



TARGETS AND GRADING

In the Annual Report Card to End Homelessness in Ottawa

In the *Report Card on Ending Homelessness*, released annually by the Alliance to End Homelessness, we present multiple indicators to describe the current situation in Ottawa and the change in homelessness over time. The use of multiple indicators allows for the measurement of the breadth and depth of homelessness. These indicators are interrelated which is observed when movement in one – positive or negative – produces changes in the others.

Many cities have developed plans for addressing homelessness using a broad range of interrelated targets which would, when met, result in a significant reduction in homelessness if not its complete elimination. We think some temporary displacement is inevitable due to family breakdown, mobility, job loss, illness, etc. With an adequate supply of affordable housing, these families and individuals can be re-housed in a reasonable amount of time.

From 2004 to 2008, the *Report Card on Ending Homelessness* compared the experience of homelessness in Ottawa in one year with the experience of the previous year. Recognizing that there has been little change over the last six years it is now time to establish targets that must be achieved to end homelessness.

For the 2009 Report Card, as in previous years, we measure progress by comparing any changes from year to year. Beginning next year, we will compare any changes or progress to the targets we have set as well as continuing to monitor progress over time.

The targets should be 'SMART': Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resourced and Time-bound with a ten year timeline. Looking forward to the ten years, we hope to see a community where only 2,000 families and individuals have to use the shelter system each year because of personal emergencies like fires. They'd stay for an average of 30 days to find a safe and affordable home. Also, the social housing waiting list could be reduced to 4,000 households.

Alliance to End Homelessness TARGETS to end homelessness in 10 years

Affordability: Target ⇒ 30% of gross income

- The Federal, Provincial Territorial Agreements has set a standard of under 30% of gross, pre-tax family income spent on housing for the housing to be deemed 'affordable'.
- In Ottawa in 2009:
 - A single person working 40 hours a week at minimum wage would have to spend **45%** of that income to rent an average priced bachelor apartment
 - A single parent, working for minimum wage with two children would have to spend **52%** of their income to rent an average priced two bedroom apartment **or 63%** for a three bedroom. Their income would be \$1,980 comprised of Min. Wage (40 hours a week) of \$1,520, National Child Benefit of \$326 and Ontario Child Benefit of \$134.
 - for a single person receiving ODSP benefits, it would be **66%**
 - for a person on Ontario Works (basic welfare), it would be greater than **100%**
- Meeting the affordability target of 30% would require that the increase in income outpace the increase in rents
- Enabling persons on ODSP and OW to meet the affordability target would require raising the supports by 8% and 13% per annum respectively over the next ten years.

Number of People Staying in Emergency Shelter: Target ⇒ 2,000 people/ year

- In 2009, **7,445** individuals stayed at least one night in a homeless shelter.
- Fires and other emergencies will continue to displace some people each year. We have set the target for shelter use at 2,000 people per year needing emergency shelter.

Average Length of Stay in the Shelter: Target ⇒ 30 Days

- The average length of shelter stay in 2009 was 57 days
- Without rent-geared-to-income housing or supportive housing, people cannot move beyond the shelter system.
- We set a timeframe of up to 30 days for as a reasonable target for an individual or family to find appropriate housing once they become homeless.

Wait List for Social Housing: *Target ⇒ 4,000 Households*

- There are currently more than 10,000 families and individuals on the waiting list for social housing.
- The current average wait time for social housing is 8 years.
- Reducing the number of people on the waiting list to 4,000 would reduce the wait time to around three years.

New Affordable Housing: *Target ⇒ 1,000 units/year*

- The answer to eliminating homelessness lies in an increase in the number of affordable housing units including rent-geared-to-income housing, supportive housing, as well as units renting at the lower end of the market as a result of municipal and other incentives.
- The City of Ottawa has had a target of 500 such units a year but has never met that target
- CMHC estimates that as many as 30,000 households would qualify for social housing if the units existed. This number does not include individuals in rooming houses, the shelter system, or “couch surfing”, etc.
- The cost of building the 1,000 units annually would total about \$1.6B over ten years.
- That would not all be new money:
 - The number of times shelter beds are used per year would be reduced from more than 400,000 to about 51,000 resulting in significant savings
 - Acquiring stable housing will have a positive impact on health status and the ability to enter the workforce, etc.

A Road Map to Meeting Targets of the Alliance to End Homelessness

Our community can end homelessness with specific, measurable, achievable, resourced and time-bound targets in a ten year timeline!

What can be achieved with 1,000 affordable housing units a year?

Year	Number of households on Social Housing Waiting List	Number of households in an emergency shelter ¹	New Units Target ²	Average cost per unit	Total cost	Average length of stay in shelters (days)	Total Bed Nights ³
2009	10 235	5 730				57	421 524
1 2010	9 675	5 290	1 000	\$ 150 000	\$ 150 000 000	53	364 792
2 2011	9 115	4 850	1 000	\$ 153 000	\$ 153 000 000	50	313 657
3 2012	8 555	4 410	1 000	\$ 156 060	\$ 156 060 000	47	267 471
4 2013	7 995	3 970	1 000	\$ 159 181	\$ 159 181 200	44	225 815
5 2014	7 435	3 530	1 000	\$ 162 365	\$ 162 364 824	41	188 305
6 2015	6 875	3 090	1 000	\$ 165 612	\$ 165 612 120	39	154 586
7 2016	6 315	2 650	1 000	\$ 168 924	\$ 168 924 363	36	124 332
8 2017	5 755	2 210	1 000	\$ 172 303	\$ 172 302 850	34	97 242
9 2018	5 195	1 770	1 000	\$ 175 749	\$ 175 748 907	32	73 040
10 2019	4 635	1 330	1 000	\$ 179 264	\$ 179 263 885	30	51 471
Total			10 000		\$1 642 458 150		

¹ The Alliance to End Homelessness reports a total of individuals in shelters in its annual report cards; the household number used in this table is arrived at by adding the numbers of youth, single adult women and single adult men with the number of family units (households). One caveat is that there may be a few couples among the adult numbers.

² An increase in the number of rent supplements in addition to the annual target of 1,000 units would allow those with lower incomes to rent those units at the higher end of the affordable rent range.

³ Bed nights = # of households X 1.29 individuals per household X average length of stay in days