



People Helping People
Homelessness Initiative
Ouvrons nos coeurs
Projet d'aide des sans-abris
Enaadmaadjig
Wii-shki-daaawaad Bemaadzijig

Community
Partners
Partenaires
communautaires
Ekwiining
Wiidookdaading



Emergency Housing and Homelessness Initiatives

The needs of the homeless in Sudbury have been acknowledged since 1993 when an Advisory Committee on Emergency Shelter (ACES), comprised of service providers, consumers, government agencies and emergency shelter representatives was formed by the District of Sudbury Social Services Administration Board. The purpose of the 16 member committee was to identify causal factors, assess the need for emergency shelter and make recommendations for improvement in the planning and coordination of emergency shelter service delivery within the former District of Sudbury. These goals were further realized in 1999 when the provincial government announced the Homelessness Initiative Fund. In consultation with ACES, Sudbury used the finances to enhance outreach services that assist the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

In order to ensure that community needs were being met and for further planning purposes, ACES recommended that a Homelessness Study and subsequent report be undertaken. The Study which provided statistical information about the homeless and those at risk of being homeless was completed in July and the Report released in October. The first Report indicated that Sudbury has a significant homelessness problem and that this problem is as serious as it is in other large Canadian cities. Seventeen recommendations came from this report and ten key Community Priorities were identified.

The release of the first homelessness study in October 2000 coincided with a federal announcement of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), a funding strategy aimed at building community capacity to prevent and end homelessness. A Community Plan was formulated in a short turn around time and Sudbury was the first small community in Ontario and second in Canada to be granted approval of its plan. (Funding had already been awarded to the large cities - Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal.)

The City of Greater Sudbury was approved as the broker for the federal government dollars and was awarded \$696,000 over a two year period with the funding ending March 31, 2003.

Some reorganisation was undertaken in 2001 when Sudbury became the City of Greater Sudbury and ACES was transformed into the Task Force on Emergency Shelter and Homelessness.

In Phase 1 nine projects were funded; 4 ongoing, 4 developmental and one project with one time funding only. Phase 2 awarded funding to two agencies with proposals to address the needs of the homeless during the day time.

Four reports on homelessness in Sudbury have been completed and function as effective program evaluation and planning tools, providing information concerning trends in the community and helping the Task Force on Emergency Shelters and Homelessness to address community priorities.

The funding has been fully allocated and now we are into the final stages with sustainability of ongoing projects being the current number one priority.

CORE EMERGENCY SERVICES

1. Geneva House

An emergency shelter for women and children who are victims of family violence and for homeless women.

2. L'Association Des Jeunes De La Rue, Foyer Notre Dame House

An emergency shelter for female youths age 16 - 19.

3. Salvation Army

An emergency shelter for homeless men age 16+.

4. Canadian Red Cross

Maintains the Housing Registry and Rent Bank Emergency Assistance Program. The registry offers at a glance the available housing opportunities. The Rent Bank Emergency Assistance program assists clients to remain in their homes or to secure new accommodations.

5. L'Association Des Jeunes De La Rue, Community Outreach Program

An outreach program to assist youth on the street to gain access to shelter and emergency services.

6. Participation Projects

Provides emergency shelter to the disabled.

PROVINCIAL HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE FUND

Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Fund is a fund which provides 100% funding up to a maximum of \$90,000 for initiatives .

1. Canadian Red Cross

Maintains the Housing Registry and the Rent Bank Emergency Assistance Program

2. Canadian Mental Health Association

Outreach worker for mentally ill clients in need of emergency shelter.

3. Elizabeth Fry Association

Outreach services for homeless young women who are in conflict with the law.

4. Sudbury Action Centre For Youth

Outreach services for homeless youth.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE, HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE (SCPI)

Phase 1 Projects Underway

1. Elizabeth Fry Transition House

A seven bed shelter for women aged 16 and over who need supportive, transitional housing and /or emergency shelter. There are 5 supportive transitional housing beds, priority given to women in conflict with the law and 2 emergency shelter beds for homeless women.

2. Overcomers of Sudbury

Partnering with John Howard Society to provide outreach services to ex-offenders, their families and families of inmates. Assist with finding housing, accessing social assistance and providing other supports to reintegrate into the community.

3. Inner Sight Educational Homes

Provides 14 beds for male youth aged 16 - 19. Eight of these beds are emergency beds for homeless youth, 6 beds are transitional beds for youth who have opted to return to educational programs. Individualized plans are developed which may include life skills training and counselling for substance abuse. All residents are encouraged to reconcile with their families and to enter into educational programs.

4. Social Planning Council

Conducted four Homelessness Studies for Sudbury, in July 2000, January 2001, July 2001, and January 2002, preparing the reports outlining the findings. Two additional studies being conducted in July 2002 and January 2003 with subsequent reports.

Developmental Projects Completed

1. Shkagamak-Kwe Health Centre

Hired a co-ordinator to develop a proposal identifying emergency shelter and support services required for aboriginal women and their children who are victims of domestic abuse.

2. Teen Moms Supportive Housing

Hired a co-ordinator to explore building options, renovation costs, and funding strategies to provide supportive housing for teen parents and pregnant teens. The proposal was updated and submissions for funding were forwarded to the different foundations for ongoing sustainability.

3. Canadian Mental Health Association

Hired a coordinator to develop a proposal on how to address homelessness and to better serve the mentally ill, identifying the need for emergency housing, support services and prevention.

4. Centre de Sante Communautaire

To develop and enhance primary health care services for homeless and hard to serve people in the City of Greater Sudbury, by setting up a primary health care clinic. Corner clinic partners with community agencies to meet the needs of all cultural groups. An apartment was rented close to the Soup Kitchen where the participating agencies including health professionals meet with the client. A washer, dryer and shower facilities were also provided for the homeless.

One Time Project

5. Banque d' aliments Sudbury Food Bank

One time funding of \$50,000 towards renovations of the food warehouse located on Notre Dame Ave in the McKee Wong Centre. Currently over 20 food banks receive donations

from the food warehouse on a regular basis.

Phase 2 of The People Helping People, Homelessness Initiative

In October 2001 there was a Request for Proposal to award the remaining SCPI funds. The following two projects were awarded funding to provide day time services to the homeless January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002.

1. Overcomers of Sudbury

Partnering with Elgin Street Mission to expand current services at Overcomers and at the Elgin Street Mission. The Mission will expand their service to day time hours from the current evening program. A washer, dryer and shower facilities will also be provided for the homeless. Assist with finding housing, accessing social assistance, preparation for employment and providing other supports.

2. Centre de Sante Communautaire's Corner Clinic

To continue the services which were developed in phase 1.