

# Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

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**Community:** *Thunder Bay Aboriginal*

**Region:** *Ontario*

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation.
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As this Aboriginal Homelessness allocation is over \$200,000, the community is required to commit at least 40% of its HPS allocation towards a Housing First approach starting April 1, 2016.

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# Current Situation: Establishing your Baseline Data

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## Data

**Please report on your current situation based on the following indicators. All CABs should review their progress annually against these indicators. This review will form part of the annual update. Note:** Although this data is not required at this time, data for 2013 will be required as part of the first annual update.

1. Number of unique Aboriginal individuals who used an emergency homeless shelter in the twelve month period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012	
2. Number of Aboriginal shelter users who were chronically homeless in 2012	
3. Number of Aboriginal shelter users who were episodically homelessness in 2012	
4. Number of Aboriginal homeless individuals identified during the latest point in time count (if available)	
5. Date count was undertaken	

## Readiness for Implementing Housing First

**Please rate your community's readiness to implement Housing First based on the following questions.** Each component of the scale has a rating of one to four with four demonstrating full implementation of the HPS HF model. Use this information to decide where to focus your efforts in implementing your HF program. Because implementing Housing First may take some adjustments, communities will have the opportunity to rate progress annually and use the information to update priorities. Note: Responses will only be used by ESDC to understand the selection of the HF priorities and activities.

Criterion	Community's Rating
<b>CORE PRINCIPLES</b>	
<b>Rapid Housing with Supports.</b> Program directly helps participants locate and secure permanent housing as rapidly as possible and assists them with moving-in or re-housing if needed.	-2-: Program supports participants in locating housing within 4-6 months and does not offer participants who have lost housing a new housing unit.
<b>Housing Choice.</b> Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing.	-2-: Participants have little choice in location and other features of their housing, including the decorating and furnishing of their unit.
<b>Separating housing provision from other services.</b> Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness.	-3-: Participants have access to housing with minimal readiness requirements.
<b>Integrated Housing.</b> Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent housing with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement.	-3-: There no time limits on housing tenure but housing is not considered permanent.
<b>Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities.</b> Extent to which program participants have legal rights to the unit.	-2-: Participants have a written agreement (such as a lease or occupancy agreement), which specifies the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, but contains special provisions regarding adherence to treatment or other clinical provisions.

Criterion	Community's Rating
<p><b>Reasonable Cost for Housing.</b> Extent to which participants pay a reasonable amount of their income for housing costs and/or program has access to rent supplements or subsidized housing units.</p>	<p>-2-: Participants pay 46-60% or less of their income for housing costs and/or program helps participants obtain rent supplements or subsidized housing units.</p>
<p><b>Housing Support.</b> Extent to which program offers services to help participants maintain housing, such as offering assistance with landlord relations and neighborhood orientation.</p>	<p>-4-: Program offers ongoing housing support services.</p>
<b>SERVICE PHILOSOPHY</b>	
<p><b>Service choice.</b> Extent to which program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-4-: Participants have the right to choose, modify, or refuse services and supports at any time, except regular face-to-face visit with staff.</p>
<p><b>Participant-Driven Program &amp; Services.</b> Extent to which the program and services are participant-driven.</p>	<p>-2-: Program offers few opportunities for input on their individual services or more generally on program services.</p>
<p><b>Contact with Participants.</b> Extent to which program maintains regular contact with participants.</p>	<p>-4-: Program meets with participants at least 2 times a month to ensure participants' safety and well-being.</p>
<p><b>Continuous Services.</b> Extent to which program participants are not discharged from services even if they lose housing.</p>	<p>-4-: Participants continue to receive program services even if they lose housing.</p>
<p><b>Directly Offers or Brokers Services.</b> Program directly offers or brokers support services to participants, such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-2-: Program directly offers or brokers some services.</p>
<p><b>Selection of Vulnerable Populations.</b> Extent to which program focuses on chronic and/or episodically homeless individuals.</p>	<p>-2-: Program has some method to identify chronic and/or episodically homeless.</p>
<b>TEAM STRUCTURE/HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	
<p><b>Low Participant/Staff Ratio.</b> Extent to which program consistently maintains a low participant/staff ratio.</p>	<p>-4-: 20 or fewer participants per 1 FTE staff.</p>

# Community Advisory Board Membership

- 1. Name of the Community Advisory Board:** Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- 2. Number of members in your CAB:** 20

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
<b>Baglien</b>	Charlene		- Non-profit	Member	No
<b>McGuire-Cyrette</b>	Cora		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
<b>Bobyk</b>	Tammy		- Other: Holistic program for Aboriginal children living off reserve	Member	No
<b>Simon</b>	Vince		- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
<b>Ponka</b>	Beth		- Non-profit	Chair	Yes
<b>Desmoulin</b>	Genevieve		- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
<b>Pinta</b>	Saku		- Non-profit	Ex-officio member	No
<b>Budgell</b>	Glenn		- Other: Service Canada Senior Development Officer	Ex-officio member	No
<b>Farrell</b>	Amy		- Other: Education	Member	No
<b>Magiskan</b>	Ann		- Other: City of Thunder Bay Aboriginal Liaison	Member	No
<b>Hajiani</b>	Karim		- Other: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	Member	No
<b>Lesurf</b>	Joana		- Other: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	Member	No
<b>Nowgesic</b>	Ellen		- Other: Community Member	Member	No
<b>Desmoulin</b>	Jacenia		- Other: Community Member	Member	No
<b>Sinoway</b>	Joshua		- Other: Community Member	Member	No
<b>Lane</b>	Mathew		- Other: Community Member	Member	No
<b>Thompson</b>	Matthew		- Other: Community Member	Member	No

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Tibishkogijig	Melanie		- Other: Community Member	Member	No
Nawagesic	Pat		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Capon	Paul		- Housing and social housing - Aboriginal - Private sector and business associations	Member	No

**3. Given the requirement to allocate funding to the Housing First approach, which involves both housing and individual supports, are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include and/or engage in the future to more fully represent your community? (for example, Provincial or Territorial representatives responsible for housing and/or mental health, landlord organizations, people with lived experience, police, corrections, health and health promotions (including the Health Authority), income supports, other funders, addictions treatment)**

No

# Planning and Reporting

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## Your Planning Process

### 1. Stakeholder Engagement

- a. **Who and how did the CAB consult in your community as you prepared this Community Plan? Please include information about the approach you took and the extent of your consultations.**

Stakeholder engagement has occurred in a number of ways by CAB-affiliated and other community organizations. First, through the work of the Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy (TBUAS), specifically, the 2010 Housing Forum Survey and the 2012 updated TBUAS Community Plan. Second, through the 2013 'When Domestic Violence Affects Aboriginal Men and Their Children' report produced by the Naadmaagewin Aboriginal Domestic Violence Committee. Third, through the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board's provincially mandated 10 Year Housing Plan. Finally, through community consultations conducted by two strategic initiatives: the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Housing and Accommodation Needs Assessment and the Thunder Bay and District Poverty Reduction Strategy.

- b. **How is your CAB working with the Designated Community to get access to data and implement Aboriginal homeless priorities?**

Thunder Bay has both an Aboriginal and a non-Aboriginal CAB. The Chair of the Aboriginal CAB sits on the non-Aboriginal CAB. Also, the Community Entity for the non-Aboriginal CAB is serving, for one transitional year, as the Community Entity for the Aboriginal CAB.

### 2. Other Related Strategies and Programs

- a. **In this section, you will identify and describe the federal, provincial, territorial, or local strategies, programs (other than HPS) which fund activities in your community that you will access to support your Housing First and other homelessness effort.**

- b. **How many have you identified? 1**

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
<b>Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014-2019)</b>	- Social housing



Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
<b>"Realizing Our Potential"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mental health</li> <li>- Addictions</li> <li>- Employment</li> <li>- Income supports</li> <li>- Education</li> </ul>

- c. Does your Province or Territory have a plan or strategic direction to address homelessness, poverty, housing, or another related issue?**

Yes

**How does your HPS Community Plan complement Provincial or Territorial direction in this area?**

Partially aligns

**Please explain.**

The Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched in 2008 for a 5-year period, concluding in 2013, and recently renewed for another 5-year period (2014-2019). The plan is primarily focused on 'reducing poverty among children and youth through targeted investments and supports' with another focus on 'housing - in particular, on ending homelessness.' While the housing commitments of the strategy will not be announced until the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy is updated in 2015-2016, the report specifically mentions the Housing First approach.

- c. The Housing First approach requires access to a range of client supports. How will you engage (or how are you engaging) provincial or territorial programs to facilitate access to provincial/territorial services for Housing First clients?**

We plan to explore opportunities that will be outcomes of the updated Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2015-2016, access Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funds, and examine possibilities for facilitating access to provincially-funded social housing.

# Your Priorities

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
<b>To reduce homelessness through a Housing First (HF) approach*</b>	0% AH	5% AH	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH		
<b>To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness through individualized services †</b>	100% AH	95% AH	60% AH	60% AH	60% AH	Housing Placement (outside of Housing First)	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>
						Connecting clients to income supports	<b>3 people will increase their income or income stability.</b>
						Pre-employment support and bridging to the labour market	<b>3 people will increase their employment stability or will start part-time or full-time employment. 3 people will start a job training program.</b>
						Life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking)	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>
						Supports to improve client's social integration	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
						Culturally relevant responses to help Aboriginal clients	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>
						Connecting clients to education and supporting success	<b>3 people will start part-time or full-time education.</b>
						Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness)	<b>3 people will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention.</b>
						Liaise and refer to appropriate resources	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>
						Basic or urgent needs services	<b>The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.</b>

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	-	-	-	-	-		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
<b>To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.</b>	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH		
<b>To ensure coordination of resources and leveraging</b>	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH		
<b>To improve data collection and use</b>	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH	0% AH		

**Notes:**

- \* **The Housing First model includes both housing and access to supports primarily for chronically and episodically homeless individuals. The services provided are offered through an integrated approach and are interdependent. Generally, the approach will be to ensure that Housing First clients have access to all the existing services required.**
- † **These services are offered primarily to individuals who are homeless or imminently at risk that are not part of the Housing First program.**

***Results***

**With renewal, the HPS is increasing the focus on achieving results. All projects are expected to contribute to reducing or preventing homelessness and CABs and CEs should be working together to determine how they will measure project success. The HPS has identified a number of indicators it will be using to measure the success of the HPS at reducing and preventing homelessness.**

## Description of your Priorities

### Housing First (HF) Priority

#### *Rationale*

**Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.**

The Aboriginal CAB funding allocation mandates that we contribute no less than 40% of our funding to Housing First activities by 2016-2017. The Housing First approach has also been endorsed by the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, Thunder Bay and District Poverty Reduction Strategy, and Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy.

#### *What other resources can you leverage to contribute to your HF efforts?*

- **HF Readiness**  
HPS Aboriginal Conference in Edmonton in 2013 and our SDO Glenn Budgell.
- **Client Intake & Assessment**  
Activities that are currently practiced by the Nihdawin Program.
- **Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing**  
None
- **Accessing Services**  
Activities that are currently practiced by the Nihdawin Program through partnerships with other community agencies.
- **Data, Tracking & Monitoring**  
HIFIS working group.

#### *Description of the Housing First (HF) Approach*

**Please describe your Housing First approach, identify what percentage of your allocation will be used towards furnishing and repairing housing for HF purposes and provide a timeline for HF implementation.**

Our Housing First approach will be developed in consultation with the CAB, CE, and other community stakeholders, as well as with reference to previously identified community consultations and reports, in accordance with HPS directives. The successful sub-project(s) will allocate 5% of HPS funds to Housing First readiness in 2015-2016 and 40% of HPS funds to Housing First activities beginning in the 2016-2017 funding period.

### *Target Group(s)*

**Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.**

- Chronically homeless individuals
- Episodically homeless individuals

### Individualized Services Priority

#### *Rationale*

**Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.**

The Thunder Bay Aboriginal CAB has committed to supporting the Nihdawin Program for the one-year transitional funding.

#### *Target Group(s) within the homeless and at imminent risk of homelessness populations*

**Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.**

- Chronically and episodically homeless individuals
- Families and children
- Youth
- Aboriginal people
- Men
- Women