

Housing First Teams

**11 teams deliver housing first in
Edmonton:**

- **Bill Rees YMCA**
- **Bissell Centre**
- **Boyle Street Community Services**
- **Crossroads Downtown**
- **DiverseCity Housing**
- **E4C Case Management**
- **George Spady Centre**
- **Hope Mission**
- **HUB Housing Support Services**
- **Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre**
- **Pathways to Housing**

Housing First in Edmonton



Housing First workers attend a training session at the Homeward Trust office



homeward trust
edmonton

opening doors. building hope.

“The Housing First approach says the first step in solving the problem is to find people permanent homes and give them the support they need to be successful in those homes.”

- A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

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Housing First in Edmonton

Housing First

Homeward Trust embraces the principle of 'housing first' — that every person has the right to a safe, secure home.

Both the municipal and provincial ten year plans identify 'housing first' as essential in ending homelessness.

Homeward Trust coordinates a housing first support program. Participants find housing throughout Edmonton, and are provided with appropriate supports.

Working with our partner agencies and in the community, we are getting closer to realizing the goal of ending homelessness.

Since April 2009:

- 900 people have found housing
- This includes 84 families
- 85% remain in housing
- 60% were chronically homeless

How it Works

Outreach workers identify participants for the program, get them settled in an apartment, and a support worker aids a participant through the process.

The focus is on ending homelessness by providing permanent housing and follow-up support. Individuals are housed first and then given appropriate supports. The program is intended to last 12 months; clients are stabilized, then transitioned to a reduced level of support.

The final stages of the program involve making plans to discharge the client, once they are able to be self-sufficient.

Demographics of Housing First:

- 53% are male, 47% are female
- The average age of a client is 38 years old
- 40% are Aboriginal

Supports

Homeward Trust provides supports to both housing workers and participants. These supports are essential for us to be successful in ending homelessness

Rental Assistance

The rental assistance program aids clients in the housing first support program. Clients still pay the majority of their rent every month, but receive some support as they transition to greater independence.

Furniture Bank

This provides clients in the housing first support program with essential household items including furniture, kitchen utensils and linens, before they move into their new homes.

Housing Team Support:

- Team Lead meetings and support
- Support Services staff
- Workshops and training sessions
- Online professional development site