

Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service System Planning Forum March 13, 2024

Date and time: March 13, 2024, 10:00am – 12:00pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87159395431>

Land Acknowledgement & Agenda Review

1. TSSS Items and Updates

Shelter System Flow Data

Please see presentation deck

Shelter System Flow Data for the month can be accessed through the City's website: [Shelter System Flow Data – City of Toronto](#)

Data posted on the 15th of every month (January 2023 data discussed at this meeting)

Q. Is it possible to add percentages of the whole population next to the numbers so that we can track progress?

A. There is a subpage that shows historic trends. Suggested that it would be helpful to include historical data trends over time.

Q. Is there a gender break down of the data on the Return to Shelters slide Can all the data be broken down by gender to support our work?

A. It can be produced.

Q. Why are there categories like “Transient” if the data is about people returning to shelters from housing?

A. In SMIS data base the intake question is “Why are you seeking housing?” This question was used as a proxy indicator for people who are seeking shelter. There is not yet a question that asks people where they are coming from. Working with the Strategic Policy team to review questions.

Q. Re: Evictions being a reason for return to shelter.

Would it be possible to develop protocols for eviction prevention - related to typical reasons for people returning to housing e.g., for hoarding or other behavioural issues and limited follow up support. For example, EPIC was awarded more money to expand their eviction prevention programs. However, people who are chronically homeless are the only cohort who are eligible for follow up supports.

A. Through rapid rehousing data set we are able to drill down to those who are coming back into the shelter. TSSS will follow up,

Q. Putting together a proposal for our board to get funds to get cell phones for our clients. Those who have access to a phone can get in touch with their workers get more support. There is a big

divide between those who are in housing that those who are not. TSSS input would be helpful in terms of data that shows the breakdown between who are on the streets versus shelters.

Q. Would like to be involved in understanding the difference between lack of resources to support those who need eviction prevention support depending on their situation.

A. Please reach out to TSSS to discuss further.

Q. Pathways to independence – is a housing stabilization program – usually for those in newly acquired housing. Some have multiple issues and life skills, and hoarding support would be helpful. This data could really help inform the shelters into supportive housing pathways - it might draw a more fulsome picture. It could help with advocacy for other program support.

A. Don Nichols Manager for Grants is the team that provides supports for follow up supports for supportive housing. There are many ways to look at the data in terms of who is referred in for service specific groups as well as by other referrals.

TSSS will provide a follow up support information to the group for that data.

Q. Is there data out there that may contain a breakdown of people who are in self contained units or cohabitation housing? Because people want to exit the shelter quickly, they will turn to co habitation situations, and are there any programs that could support those who are leaving shelters into that housing situation that is not family based?

A. We don't break it down by that living situation other than in families. OW would be the best team to be able to give you that data.

Q. This is all self-report? I know that occasionally we get folks referred from shelter who then tell us they already have housing, but are at shelter nonetheless, which makes me wonder how accurate the data might be.

A. Yes. The reason for return to shelter is self-reported data.

2. Housing Secretariat Items and Updates –

COHB Update

Please see presentation deck

Q. Who sends the request for COHB from the agency?

A. This year we have given specific allocations to each site so that we make sure that we do not over commit.

Email: housingfirst@toronto.ca City will try and accommodate based on what is available.

If you are unable to use all your allocations, please notify us asap so that we can allocate the surplus to others.

Q. Is there going to be more money coming based on number of applications? How do you determine a site allocation?

A. Based on program size.

Q. Could an email be sent to those agencies who received an allocation to remind them to use their allocations? I think they may have originally gone to specific program sites? And please copy the EDs/CEOs

A. Yes, will send a reminder email and will copy the Leadership as well.

Q. Is COHB ending in 2029?

A. Unsure at this point. From what we have seen from what happened with TTHAP, as it wound down, we got an extension year to give us time to transition the clients into another funding source that did not end.

Q. I've been hearing people looking for units because they have COHB support but cannot get a place. What happens to their COHB if no place is found, and can it be used for shared accommodation (room and board) or does it have to be full apt/unit situation?

A. It can be used for shared accommodation to share units and for roommates.

Q. The triannual agreement speaks to renewal, and would it be possible to understand how the that would work?

A. Please get in touch with Dawn who will be able to provide the information.

Q. Re: Site lead check in appointment? Can it be sent to our calendars? Can you tell us more about it?

A. Every two weeks we have a site lead check in meeting where everyone is invited to come and join and ask specific questions and get clarity and provide updates and to get into the weeds of issues. We send the invite out only to the site leads and ask them to forward to anyone who is interested in coming.

3. Community/Sector Update – Canada Disability Benefit Campaign

Daily Bread Food Bank

Please see presentation deck.

<https://www.fundthebenefit.ca/oakeileh@dailybread.ca>

Q. What are you asking for what impact will this have on people with disabilities? What is the ask from the Federal Government?

A. We looked at what would it take to lift people out of poverty. We looked at social assistance rates and what it would take to bring people up to minimum market bread measures.

We recognized that it would not be realistic as the cost would range from. That would be \$1 – 2

B. We anticipate that it would be \$100 – \$200 top up for a limited number of people. We anticipate half of the people who need it would be able get the benefit.

Q. What is the backdrop of the policy, would that figure just keep up with inflation?

A. This is just one income support in a landscape of many income benefits. We are pushing the federal government on this measure. We are using the MBM because it is the standard that is used, recognizing that it is flawed.

4. Taproot Skilled Volunteer Opportunity

Jeff Brady, Taproot Plus

<https://taprootfoundation.org/>

Please see presentation deck.

Foundation that provides skill based volunteers to provide support to Not For Profit organizations with core business opportunities

<https://www.taprootplus.org/> is a platform that will link with a professional and volunteers who has skills to support.

jeff@taprootfoundation.org

Q. Where do the volunteers come from? Toronto or anywhere?

A. The Not For Profit leader gets to choose. You get to see a profile on what they offer. Get access to the linked in. Taproot is free to connect the volunteers.

Q. How do you vet your volunteers and what training do you provide to them?

A. We have a knowledge hub, resources. We give them a pro bono project guide - steps that are useful for all Not For Profit's. We ask all volunteers to self identify what skills sets they offer. The Not For Profit to determine whether they want to take on the volunteer based on their profile

Q Do you have a rating guide that the Not For Profit could use to review or see reviews?

A. we do not, but we have the statement of interest that comes from the volunteer so that is the primary tool we use to understand who they are and what they provide.

Taproot has been around for 20 years. There is no limit as to how many projects you can get support on.

We at TDIN are working with a consultant from MAS and have been impressed. It seems like MAS may be a smaller version of Taproot - both offer great opportunities.

Q. Do you have any testimonials from any Toronto based organizations?

A. TAEH and TMASN has used TapRoot. Its been seamless and easy to access to them. Good consistent communication and recommendations.

5. TAEH updates

TAEH Items and Updates

- Housing Solutions Manager
 - Monthly report on Peter's work on the three orders of Government is available for anyone who would like a copy of it.
 - Reminder of the CMHC Opportunity

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/project-funding-and-mortgage-financing/funding-programs/all-funding-programs/seed-funding>; <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/affordable-housing/develop-affordable-housing/housing-development-checklist>

In November CMHA Toronto and TAEH developed an application to support a project on intersectoral action on anti racism.

- Health housing disability and inclusion sectors.
- To increase collaboration and formalize relationships in harm reduction and supportive housing.
- Increase the supply of supportive housing in Toronto.
- Equitable access to health and housing including harm reduction supports.
- Funding application was accepted – RFP will be released in the next two weeks for a consultant that could be brought on to complete this project. It will support the anti racism and harm reduction streams of the supportive housing growth plan to develop harm reduction policies at all their sites.
- Coordinate between different partners - integrate leadership across the growth plan.

4 objectives

1. Equip organizations to implement harm reduction.
2. Cultivate partnership with the health sector and bring harm reduction – partnership with Toronto health and The Works to integrate work into tool kits.
3. Cultivate partnerships with organizations that provide harm reduction services for all clients in the catchment area
4. Address inequities – by implementing a coordinated approach of sectoral ...for co design.

Q. How much will be offered up through the RFP and what your expectations are in relation to supporting the RFP process?

A. would like to include more organizations in the Supportive Housing Growth Plan working group, such as Mental health and supportive housing network. Some TMSHN networks are aligned. We will be undertaking the development of the task force for the outcomes of the project. There is a project plan that they can share if you email Savhanna.

Suggested Brian Rush as a consultant - is excellent – mental health and addictions – he is well connected he does a lot of complex work from an evaluative perspective.

Q. Who are the growth plan signatories?

Since the drafting of the plan there are new organizations who have become supportive housing providers. Its not a requirement to membership. We will be doing a reassessment and outreach to encapsulate a broader reach of organizations. Please reach out to Savhanna to get more details. <https://www.thegrowthplan.ca/>

New Business / Close

THHSP Forum Archive: <https://taeh.ca/toronto-forum>

Next Meeting:

Wednesday April 10

10:00am – Noon