



A Shared Leadership Process for Ending Rural Homelessness

Key Takeaways - Public Health 2024

Community-led Process

Listen intentionally to community with a willingness to be adaptable to the needs of the sector. Create space to pause and move forward in this work equitably and with intention. Be in a state of readiness for opportunities as they arise - we can respond without all the answers. Create a network of networks. Consider utilizing and adapting models that will support your ongoing work and process. One example is Collective Impact, as utilized by the Homeless No More Initiative. There are many resources available to support practice in Collective Impact and other models through organizations like the [Tamarack Institute](#).

Create Intentional Partnerships

Partnerships to consider building:

- All levels of government
- Service support sector
- Lived & living experience
- Volunteer boards & org.s
- Public health
- Recreation
- Mental health
- Older adults & org.s
- Healthcare
- Academia
- Education
- Indigenous communities & groups
- African Canadian & Black communities
- 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
- Newcomer communities
- Youth
- Peer based groups
- RCMP/policing agencies
- Family support services
- Primary healthcare
- Physicians
- Other interested sectors in your area



Engage & Act with Community Organizations

Listen to and act with community/sector organizations. Through hosted engagements with community and sector organizations, Homeless No More was able to listen and plan to:

- **Amplify** the work of the sector
- **Connect** services and resources
- **Influence** policy, funding, and systems change
- **Support** organizations in advocacy and data collection

Community-Support & Service Based Counts

Community Support and Service-based counts are currently best practices in capturing the enumerations of homelessness in rural areas.

Tips for Success:

- Build relationships with community partners by meeting them where they are at and identifying what kind of data would support them, their organization and the individuals they work with.
- Connect with a champion in the work who is connected to an academic institution. Ideally, a profession or academic-related to research.
- Invite the sector to collectively develop the questions and data they want to collect in the count.
- Allow the organizations to lead the process

Resources that inspired us on how to initiate and complete a count on rural homelessness:

- [Homeless No More Website](#)
- Eastern Nova Scotia – [Enumeration Results and How to Guide](#)
- Rural Development Network – [Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness](#)

