

Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
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Active in Edmonton for over 40 years, the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) is a member-driven coalition working to raise awareness, advocate, and educate for actions and solutions to housing and homelessness issues. We believe that access to adequate housing is a human right, as confirmed in Canada in 2019 when Parliament passed the National Housing Strategy Act.

To reflect and help realize that commitment in Edmonton, we want Council to start a housing funding formula for the 2027–2030 budget cycle to improve housing stability, health and safety for all Edmontonians—especially residents who experience homelessness and core housing need—by dedicating at least 5% of expenditures for both the capital and operating budgets towards affordable housing and homelessness reduction projects that do not involve policing or bylaw enforcement. This level of investment, while it may seem unworkable, is what is needed to end homelessness.

For the capital budget on Housing, we ask Council to increase investments into Social Development and Infrastructure Delivery to reach 5% of citywide expenditures.

For the operating budget on Community Services, we ask Council to increase investments into Social Development to reach 5% of citywide expenditures.

Across both budgets, our specific priorities are divided between affordable housing and homelessness reduction projects. We recognize serious gaps in the city's homelessness reduction services, i.e., supportive housing, accessible amenities and sheltering options, and we recommend dedicating at least 2% of expenditures for each budget towards homelessness reduction.

For affordable housing, we ask Council to:

- Permanently adopt the Edmonton Rental Protection Program to support the acquisition of existing market housing units by non-profit housing providers
- Convene with the Northern Alberta Cooperative Housing Association and their Prairies Community Land Trust to support the construction and operation of affordable housing projects
- Advocate for increased provincial funding for affordable housing projects

For homelessness reduction, we ask Council to:

- Fund the acquisition and/or construction of 1,000–1,200 units of new permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness
- Coordinate the establishment of five sanctioned homeless villages with wraparound supports to serve at least 100 houseless individuals
- Convene with local nonprofits to create storage facilities for unhoused individuals to protect their belongings
- Coordinate the 24-hour accessibility of at least 50 public washrooms throughout the city by hiring additional attendants
- Scale up the Bridge Healing programs for people experiencing homelessness and who are discharged from emergency departments

- Coordinate a planning process to implement a Duty to Assist framework for homeless youth

About ECOHH

The Edmonton Coalition Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) was created in 1986. Membership consists of social profit organizations as well as individuals. Its mandate includes education and advocacy on homelessness and affordable housing.

OUR VISION

To have dignified, accessible, affordable, culturally-appropriate, and safe housing, in healthy communities, empowers all people in Edmonton.

OUR MISSION

The Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness is a member-driven coalition working to raise awareness, advocate, and educate for actions and solutions to housing and homelessness issues.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Housing is a human right.
- Home is more than four walls and a roof—it is housing, supports, and community.
- Collaboration: Diverse individuals and groups share responsibility, in relationships, to effectively address housing and homelessness.
- Participating together: All voices, especially those most negatively impacted and marginalized, are heard and incorporated when making decisions.
- Commitment to evidence; openness to creative thinking; transparent and accountable processes

OUR PRIORITIES/GOALS

- Increase awareness and knowledge of current and emerging housing and homelessness issues, information about successful responses, and the need to create options based upon new approaches and thinking.
- Support and collaborate with actionable local projects geared to addressing housing and homelessness.
- Identify and advocate for public policies to achieve ECOHH's vision.
- Create opportunities for collaboration amongst members and with external partners to respond to housing needs.