

Regina Rapid Housing Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

All comments are included on the file for the project. If you have additional questions or comments about the Rapid Housing Initiative, please contact rapidhousing@regina.ca

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BACKGROUND

What is the Rapid Housing Initiative?

The Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) is a capital funding program developed by the Government of Canada to support the creation of new affordable rental housing to help address the urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians. RHI funding is delivered through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

In July 2021, the City of Regina (City) was invited to submit a proposal to deliver affordable housing as part of the Government of Canada's RHI. The City was allocated \$7.75 million in capital funding to deliver a minimum of 29 affordable housing units. The units must be delivered with occupancy permits within 12 months of a signed contribution agreement with CMHC and must be maintained as affordable for a minimum of 20 years. While the City is able to work with a non-profit intermediary, the City remains signatory to all agreements with CMHC for the 20-year term.

What was Regina's proposal for the RHI program?

The City submitted a proposal for the RHI – Cities Stream program on August 31, 2021. The City's proposal included a commitment to construct a new permanent supportive housing development to serve individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. The development is to include a minimum of 29 units with on-site communal space and personalized, wrap-around support services provided by a non-profit operator for the tenants of the building.

What is the timeline for the RHI program?

One of the conditions of the RHI is that the funded units must be delivered with occupancy permits within 12 months of a signed contribution agreement with CMHC. The City's proposal for the RHI was formally approved with a capital contribution agreement signed between the City and CMHC in late November 2021. As per the RHI agreement, the units will need to be delivered, with occupancy permits, by December 1, 2022.

Who is going to operate the building?

The City held a call for applications to determine an operator and service provider for the RHI project funded by the City's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Operating Grant. The partnership of Silver Sage Holdings Ltd. (SSH) and Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services (RT/SIS) was selected through that process. These Indigenous organizations represent a solid partnership with a proven track record of providing safe, secure, affordable housing and support services. They have experience supporting individuals who are transitioning to permanent housing.

Since 1994, RT/SIS has been working as the exclusive Indigenous-owned and governed, human services delivery agency providing a wide range of program and service interventions to multi-barrier clients in and around the city of Regina. RT/SIS works with a network of service delivery partnerships to ensure clients have access to a continuum of social services that can help support them in making successful transitions to independence, wellness and community belonging.

SSH is the largest off-reserve housing provider in Saskatchewan and has been working to advance social housing outcomes in Regina for Indigenous clients since 1983.

TYPE OF HOUSING

What type of housing will this be? Is it a shelter?

The RHI project is considered transitional or supportive housing. This is longer-term housing that is distinct and different from emergency shelters, drop-ins and other forms of temporary accommodations. The building itself will hold 29 apartments as well as space for services, training, and other supports. From the outside, it will be similar to any low-rise apartment building.

Residents of this building will have been working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months to ensure they are stable and will be able to successfully live in their own apartment with supports provided on-site to build their independence. Residents will have experienced barriers to accessing housing, however it is a misconception that they will be actively in crisis due to severe addiction or mental health issues.

Some supportive housing projects limit the time that residents can live in the building. However, it is RT/SIS' intent to welcome residents to stay in the building for as long as they need before being ready to transition to more independent living. It is anticipated that on average residents may stay three to five years.

How is this different from the temporary shelter that was established after Camp Hope?

The facility that was established out of Camp Hope is a drop-in shelter, not housing units. People who are accessing this facility typically have complex needs that can make it challenging to access other shelters or housing options. Many of the supports that are provided to people accessing the emergency shelter are directed at keeping them alive and safe.

Both the City and RT/SIS (as the operators of the emergency shelter space) are optimistic that some people currently in this facility will be able to stabilize and start to choose to move out of chronic homelessness. RT/SIS has the knowledge and services in place to support people who are ready to make that move. For these individuals, after working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months, some may be ready to choose to move into supportive housing like what is proposed at 120 Broad Street. Through individualized case management and support services, RT/SIS will be in the best place to determine who is ready to be supported in such a move so they can be successful.

The emergency shelter facility was established as an alternative to the temporary camp site in Core Community Park and to prevent loss of life this winter. The City, Province and community-based organizations are in discussion about a longer-term solution to support people currently accessing the shelter.

What does transitional housing mean? What is supportive housing?

Transitional housing or supportive housing refers to housing that is distinct and different from temporary accommodations including shelters. Residents have chosen to exit homelessness and are taking steps towards healing and community integration. Supportive housing includes

support services for residents and provides safety and stability, allowing residents to positively contribute to their communities.

Within this project specifically, the City is providing operational funding to support case management and individualized support services that will complement services available through the provincial health and social services systems. Supportive housing is a critical component to ending homelessness in Regina.

THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



Why was a handout distributed that says residents will be dangerous, drug addicts and have severe mental health concerns if that's not what is intended?

This information was not circulated by the City. Following the City's initial meeting with stakeholders in early December 2021, the project team shifted its focus to planning a broad community information session that was held in early January 2022. In the period between early December and the meeting on January 5, incorrect information about the project was unfortunately broadly shared between neighbourhood residents.

The City's official information about the project is posted on www.regina.ca/rapidhousing, including this document and the recording of the first community information session held on January 5, 2022.

RESIDENTS OF THE BUILDING

Who will be eligible to live at this building?

Residents will have been actively working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months prior to moving into the building to ensure they are able to live in their own apartment safely and successfully with supports provided on-site to build their independence. Residents will have experienced barriers to accessing housing, however it is a misconception that they will be actively in crisis due to severe addiction or mental health issues.

Residents will have individualized case management plans with RT/SIS that provide support and direction for them to gain greater independence. Residents will need to adhere to their case management plans to maintain their residency.

Is there a risk that dangerous offenders or those with sexual offenses will be living at this building?

No. It is the policy of RT/SIS that residents at this building will not have any sexual charges or convictions and they will not be dangerous offenders. Individuals with these types of offenses would not fit the eligibility criteria to live in these units.

What is the demographic target for residents? (i.e., Women and children, Indigenous)

A condition of the CMHC RHI funding (\$7.75 million) is that a minimum of 25% of units be targeted towards women or women and their children. This is a consistent expectation for all RHI projects across Canada. Through the initial research period for this project, the City heard from community-based organizations that co-ed supportive housing is both possible to operate safely and highly needed within Regina. The building design will include considerations to safely accommodate all residents.

In setting national requirements for RHI projects, CMHC also encourages that a minimum of 15% of units be targeted towards Indigenous residents. Regina's RHI project is likely to exceed this target as Indigenous people are over-represented among those who require access to supportive housing in Regina.

RT/SIS intends to meet the CMCH targets by managing an inclusive space that is open to men, women and children, including 2SLGBTQ+ residents. Residents will be offered the option to move into this space only after working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months, once the organization understands their needs and what they require to be successfully and safely housed. RT/SIS is also looking to address the need for family reunification and co-ed units at this site, specifically for families who have had to separate because the situation complications of poverty, job loss or the inability to find suitable accommodations.

What is Family Reunification?

Family reunification services allow for family members to be reunited by providing appropriate housing and support services. Often family reunification efforts will work with mothers, fathers

and children but may also include extended family, or unrelated community members who are significant to the child.

Where will people live before moving here?

The residents of the housing are anticipated to be from diverse circumstances. Some may have been couch surfing or in living conditions that were transient and inadequate. Some will have accessed shelters or other temporary accommodation. RT/SIS will focus on ensuring readiness for more independent living and the safety and security of other residents and the community prior to placing residents in the building.

OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

What are the immediate and on-going supports for the residents once housed at the building?

Residents will have been working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months prior to moving into the building to ensure they are stable and will be able to successfully live in their own unit with supports provided on-site to build their independence. These supports may include:

- Healthy Living – meal preparation, nutrition, personal care
- Social Inclusion – counselling, life skill training, access to programs and services
- Cultural – access to healing spaces, traditional medicines, traditional learning opportunities with Elders and Knowledge keepers

Support services will be tailored to the individual needs of each resident. Many will be provided on-site, and the building will be designed accordingly. Some services will be provided by the operator (RT/SIS) and others will be managed in partnership with the appropriate agency which could include Saskatchewan Health Authority and additional partners.

How will case management happen? How often?

RT/SIS will undertake case management in a manner that is person-specific and focused on supporting residents to remain safely and successfully housed. It will be undertaken regularly, and as required by the resident's unique needs. Residents will need to adhere to their case management plans to maintain their residency at the building.

What will day-to-day operations look like at the building? (i.e., ratio of resident to support staff)

Specific details around operations of the building and the support services are being refined by RT/SIS as the project progresses. The City and RT/SIS will meet regularly to review the operations and ensure the project is meeting objectives, including the success of housing placements.

This project is unique from many others as the City is providing additional operating funding of \$1 million annually to support operations and the provision of support services. All partners are committed to providing safe, stable housing to residents; staffing numbers and other details of the operating model will be determined in a manner that is supportive of that objective.

What level of staffing and security will be present at the building?

There will be 24-hour staffing at the building including security/reception. There will also be a dedicated property manager for the building and maintenance staff. The details around staffing and security will be determined by RT/SIS and SSH as the project progresses.

SSH and RT/SIS are Indigenous-owned with a mandate to serve Indigenous residents. Can non-Indigenous people live here?

Yes. RT/SIS is an Indigenous organization but provides "status-blind" services. In their proposal to the City, RT/SIS committed to serving people in need, regardless of race, ethnicity or any other factor.

What reporting will there be for the non-profit operators?

RT/SIS will be required to report annually on the operation of the supportive housing units. Additionally, a mid-year funder meeting will be conducted for RT/SIS to report mid-year data outputs, spending and project updates. The City is committed to ongoing collaboration and meetings to ensure project success.

LOCATION

Where will the site be located and why was this site chosen?

The City has purchased the site at 120 Broad Street in the North East neighbourhood for the RHI project. The site currently contains a parking lot and a converted church building. The new 29-unit building will be constructed adjacent to the existing structure.

A comprehensive city-wide search began in July 2021. More than 20 sites were reviewed and evaluated based on lot size and configuration, appropriate zoning, site serviceability and proximity to transit, community resources and amenities. The site at 120 Broad Street meets all of these criteria and, through discussion with our service providers, was determined to be well-suited for the project with opportunities for strong quality of life and community integration for future residents of the housing units.

What does “appropriate zoning” mean?

The Zoning Bylaw facilitates community growth and the development of complete communities. It provides direction on how land can be used (residential, commercial), the types of buildings that can be built in addition to landscaping and parking requirements. Zoning provides an indication of what is to be expected and supported on a site and ensures the appropriateness of uses and intensity of development (e.g., heights, density). For example, the permitted uses, heights and intensity of development will be different on a local residential street than on a main street corridor.

120 Broad Street is zoned MH - mixed high rise – which can accommodate a broad mix of uses including residential and non-residential uses. This zoning allows for an apartment style (stacked) form of building on the site and is typical along major corridors like Broad Street.

Had the City not been able to identify a location with appropriate zoning for the project, it may have had to purchase a site with different zoning and then undertake a rezoning process which is typically four to six months and requires a Council decision. This would have added time and complexity to the process, and could have put the City at risk of losing the CMHC funding. The need to avoid delays to access the funding focused the search for land on locations that were appropriately zoned to accommodate this project.

What is the timeline for the acquisition of this land?

The City purchased the property from Eden Care Suites Inc. (Eden Care Communities Management Inc.) in fall 2021.

Oct 18 – City made initial contact with owners of 120 Broad Street

Oct 21 – City provided a formal offer to purchase the land

Oct 22 – City received a counteroffer from the owner

Oct 25 – City re-affirmed the initial offer

Oct 26 – Offer to purchase the land was signed by both the City and the owner

Oct 28 – City received the current appraisal and environmental analysis report
Nov 12 – Received confirmation of CMHC approval and funding
Nov 19 – City received the servicing assessment for the site
Nov 24 – Site visit with City staff, RT/SIS, SSH and contractor doing spatial analysis
Nov 29 – Funding agreement with CMHC is signed
Dec 1 – Site visits with contractor to complete due diligence
Dec 7 – City received spatial analysis of the existing church building
Dec 8 – City removed all conditions
Jan 7 – Possession date

How much did the site cost?

The City purchased the property for \$1,200,000 which was funded through the CMHC RHI Project. The appraised value of the property is \$1,553,000.

What alternative sites were reviewed?

The City undertook a comprehensive review of possible locations for the RHI project. All City-owned land and property was reviewed. Inquiries were made with commercial realtors and developers. Findings from the Underutilized Land Improvement Strategy were studied to identify vacant or underutilized parcels.

Over twenty properties were reviewed in more detail to determine suitability. Three were possibilities for conversion: a hotel, a downtown commercial/office building, and a large, multi-use facility. Multiple landowners were approached about the sale of vacant or underutilized lots; in some cases the zoning was not appropriate for the project, and in several cases owners were unwilling to sell.

The City intends to be cautious in speaking about additional locations that were considered for purchase. While many sites did not meet the City's criteria for this project, sharing the specifics could prejudice current or future purchase negotiations with other parties.

In future, how will locations for this kind of housing be identified? Will any of the other short-listed sites that were identified in this process be considered?

Identifying and securing suitable parcels of land for affordable housing is a challenge across Canada for both municipalities and housing providers. Other municipalities have, with Council direction, begun to proactively identify and assemble parcels of land to support projects that address local housing needs. This approach can help to ensure there is sufficient capacity for affordable housing projects and that these projects are distributed throughout the city in a manner that supports neighbourhood diversity, renewal and the needs of residents.

The City will continue to identify opportunities to move forward with a strategic approach to supporting the development of affordable housing.

What about building affordable housing on the Yards lands and old Taylor Field site?

The City is committed to include affordable housing as part of the Regina Revitalization Initiative (RRI) projects on both the former CP Railyards site, the Yards, and former Taylor Field site. Currently, neither site is serviced for development.

Remediation of the Yards site has taken place over the past two years (anticipated completion at the end of January 2022), to be followed by the revitalization of Dewdney Avenue (targeted completion at the end of 2024). The Taylor Field site is included in the City's Land Development Master Plan review. City Administration is scheduled to bring a report back to Council on this review by the end of 2022.

Why is the City adding housing into a neighbourhood that already has housing? Wouldn't this project have been better in a greenfield neighbourhood, Downtown or in the Warehouse District?

The RHI project team undertook a city-wide search for an appropriate location for the project. This site was selected because it met the criteria that will allow the City and its partners to deliver the RHI project successfully, and on time. These factors include lot size and configuration, appropriate zoning and serviceability. This location also presents many opportunities for strong quality of life and community integration for future residents of the housing units. Access to transit, amenities and the opportunity to feel part of an existing residential neighbourhood are all important success factors for people choosing to exit homelessness.

Is this project going to create safety issues for neighbours, children at the nearby school, and residents of the seniors care home?

Supportive housing, particularly when it is purpose-built and resourced appropriately, is intended to increase safety for both residents of the housing development and the surrounding community. This project will have staffing and services in place to support residents to improve their lives and integrate within the community, including reuniting with children or other family members, attending school or other training, and obtaining employment.

The City is committed to working with its partners on the RHI project, as well as with public and separate school board staff, the operators of the seniors care home and the Regina Police Service, to ensure that new supportive housing at this location maintains community and resident safety.

There are numerous examples of similar housing developments integrated within communities and in proximity to schools throughout Canada. Municipalities have seen that supportive housing is part of the solution to building healthy and safe neighbourhoods, for children and for all of us.

The City will work with RT/SIS and SSH to communicate openly with neighbours of the development as the project progresses. We will work together to ensure the project is well-managed. Our goal is that everyone will feel safe, welcome and included in their community.

If there are safety issues that result from adding housing at this site, how will they be resolved?

RT/SIS and SSH, as operators and property managers of the building, will be responsible for addressing any day-to-day concerns. Staff will work with residents to resolve issues that may occur and will involve other agencies, including the Regina Police Service, if necessary.

The City is the signatory to all agreements with CMHC for the RHI project and are active partners in ensuring the project's success. Should chronic issues emerge at this location, the City will work to resolve them with RT/SIS and SSH using the terms of the operating agreements.

What amenities are nearby?

This location has good access to transit, local businesses, and a larger retail centre with a grocery store (Northgate Mall) within a 15-minute walk (10-minute bus ride). The variety of housing options in the vicinity also present opportunities for residents to transition from the RHI apartments to more independent living arrangements without leaving the neighbourhood. Children who are part of family reunification efforts can walk to school.

What about the new school? Is that proceeding?

The joint-use school planned for the Imperial School site will be located adjacent to the existing school building. The addition of 29 units of supportive housing at 120 Broad Street will not impact the operations of the existing school or the planned construction of the new joint-use school. The City is in contact with the Administration at both school boards and will ensure that any construction impacts of the RHI project are managed appropriately.

What happened to the project that was approved at this location in 2016?

In 2016, Eden Care applied for a contract zone for 120 Broad Street and the property to the west to redevelop the existing 62-bed care home and former church with two, nine- and ten-story buildings. The buildings were to include 288 long-term care beds, 58 affordable housing units, and a mix of community, retail and medical services. The project included extensive public consultation due to the increased intensity on the site, including the height of the two towers. A bylaw amendment was required to accommodate the proposal. In November 2017, the building permit was cancelled noting that the project was on-hold indefinitely. The contract zone would have expired in 2018 and the new Zoning Bylaw took effect in 2019.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Why was the community not consulted on this location? Why weren't more stakeholders and elected officials informed?

Due to the time pressures of the project, the City focused its search for a location on land that met the criteria that would support the timely development of the project, including appropriate zoning. Because the land use at 120 Broad Street was already approved through the Zoning Bylaw in 2019, engagement with community is instead focused on information sharing and integration of the project within the community.

The City acknowledges that there were issues with how this process unfolded in December 2021. Information regarding the project should have been shared earlier in the process, with comprehensive answers readily available to resident questions, including clarity on the type of housing and the community need the housing will serve. The delay in providing information allowed for misinformation about the project to circulate. Not including elected officials earlier in the information sharing also meant that these individuals were not positioned to provide information in response to resident questions.

The City has heard the community's concerns about this project at this location and moving forward, will continue to provide as much information about the project as possible. All partners are committed to a successful outcome – a high-quality housing project that is safe for residents and for the surrounding community.

Why wasn't the community notified before the site was confirmed?

This location was identified as available in mid-October 2021, and the subsequent weeks were focused on ensuring that it met the requirements of the project. This included undertaking servicing analysis, ensuring that no clean up or other remediation was required, and that there was enough space on the site to add a building while maintaining the existing church space. Once this analysis was complete and the appropriateness of the site was confirmed, the City scheduled an initial meeting with representatives from the Community Association and Public and Separate School Board Administrative staff on December 8, 2021. The City anticipated that a public announcement with CMHC and additional information would immediately follow and had committed to a broader public meeting on the project in January 2022.

What is the plan for communication going forward? School families, more community residents, elected officials, etc.

City staff are actively working to ensure that elected officials and other stakeholders have the information they need to better understand the project. The City knows that the community expects broad, transparent communication with all families from the four schools impacted by the new joint use school construction and residents and businesses throughout the North East neighbourhood. Following upcoming Council decisions on February 2, residents can expect additional communication about the project. To receive regular project updates, please visit www.regina.ca/rapidhousing to sign up for the project email list.

How can the City approach communications on future RHI projects differently?

Identifying and securing suitable parcels of land for affordable housing is a challenge across Canada for both municipalities and housing providers. Other municipalities have, with Council direction, begun to proactively identify and strategically assemble development-ready project sites to support projects that address local housing needs. Advance identification of appropriate sites would allow the City to work through a more thorough process of consultation and communication with neighbours.

In future City-led projects, efforts would be made to identify an appropriate location sooner which would allow quicker communication of that information with the public. If the City purchased land for another RHI project, we would negotiate with the seller the ability to publicly identify the site during the process of the conditional sale.

The City will provide comprehensive information about future project objectives to the community and clarification on the land use and type of housing to be developed. Public engagement or decision-making regarding future residents and details regarding the supports provided, if any, would not be part of the communication plan.

COUNCIL

What Council decisions authorized this project?

On August 11, 2021 Council authorized the submission of a proposal to CMHC for the RHI including subsequently entering into a capital contribution agreement with CMHC, and authorized the provision of operational funding through the PSH Operating Grant. On October 13, 2021 Council approved the Rapid Housing Project, including modifications as necessary to deliver the affordable housing units on-time. The City's Administration Bylaw provides delegated authority for the City Manager or their delegate to approve and enter into agreements for the purchase of property by the City, provided:

- a. the purchase or lease of the property is at or below fair market value; and,
- b. the acquisition or lease of the property is necessary or desirable in connection with the implementation of a project specifically approved by Council.

Council did not specifically approve the location at 120 Broad Street. On January 26 and February 2, Council will consider recommendations to transfer the land and remaining CMHC funding to SSH in order for SSH to begin design and construction of the housing project.

Was Council involved in approving this location?

No. Council authorized Administration to pursue a successful outcome for the RHI project, including a building or land purchase. The land purchase was made without further engagement of Council. Council was notified that Administration was on track to complete a land purchase at 120 Broad Street in November 2021.

FUNDING

What operational funding does the RHI project have secured and for what length of time?

In April 2021, City Council approved the creation of the PSH Operating Grant to fund the ongoing operation of permanent supportive housing in an amount of \$1 million annually beginning in 2022.

In August 2021, City Council supported pairing the PSH Operating Grant with the RHI project to ensure that the operator of the RHI project is able to support residents to improve their lives and integrate within the community. Following an adjudication of proposals, RT/SIS and SSH were chosen as the recipients of this grant. We anticipate this operational funding will be available for the full 20-year timeline of the RHI project.

In addition to the City's \$1 million annual contribution towards the operation of the support services, RT/SIS will continue to access funding from other orders of government (Provincial, Federal). The shelter benefit provided to residents who access income assistance supports will also go towards the operational costs of the building.

Did the Province provide any funding toward the RHI project?

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing an additional \$783,000 10-year forgivable loan towards the capital development of the RHI project.

Does the CMHC/RHI program require that the project happen in consultation with community?

No. CMHC leaves the public consultation process up to the municipalities. The City acknowledges that the communication process undertaken in December 2021 for this project did not appropriately meet the concerns of residents in the North East neighbourhood and will work to correct the issues that have emerged in collaboration with funders and other stakeholders.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Why did you decide to do a new build instead of a conversion?

Both options were considered. Many of the existing buildings that were considered by the City presented challenges. Some were much larger than would be supported by the CMHC funding. Older buildings with aging mechanical systems and other infrastructure would have required major rehabilitation that put the project timelines at risk.

After careful consideration of all the options available within the tight timeframe, the City believes the land at 120 Broad Street, which is suitable for a new build, was the best option to deliver the RHI project.

Who will design and build the RHI development?

Subject to Council approval, the City intends to transfer ownership of the land as well as building delivery to SSH. SSH has selected Big Block Construction as its builder for the project. Big Block Construction is a Saskatoon-based affordable housing developer with extensive experience delivering high quality modular housing projects in both Regina and Saskatoon, most recently the Round Prairie Elders' Lodge in Saskatoon which opened in December 2021.

What is a modular building?

Modular buildings are developed using a form of construction where building modules are constructed off-site in a climate-controlled facility and transported to the development site for installation. Because site work and construction of the modules can take place at the same time, the time it takes to construct the building is shorter than a traditional build. Modular buildings are of a high-quality design and construction.

What will happen to the church building?

SSH and RT/SIS are interested in maintaining the existing building on the site and see opportunities for future renovation/revitalization to add outreach services or other programming at this location.

What type of units will be included in the project? (i.e., one-bedroom, two-bedroom)

The building will include a mix of unit types including bachelor, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. The exact number of each unit type will be determined through the design process.

Will the new building and housing units be accessible?

CMHC has requirements for accessibility of new construction projects like Regina's RHI project. The RHI project must exceed local accessibility requirements by 5%. The specifics of the building design in this case are yet to be determined but will meet or exceed those accessibility requirements.

Will the City be upgrading underground utility infrastructure to service the development?

The City hired a consultant to analyze the servicing capacity of this site. The analysis did not identify significant capacity hurdles to service the RHI project, however any work that is needed to support the site will be addressed through site development.

GENERAL HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

What is the need for housing in Regina?

The need for supportive housing in our city is great – Regina's 2021 Point-In-Time Count found 488 people experiencing homelessness.

Regina's RHI project addresses the need for longer-term supportive housing, which houses residents who have chosen to exit homelessness and are taking steps towards healing and community integration.

When numbers of chronically homeless individuals are so large, how can this project (29 units) expect to make a difference?

The addition of 29 units of supportive housing adds sorely needed capacity and diversity to housing options in Regina, and this project will make an immediate impact in achieving the objectives of Regina's Plan to End Homelessness. In this plan, the need for 80 additional units of long-term supportive housing in purpose-built buildings is identified, and this project makes a start towards achieving that goal.

In addition to the RHI project, the City supports a number of initiatives that impact the housing and homelessness sector and works closely with partners in community to ensure the needs of the community are met through a variety of programming and services. The City remains committed to continued collaboration with other orders of government and community-based organizations as we work together to address homelessness in our community.

GLOSSARY

We have found that definitions of types of housing are often used differently between various organizations and orders of government. For this project, we generally follow the National Housing Strategy definitions (<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/nhs/guidepage-strategy/glossary>)

We initially referred to this project as “second stage” housing (as a distinction from first stage/emergency shelters), however we have found that it does not accurately describe the project and the range of supports that will be provided. The RHI project is considered transitional or supportive housing.

Chronic Homelessness: When an individual experiences homelessness for six months or more in the past year (180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation) and/or has experienced homelessness three or more times in the past year.

Homelessness: Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

Supportive Housing: Supportive housing is housing that provides a physical environment that is specifically designed to be safe, secure, enabling and home-like, with support services such as social services, provision of meals, housekeeping and social and recreational activities, in order to maximize residents’ independence, privacy and dignity.

Transitional Housing: Housing that is intended to offer a supportive living environment for its residents, including offering them the experience, tools, knowledge and opportunities for social and skill development to become more independent. It is considered an intermediate step between emergency shelter and supportive housing.