Support Services Initiative (OSSI) funding by \$8.9 million ongoing, starting in 2022, and continue to increase it as additional supportive housing comes online (to an estimated total of \$24.1 million by 2026). These operating funds should be provided to Homeward Trust Edmonton, the owner of these units, who will contract the

building's operators and bring the facilities online to immediately break the cycle of homelessness for 436 Edmontonians.

The City of Edmonton is focused on increasing the supply of Indigenous-led affordable housing in our city. For this strategy to be successful, the City is asking the Government of Alberta to be a partner by increasing available capital and operating funding for Indigenous-led housing projects, creating targeted rent subsidy programs for Indigenous tenants, supporting capacity building efforts for Indigenous homeowners, property management, and tenants, and working closely with the City and the Government of Canada to reduce red tape and streamline the project development and grant funding approval process, expediting the delivery of new units and easing the administrative burden on Indigenous affordable housing providers.

## Emergency Shelter

The City of Edmonton is working with the Ministry of Alberta Community and Social Services to establish a baseline understanding of shelter use data and to discuss our winter response strategy. Available funded emergency shelter capacity will soon fall from 1,135 beds to 634 permanently funded beds. During this past winter, an average of 985 individuals accessed shelters every night . As a result of more people sleeping <sup>1</sup> outside in 2021, the City of Edmonton responded to 6,204 encampment complaints.

Bridge Housing has been identified as a key strategy for addressing the growing issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness in Edmonton. The City of Edmonton recently approved up to \$4.1 million to support the continuation of 157 bridge housing spaces in 2022 that had been temporarily funded during the pandemic. When this funding runs out at the end of the year, Edmonton will only have approximately 40 units of permanent bridge housing geared towards transitioning people out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

<sup>1</sup>This analysis was completed using shelter occupancy data provided by the Government of Alberta via the open data portal:  
<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/funded-emergency-shelters-daily-occupancy-ab>