



A Pathway to Home:  
Surrey Homelessness Prevention + Response Plan  
PLAN AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2024

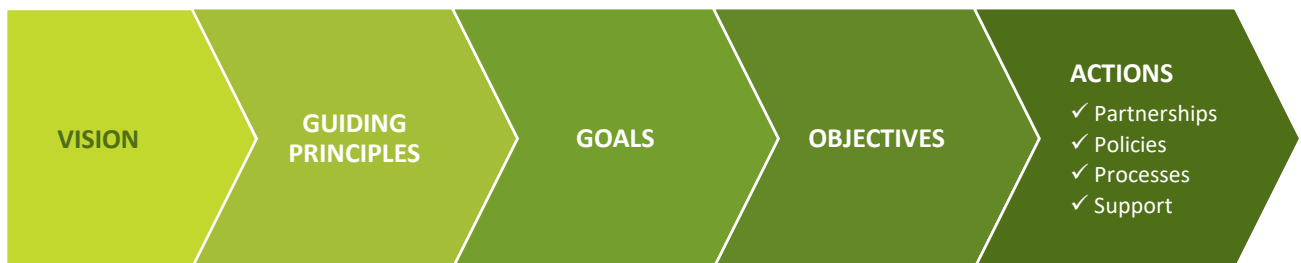
# THE PLAN AT-A-GLANCE

## PLAN STRUCTURE

The Surrey Homelessness Prevention + Response Plan is comprised of three reports:



The recent research conducted by the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC) in *Finding Our Way Home: Research on Indigenous Homelessness in Surrey* (2022) and Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls' Working Group (SVWG) in *In Their Own Words: Current Reflections on Housing and Service Needs for Vulnerable Women and Girls in Surrey* (2023) has been woven into the Plan and informs its recommendations and actions.



## VISION

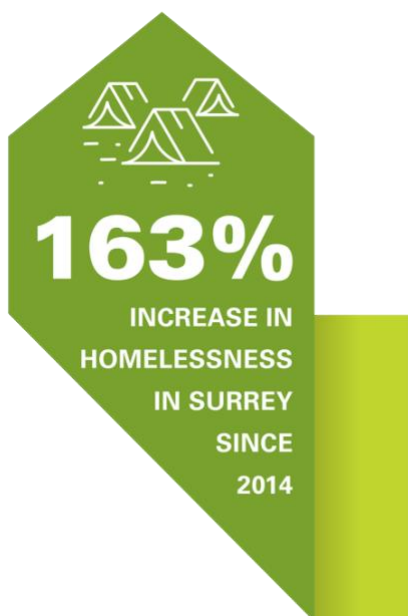
*THE CITY OF SURREY ASPIRES TO ACHIEVE A FUNCTIONAL END TO HOMELESSNESS IN SURREY.*

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Achieving functional zero means homelessness in Surrey is no longer recurring or long-lasting. When prevention efforts are not successful, those who experience homelessness can be quickly connected to the right mix of affordable housing and coordinated support services so that their experience is brief.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Housing for All
2. The City as Champion
3. Government-level Partnerships are Key for the Plan's success
4. Prioritization of Reconciliation + Indigenous-Led Housing Solutions
5. A Coordinated Response across the Housing and Homelessness Network is Essential
6. Approaches + Solutions are Data and Evidence Driven
7. Focus on Prevention + Early Intervention to Stop the Flow
8. A Person-centred Approach
9. Ongoing Monitoring of Implementation Progress

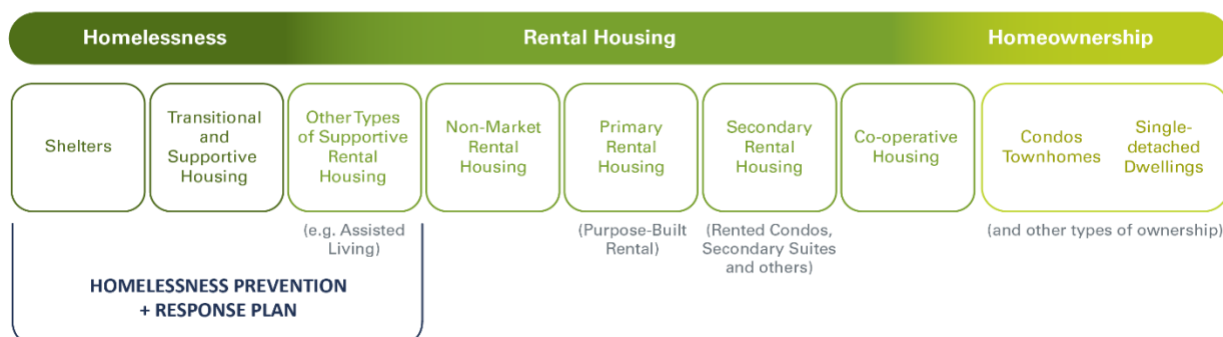


## BACKGROUND

*A Pathway to Home: City of Surrey Homelessness Prevention + Response Plan* steers the City's actions and decisions over the next five years, working towards a **vision of a future Surrey with a functional end to homelessness.**

The aim of the Plan is to **create clear pathways out of homelessness towards stable, permanent housing options.** Within the housing network, the Plan concentrates on non-market housing solutions – emergency shelters, supportive housing, transitional housing, and independent living – to ensure diverse housing options are available for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

## HOUSING NETWORK AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION + RESPONSE PLAN SCOPE



### HOMELESSNESS IN SURREY

Surrey has the second highest prevalence of homelessness in the region and is underserved in non-market housing units. The number of people experiencing homelessness has increased significantly and this trend is expected to continue with the persistently high and increasing cost of housing.



#### HOUSING

- Pathways into homelessness are varied, complex, and interrelated
- Emergency shelters are not long-term housing solutions
- There is a lack of all housing types across the network and in all Surrey communities



#### INTEGRATED HEALTH + HOUSING

- People experiencing or at-risk of homelessness face barriers accessing health services
- A new model of assisted living is needed for those with complex health needs
- A range of health services are needed in shelters and supportive housing



#### SUPPORT SERVICES

- There are gaps in other key support services
- Culturally-sensitive supports are needed
- Service sector staff and frontline workers experience daily stresses

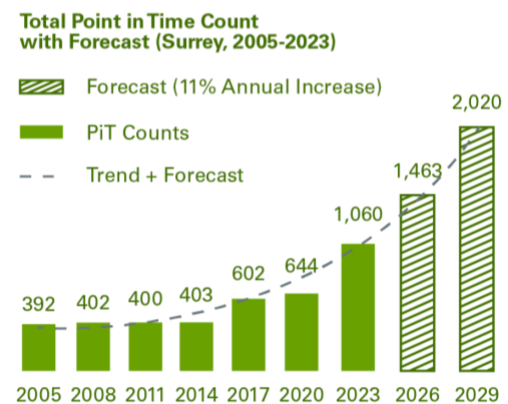
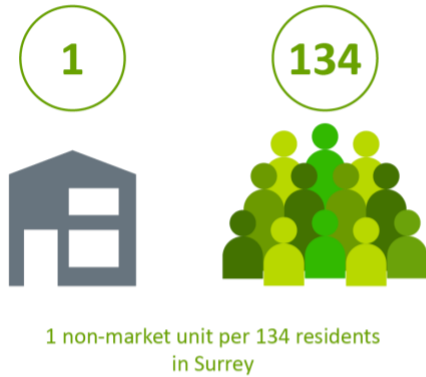


#### PREVENTION

- People are most vulnerable and at-risk of homelessness during transitions in their lives
- People struggle to navigate the system to access housing and support services

## GAPS + TARGETS

Targets to address the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness were developed to address upcoming closures of existing facilities, individuals counted in the most recent point-in-time count, and to accommodate a future estimate of growing need through 2029 based on recent trends recent trends.



Source: Lu'ma Native BCH Housing Society - Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, 2023. Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver.

It is estimated 2,326 new spaces / units are required in Surrey by 2029. Categorized by facility or housing type, the targets include:



**TOTAL UNITS/SPACES: 2,326**

**Replace Impending Closures**  
304 spaces / units

**Address Current + Projected Homelessness Population**  
2,022 spaces / units



**THE PLAN – 7 GOALS + 60 ACTIONS**

The Plan includes seven goals and related sub objectives that provide a framework for implementation. 60 actions have been identified across four areas of implementation – Policy, Process, Partnership, and Support.

**GOAL 1:**  
Increase Supply of Non-Market Housing in Surrey.

**GOAL 2:**  
Build Culturally Safe Housing and Support Services for Indigenous Peoples.

**GOAL 3:**  
Diversify non-market Supportive and independent Affordable rental housing to meet the unique needs of Priority Populations.

**GOAL 4:**  
Ensure Emergency Response Solutions are Effective, Client-Centred, and Short-Term.

**GOAL 5:**  
Encourage Prevention-Driven Solutions, Especially During Transitions.

**GOAL 6:**  
Improve Access to Health and Other Support Services.

**GOAL 7:**  
Understand the Scale and Complexity of Community Need.



## ACTIONS



## IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation + evaluation of the plan is necessary to ensure City of Surrey and partners deliver the strategic goals over the next five years. The framework should be adapted as needed, continuously integrating feedback, monitoring performance, and improving the actions.

