

Counting the Homeless: Why and how?

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About Community Action on Homelessness

- In a shared delivery model with Service Canada, Community Action on Homelessness [CAH] administers the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy for HRM.
- CAH works in partnership with community, investing over \$3 million over 2 years to advance solutions that address various aspects of homelessness in HRM.
- The work of CAH is guided by a Steering Committee that develops, in consultation with the broader community, the “Halifax Community Plan”. This plan sets the strategic direction for each funding period, and defines the Requests for Proposals.



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Reasons for Lack of Homelessness Data

- Quantitative data collection not a high priority in the past.
- Short term nature of funding program does not allow for long term planning.
- Research not a priority as long as obvious needs are not met.
- Lack of financial resources and capacity
- Lack of a universal data collection tool

Why data collection now?

- Support for data that establishes baselines, measures outcomes and costs, and that demonstrates the links between homelessness and other systems - illuminating responsibilities.
- Prospect of an extension of the HPS program,
- Identified need for data that supports long term provincial and national strategic plans.
- Availability and widespread use of HIFIS among shelter and service providers.
- Minimized financial investment through partnerships, sharing of methodological models and resources.

Reports underway...

Completion by March 2009:

- Halifax Report Card on Homelessness
(use of the Ottawa methodological model)
- Halifax Street Count
(use of the HRM methodological model)
- Halifax Street Health Report
(use of the Toronto Street Health Report methodological model)

Process, Process, Process...

- CAH aspires to make this an inclusive community-building process by engaging many community and government agencies, individuals with first hand experience of homelessness.
- Process will foster partnerships and collaboration, and will help raise awareness .
- Educational opportunity.
- Regular community updates.

What's Next?

- Provincially, the research will assist CAH and other stakeholders in developing a strategic plan to more effectively address homelessness in Nova Scotia,
- Implication of a country wide initiative in the future, as more communities become involved we will be able to develop a comprehensive, informed, and targeted National Housing Strategy.
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For more Information contact:

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