



January 1st, 2020

City of Regina
City Hall, 2476 Victoria Avenue
Treaty 4 and Métis Homeland
Regina, SK S4S 7K2

End Homelessness Regina
2400 13th Ave
Treaty 4 and Metis Homeland
Regina, SK S4P 0V9

Subject: Plan to End Homelessness in Regina Funding

Dear City of Regina,

End Homelessness Regina is pleased to submit the following formal request to the City of Regina to implement the *Everyone is Home: A Five-Year Plan to End Chronic & Episodic Homelessness in Regina*. The following letter outlines End Homelessness Regina's history & mandate, a short description of the community need and how the organization's initiative also addresses the City of Regina's Social Development funding priorities.

History & Mandate

End Homelessness Regina, officially incorporated in November 2019, was established in response to the development of the *Everyone is Home: A Five-Year Plan to End Chronic & Episodic Homelessness in Regina*. The development of the five-year Plan began in the spring of 2017 when a partnership was formed between the City of Regina and the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy to fund the development of a plan to end homelessness in Regina. Work began with the formation of a Community Leadership Committee developed to work with the Homelessness Partnering Strategy staff and consultants to oversee the creation of the Plan.

In March 2018 a community summit on homelessness held marking the public start of a community-wide process led by service providers, stakeholders, and local leaders to develop a plan to end chronic and episodic homelessness in Regina. More than 500 people and organizations participated in the community consultation process and development of the Plan. According to the final report, the development of the Plan accords with the growing consensus on both a local and national level that "ending homelessness involves addressing its structural and systemic factors that contribute to and perpetuate homelessness, in addition to responding to individual factors such as mental health and addictions" (page 12). The five-year Plan represents the Regina Community focus on a comprehensive,



community-based systems planning process to address policy and practice that contributes to or impedes meaningful solutions to homelessness and housing security.

End Homelessness Regina's mandate and purpose is to be an informational "hub" and online community resource for agencies, shelters, business and organizations to find and share information on issues relating to homelessness. This "hub" will allow service providers to access information on events, studies, reports and facts on homelessness in Regina in order to develop more coordinated and collaborative responses to homelessness in the community. The organization will also monitor, evaluate and report on all progress on the five-year Plan.

Plan Implementation

In accordance with Pillar One: Leadership & Implementation of the *Everyone is Home: A Five-Year Plan to End Chronic & Episodic Homelessness in Regina*, End Homelessness Regina will begin the Plan implementation strategy by establishing a governance body and securing additional implementation positions. Once funding is secured for the organization's Director Position, the organization will be responsible for recruiting and confirming community leaders for a Plan governance and implementation that incorporates Indigenous leadership, a structure for the collection of lived experience input, and outlets for ongoing community oversight and engagement. Together with the Plan governance body, End Homelessness Regina will also confirm and hire additional Plan implementation positions and develop a funding strategy to fully fund the Plan for five-years of implementation. The implementation Plan will also involve facilitating a funding agreement with the municipal, provincial, and federal governments. End Homelessness Regina will work collaboratively with all three levels of government to ensure that all community homelessness initiatives and projects in Regina, Saskatchewan align with the Plan's goals. The organization will also liaison with all three levels of government to ensure that the Plan goals are met, and cost-effective measures are utilized for the evaluation of homelessness initiatives and projects pursued by the organization and other community entities.

In alignment with the Government of Saskatchewan's *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond*, which sets out the Government's vision for the province, and the Government of Canada's National Housing Strategy which prioritizes the housing needs of Canada's most vulnerable groups, End Homelessness Regina considers the organization's role and collaboration with all three levels of government as pivotal to the Plan's success. By redirecting and focussing on existing resources, leveraging new sources of support and funding, and better collaboration between government and non-government sectors, implementing the Plan will lead to improved client-based services and programs and ensure that the existing resources within the system have the best impact possible.

Community Need

The community issue of chronic and episodic homelessness is detailed in great length within the *Everyone is Home: A Five-Year Plan to End Chronic & Episodic Homelessness in Regina*. For the purposes of this proposal, it is important to note that the Plan was developed through months of consultation with both local and provincial leadership and numerous stakeholders with lived experiences of



homelessness or frontline experience and builds on the success of Regina's Housing First program. The Plan details four pillars and associated recommended actions beginning with securing funds for a director position for plan implementation. In September 2019, Terin Kennedy accepted the Director Position and as recommended in the plan, is actively seeking funding contributions of \$20,000 from each order of government over five-years, to signal partnership and commitment to the Plan as well as other sources of foundation, grant, and corporate sponsorship funding.

Community Impact

According to the five-year plan, over the five years, a total of 2,227 intakes of people are projected to be impacted by the actions outlines in the Plan. These intakes include people that are chronically and episodically homeless as well as some transitionally homeless and individuals/families at risk (page 14). Although the Plan does not include transitionally homeless and precariously housed individuals and families, positive effects from increases availability of program and housing spaces are expected.

There are four pillars and corresponding recommended actions outlines in the five-year Plan: 1.) leadership and implementation; 2.) data-driven systems integration & coordinated access; 3.) housing & supports; and, 4.) capacity building & awareness. The pillars and recommended actions directly align with the City of Regina's Community Investments Grants Program's Social Development Stream Priorities in the following ways:

- Support for the community to create collaborative strategies to address access to housing & housing supports;
- Strengthen the development of safe neighbourhoods by increasing housing & outreach supports;
- Support organizations that represent First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples by focusing on Indigenous homelessness and coordinating access to culturally adapted housing supports; and
- Align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action and adopting a holistic approach that addresses homelessness that includes promoting a greater understanding and competency across sectors and services about the root causes of Indigenous homelessness.

Contribution Request

As outlined in the five-year Plan, in order to see a measurable shift in the response to and outcomes for people that are experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness in Regina, the Plan must be pursued with continued collaboration and commitment with the community and all levels of government. The Plan recommends that all levels of government commit to contributing resources to the Plan Coordination positions over the Plan's duration beginning with funding to secure the Director Position. Securing funds to sustain the Director Position will ensure that the Plan's implementation is coordinated and completed.

As stated in the Plan, it is recommended that each order of government provide a contribution of \$20,000/year to ensure that Director can be fully focused on implementing the Plan rather than



fundraising to cover their position. End Homelessness Regina is requesting that the City of Regina contribute \$20,000 to support the Director Position. The joint funding will allow the Director to begin recruiting and conforming community leaders for the Plan's governance and implementation, hire additional positions, and develop a funding strategy to fully finance the five-years of implementation. Essentially, the seed

funding for the Director Position of End Homelessness Regina is crucial to the providing the necessary leadership to Plan implementation and future sustainability of the organization and vital work in the community.

Thank-you for the opportunity to submit this proposal for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me at (306) 535-3307 or terin@endhomelessnessregina.ca.

Sincerely,

Terin Kennedy
Director
End Homelessness Regina