



# COMMUNITY PLAN ASSESSMENT PHASE II

## Framework

Community: Hamilton - Urban Aboriginal

Region: Hamilton, ON

**Please note:** Your completed Framework must be returned to Service Canada as part of your submission.



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## Who should complete this Framework?

The Community Plan Assessment Framework (CPA) is an analysis of the changes produced in each designated community as a result of the funding decisions the community made through the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI). As this assessment links directly to the Phase II Community Plan Update for each community, it cannot be completed by a single individual in isolation. It is the expectation of the Housing and Homelessness Branch (HHB) that completion of this CPA will be led by the Community Advisory Board (CAB), Community Entity (CE), Community Coordinator and/or relevant subcommittees in each of the designated communities through consultation with each community's homelessness stakeholders (as identified by each community).

We recognize that some communities may have set aside funds to hire a consultant to complete some or all of the information compilation and interviews with stakeholders; this is not an issue as long as the CAB/CE, Coordinator and/or relevant subcommittees continue to play an active role in the process.

## Use of the word "Community" in the Framework

As there are two very different delivery models for the NHI, and slight nuances in delivery within each designated community that make the homelessness initiative structure unique in each community, we have chosen to use the word "community" throughout this CPA to cover all possible homelessness initiative structures. For the purposes of the CPA, whenever "community" is used, it refers to the homelessness initiative structure in place in your community and, more specifically, the group of individuals or stakeholders, committee or series of committees in your community with lead responsibility for community planning, implementation and decision-making relative to your homelessness initiative.

**Note:** Under Elements 1, 2, 4, and 16 of the Framework, "Community" refers to the city/regional territory and its overall population covered by the community plan.

# Component One: Community Profile

## Element 1 – COMMUNITY TRENDS AND IMPACTS

### 1.1 – Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends

Referring to your “A” Series Tables, please identify and explain: a) the trends (i.e. significant increases or decreases) in your community’s *demographic, housing* and *income* data; and b) the relationship of these trends to each other.

- For the purposes of understanding absolute numbers of Aboriginal people in Hamilton, the estimates and projections based on Statistics Canada 1991 report: Population by Selected Aboriginal Origin, Sex and Age Groups for CMA’s, 1991 (Cat. No 94-327) provide a much more accurate picture. These estimates are similar to what Aboriginal services and agencies believe to be the population.
- There is a higher proportion of youth and lower proportion of seniors in the urban Aboriginal population in Hamilton compared with the City of Hamilton as a whole.
- It is well known that Aboriginal people are disproportionately over-represented over a range of social well-being indicators: poverty rates, unemployment rates, attendance of post-secondary education, determinants of health, life expectancy, involvement with the correctional system, involvement with the child welfare system, and addictions. This over-representation is often double and up to three times higher than the general population.
- While accurate housing and income data for Aboriginal people is sparse, the Aboriginal community in Hamilton acknowledges the cumulative impact of all of these indicators on the well-being of the community.
- The impact of this over-representation likely means that trends that are true for the Hamilton community (e.g. high proportion of households in core housing need, increased numbers of people on waiting lists for social housing, high numbers of people living below the LICO) are having an increased and larger impact in the Aboriginal community.

### 1.2 – Policy and Structural Trends

Please describe any changes in your community or government structures that have affected the implementation of your community plan priorities over the course of Phase II. These structural influences could include changes in by-laws, policies related to housing, or changes to the level of individual income supports.

- The level of social assistance rates (Ontario Works in particular) are below subsistence rates especially for single “employable” individuals. Continued inattention to this issue puts more Aboriginal people (who are disproportionately living below the poverty line) at risk of losing their housing.
- In Hamilton, there have been continued challenges finding operational dollars to support capital projects.
- Related to the above point, there have been challenging linking programs who are administered by different levels of government (i.e. Federal EI program with provincial Social Assistance). For the Aboriginal community, there are additional challenges because of the complex intersections of off-reserve/on-reserve, federal/provincial/municipal issues, and self governance issues.
- Aboriginal people, and especially young Aboriginal people, face additional structural barriers finding and maintaining housing due to discrimination and racism. One example of this is a potential tenant being told over the phone that a unit is available, but upon arriving to see the unit, being told that it had been rented. This particular tenant then had a friend phone about the unit and was told it was still available. The Aboriginal community reports that this type of experience is common. Less common, but not rare, are instances of overt racism resulting in violence which often traumatizes the victim of such an experience.
- The underlying cause of the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the social well-being indicators in Question 1.1 can be attributed to a long history of unjust policy and structural trends in Canada. While we do not go into this issue a great deal in the assessment, it has been well established that policy decisions in the Indian Act and the related outcomes including residential schools, the loss of language, loss of land, and a loss of the matriarchal system have resulted in overwhelming trauma to the Aboriginal population as a whole. The outcome of these policies can be seen in the over-representation on social well-being indicators listed above.

## Element 2 – COMMUNITY HOMELESS AND AT-RISK POPULATION TRENDS

### 2.1 – Homelessness Trends

Referring to your completed “B” Series Tables, please *identify and explain the trends* in each of your community’s homeless or at-risk populations over the comparison period. In completing your analysis, please consider the current profile of each population or sub-population (Table B.2) as well as the broader community socio-economic factors. HHB recognizes that many communities may not have data for each of these populations and/or may not collect data on the population groupings as listed here. If this is the case for your community, please consult the Guide on how to complete this element.

#### a. Population at risk of homelessness

- The Aboriginal community has chosen to use the Low Income Cut Off as the indicator for the number of people at risk of homelessness as poverty is one of the driving forces behind Aboriginal homelessness. From the table, one can see that there are an increasing number of people at risk of homelessness in Hamilton.
- There are two other groups of Aboriginal men – those being discharged from correctional facilities – and those with addictions – that are also at risk of homelessness. However, the community was not able to obtain statistical information about these groups. This is likely to be a focus in the Community Plan Update.

#### b. Hidden homelessness population

- Hidden homelessness is a major issue in the Aboriginal community – however obtaining reliable data on hidden homelessness is very difficult. Anecdotal reports from service providers indicate that there is a high proportion of people experiencing homelessness who couch-surf on a regular basis.
- c. Population living on the street (please also make specific reference to the chronically living on the street sub-population in your community).
- The Aboriginal community (and mainstream community for that matter) does not have reliable information about the number of people living on the street in Hamilton. However, the number is considered to be relatively small based on reports from outreach workers and most individuals will access shelters or services over the course of a year. It is likely that of those who do live on the street, Aboriginal men make up a disproportionate number.
- d. Short-term or crisis sheltered population (please also make specific reference to the episodically sheltered sub-population in your community)
- The number of people – predominantly men – who use an emergency shelter at least once a year has almost doubled over the last 20 years in Hamilton.
  - This data is also reflected in “on a given night” shelter counts conducted by the Social Planning and Research Council that show 160 people staying in emergency shelters on a given night in November 1995, and over 400 on a given night in November 2006.
  - Specific data on the number of Aboriginal people in these statistics is unavailable, but it is likely that the trends in the Aboriginal community reflect the trends of the larger community – meaning a significant rise in emergency shelter use over the last several decades.
- e. Long-term or supportive housed population
- There is not data available on this population in Hamilton.

## Element 3 – COMMUNITY PLAN ASSETS ANALYSIS

### 3.1 – Asset Stability

Referring to Table C.1, please comment on the relative stability of your community assets over time (i.e. were the assets in your community maintained or did some assets disappear, etc.). Please also identify any factors that may have influenced your community’s asset stability.

- The National Homelessness Initiative has had a major impact on services, programs, and supports for the Aboriginal community in Hamilton. There has been a noted increase in number of beds for women and homeless seniors. The number of people assisted through programs increased over the NHI time period.
- The number of Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton is relatively small, with a core group of 11 agencies providing the majority of services for people who are homeless. Most of these agencies are not directed to people who are homeless – instead offering services to all community members. These agencies have remained relatively stable over the NHI time period, with programs being added as resources were made available.
- There were three community assets that disappeared over the NHI time period. The Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAAMB) disbanded in 2001. NPAAMB was a major asset for Hamilton as it was the delivery agent for many federal programs around employment training, business entrepreneurship, and homelessness. When NPAAMB disbanded, there was a major gap left in Hamilton.
- The second agency to disappear was the Native Inuit and Indian Photographer’s Association (NIIPA). While first and foremost a cultural arts association, NIIPA was a key component in the community’s efforts to address homelessness – by sponsoring cultural awareness and public education events around Aboriginal homelessness in Hamilton. This included two NHI funded public education videos about Aboriginal homelessness.
- The third asset to disappear was Guiding Hand that was a service that operated for two years in the area of child protection services.
- Over this time, there were also two economic development initiatives that started and were not successful enough to continue: OJISTOH Management Services and Tikon Property Management Services.
- While the majority of the community assets continue to be in place over the NHI time frame, the disappearance of three community assets speaks to the volatility within the sector. These findings support the sense within the Aboriginal community leaders that the Aboriginal service sector is relatively fragile (compared with mainstream agencies) and over-extended. This limits the ability of the agencies to take on new projects or initiatives, as well as pursue additional opportunities that present themselves.

## Element 4 – COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

### 4.1 – Community Profile Summary

Please describe any challenges experienced as a result of the broader community trends/changes identified in Elements 1 to 3 in attempting to implement your homelessness priorities and/or strategies.

There are a number of broader community trends and changes identified above that have created significant challenges to addressing urban Aboriginal homelessness in Hamilton:

- The number of people – predominantly men – who use an emergency shelter at least once a year has almost doubled over the last 20 years in Hamilton.
- This data is also reflected in “on a given night” shelter counts conducted by the Social Planning and Research Council that show 160 people staying in emergency shelters on a given night in November 1995, and over 400 on a given night in November 2006.
- The level of social assistance rates (Ontario Works in particular) are below subsistence rates especially for single “employable” individuals. Continued inattention to this issue puts more Aboriginal people (who are disproportionately living below the poverty line) at risk of losing their housing.
- The number of Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton is relatively small, with a core group of 11 agencies providing the majority of services for people who are homeless. Most of these agencies are not directed to people who are homeless – instead offering services to all community members. These agencies have remained relatively stable over the NHI time period, with programs being added as resources were made available.
- While the majority of the community assets continue to be in place over the NHI time frame, the disappearance of five community assets speaks to the volatility within the sector. These findings support the sense within the Aboriginal community leaders that the Aboriginal service sector is relatively fragile (compared with mainstream agencies) and over-extended. This limits the ability of the agencies to take on new projects or initiatives, as well as pursue additional opportunities that present themselves.
- It is well known that Aboriginal people are disproportionately over-represented over a range of social well-being indicators: poverty rates, unemployment rates, attendance of post-secondary education, determinants of health, life expectancy, involvement with the correctional system, involvement with the child welfare system, and addictions. This over-representation is often double and up to three times higher than the general population.
- The underlying cause of the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the social well-being indicators in Question 1.1 can be attributed to a long history of unjust policy and structural trends in Canada. While we do not go into this issue a great deal in the assessment, it has been well established that policy decisions in the Indian Act and the related outcomes including residential schools, the loss of language, loss of land, and a loss of the matriarchal system have resulted in overwhelming trauma to the Aboriginal population as a whole. The outcome of these policies can be seen in the over-representation on social well-being indicators listed above. These are long term issues that are unlikely to be solved in the short term.

# Component Two: Continuum of Housing and Supports

## Element 5 – COMMUNITY PLAN CONTINUUM

### 5.1 – Continuum Description

Please **outline** (using a diagram or chart) and **briefly describe** the continuum of housing and supports used by your community in its planning, and as illustrated in your Phase II Community Plan Update.

For phase 2, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community used the following framework from the National Homelessness Initiative to describe the homelessness continuum:

**Emergency Shelter and Supports** – Services and supports for people who are experiencing absolute homelessness

**Transitional Housing** – Housing that is often paired with supports and offered for a fixed length of time (6 weeks – 3 years)

**Supportive Housing** – Long term permanent housing that offers supports.

**Prevention** – Programs and services that allow people to keep their housing, or allow them to move along the homeless continuum.

### 5.2 – Assets and Gaps Related to the Continuum

Referring to Table C.1, please **consider** the distribution of Phase II projects along your continuum of housing and supports, and **comment on any trends** (e.g. even distribution of projects along the continuum, projects mostly in the short-term or crisis categories of the continuum, etc.).

- The Aboriginal community set targets for program expenditure in the above categories as follows (percentages do not include administrative expenditures):
  - Emergency shelter and supports: 50%
  - Transitional housing: 25%
  - Supportive housing: 15%
  - Prevention: 10%
- The capital transitional housing project by Urban Native Homes, being a capital project, required more resources than the original 25% allotment. This project alone used approximately 36% of the available resources.
- The breakdown of actual expenditure is as follows:
  - Emergency shelter and supports: 50% - Over 2,000 people received assistance with these emergency food and supplies, as well as life skill program support. Over 1,000 people received assistance with medical needs (prescription assistance) and with access to traditional healing.
  - Transitional housing: 46%. Twenty four beds for homeless Aboriginal seniors were created, as well as 2 reports to further the development of transitional housing for men.
  - Prevention: 7%. Over 500 men were assisted in wellness programs, and numerous cultural awareness workshops continue to be conducted.
- As Phase 2 progressed, the priority around supportive housing was allocated to the transitional housing project. As there will be a supportive component to the transitional housing, the community felt that this one project encapsulated both types of housing.

## Element 6 – COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

### 6.1 – Priorities and Gaps Analysis

Referring to your completed “D” Series Tables, please analyze the outputs and outcomes produced in your community related to housing and support services, and assess the progress made in bridging gaps in your community.

Three Community Priority tables have been added by default in the framework. First, copy and paste as many supplementary tables as you need to ensure each of your community plan priorities has its own table, and then complete the tables.

[NOTE: These priorities were not prioritized. These are presented in the order they appear in the Community Plan Update.]

Community Priority # 1
Please include below the <b>exact wording</b> of the community priority:
1. Negotiate the 1:5 principle with Hamilton mainstream homelessness entity.
a. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <b>best describes</b> your approach to setting targets. <input type="checkbox"/> We <b>did not set targets</b> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <b>set the target(s)</b> listed below:
The target was 20% of Hamilton’s mainstream allocation – based on conservative estimates that Aboriginal homelessness constituted 20% of homelessness in Hamilton.
b. Please check the statement that best describes <b>whether or not</b> your community <b>has met this priority</b> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community. <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>addressed beyond expectations</b> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>fully met</b> . <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>partially met</b> .

This priority has *not been met*.

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”** please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

The Aboriginal community successfully negotiated the allocation of 18% of Hamilton’s mainstream SCPI allocation. This funding was utilized for the capital construction of Urban Native Homes’ transitional project.

This priority will result in 24 transitional housing beds for people experiencing absolute homelessness (output).

We anticipate the outcome of this project will be of great assistance to move people from emergency shelter, on the street, or in hidden homelessness into more permanent housing.

## Community Priority # 2

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Community based partnerships, old and new

[Refers to development and promotion of partnerships with Aboriginal and mainstream agencies that allows for Aboriginal decision making]

a. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

b. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met”** please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

Increased number of partnerships with mainstream agencies and governments since 2004 (outputs).

- Program delivery partnerships established with:
- Aboriginal Health Centre and Living Rock Ministries
- NiWasa Head Start and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Stay in School Initiative)
- Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

Hamilton Executive Director’s Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) has been identified as a formal advisory committee to the City of Hamilton on Aboriginal Issues (output).

HEDAC has worked closely with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness in Hamilton to develop protocols to identify priority Aboriginal projects, strengthen partnerships between the two groups, and to maintain Aboriginal autonomy. HEDAC has been granted 2 seats at the 12 member Community Advisory Board.

These outputs resulted in the following outcomes:

- Increased representation of the Aboriginal community in formal networks in the community.
- Increased connectivity within the sector – better dialogue and decision making between the mainstream and Aboriginal NHI process.

Issues for further attention:

- Continue to support and promote partnership with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and the City of Hamilton
- Partnerships with men’s emergency shelter providers.
- Partnerships with the youth emergency shelter and transitional housing providers
- Build on and expand existing partnerships – particularly the Stay in School Initiative.

## Community Priority # 3

Please include below the <b>exact wording</b> of the community priority:
Build on the implementation plan [Refers to evaluating progress on the community plan update and programs that are implemented]
<p>a. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <b>best describes</b> your approach to setting targets.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <b>did not set targets</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We <b>set the target(s)</b> listed below:</p>
<p>b. Please check the statement that best describes <b>whether or not</b> your community <b>has met this priority</b> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>addressed beyond expectations</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>fully met</b>.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>partially met</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has <b>not been met</b>.</p> <p><b>If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”</b> please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.</p> <p><b>If the priority has not been met,</b> please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.</p>
<p>Accomplished:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programs funded through NHI completed quarterly information summaries (output)</li> <li>- Ongoing discussions of programs individual successes/challenges at monthly HEDAC meetings (output)</li> <li>- Discussion by the Allocations Committee about effectiveness of different programs to address homelessness (output)</li> <li>- Funded programs have met their objectives (output)</li> <li>- A recognition of the importance of keeping quantitative information by Aboriginal agencies (output).</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of community-wide data collection regarding Aboriginal homelessness has limited the ability to look at the overall impact of programs</li> <li>- Lack of capacity in Aboriginal agencies and especially at the community level to conduct detailed program and community level evaluations</li> <li>- Bringing statistics together at the community level to understand impacts and consult with community around how to respond.</li> </ul>

Community Priority # 4
Please include below the <b>exact wording</b> of the community priority:
Community capacity building and human resources and governance (refers to community development supports and capacity building to support HEDAC and link/coordinate programs)
<p>c. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <b>best describes</b> your approach to setting targets.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <b>did not set targets</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We <b>set the target(s)</b> listed below:</p>
<p>d. Please check the statement that best describes <b>whether or not</b> your community <b>has met this priority</b> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>addressed beyond expectations</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>fully met</b>.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <b>partially met</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has <b>not been met</b>.</p> <p><b>If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”</b> please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.</p> <p><b>If the priority has not been met,</b> please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.</p>
<p>There has been progress linking programs particularly for the youth in the Life Skills Training Program that links with Hamilton Regional Indian Centre’s Alternative School Program and the Stay in School Initiative. (output)</p> <p>NiWasa Head Start Program partnered HWDSB and HWCDSB to provide cultural awareness training to schools and public requests (output).</p>

The primary challenge to this priority has been the lack of resources. To achieve this goal, operational dollars to sustain the capacity in Hamilton's Aboriginal Community are required.

To this point, HEDAC has been unable to secure such funding.

### Community Priority # 5

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Seek financial resources for projects.

[Note: This refers to capital and operational dollars, particularly for transitional supportive housing for seniors, Native Women's Centre Emergency Shelter Project, and proposed Men's Residence.)

e. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

f. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been "addressed beyond expectations," "fully met" or "partially met,"** please outline below your community's progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

One project has been able to attract significant financial resources – Urban Native Homes Transitional Housing Project. This project has attracted additional resources from the City of Hamilton (housing allowances & waived development charges), from the mainstream SCPI program, and the United Way has granted approximately \$50,000 to support one full time support worker for the development.

The Native Women's Centre was able to secure limited operational dollars to support its expansion from 9 to 15 beds (this was a phase 1 expansion). The operational expansion was approximately \$200,000 annually.

The Men's Residence is undergoing feasibility studies currently.

There have been continued challenges to find ongoing or additional support for the other funded projects.

### Community Priority # 6

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Offer vouchers, food banks, transportation, out of the cold program to address daily needs and prevent hypothermia.

g. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

h. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been "addressed beyond expectations," "fully met" or "partially met,"** please outline below your community's progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

Through the NHI, the Native Women's Centre and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre were able to provide funding for emergency food and supplies, vouchers, and access to drop-in space. From 2004-2006, over 2,000 people received assistance from these two programs (outputs). These measures alleviated some of the extreme suffering of people who are homeless (outcome).

One of the challenges with this priority is that with breaks between funding, people who depend on these resources face breaks in service – which can have serious consequences for people living on the street. The demand for these services continues to be high and this area is expected to be a priority for the upcoming Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

**Community Priority # 7**

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Counseling, outreach, life skills, cultural training for youth (the priority also identifies the creation of a one stop multi-youth complex to achieve this priority).

i. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

HEDAC to develop conceptual plans for ongoing support and interventions for youth. One Stop Multi-Youth Complex.

j. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”** please outline below your community's progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

The vision of the one stop complex came from a particular piece of land that became unavailable shortly after the community plan update was developed. The community chose to focus instead on other program approaches.

While this priority has not been met, the emergence of the Aboriginal Stay in School Initiative (a non-NHI funded partnership between NiWasa and Sir John A MacDonald and Cathedral High School) offers a potential strategy in the coming years. This initiative's successes at identifying Aboriginal youth at risk and supporting them to prevent homelessness has helped 180 different Aboriginal youth in Hamilton from 2003-2007.

There has been the formation of the Hamilton Aboriginal Education Council with membership from HEDAC and community representatives. This committee is responsible to oversee the Nia Wey program as well as serve as a formal advisory to the HW District School Board and the HW Catholic District School Board.

The primary challenges for a lack of additional progress on this priority were the closure of an Aboriginal agency that owned the land that had been identified as a possibility for a complex, a lack of resources and a lack of capacity in Aboriginal organizations to implement and expand the project..

**Community Priority # 8**

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Updated feasibility study (for Native Men's Residence Initiative)

k. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

Updated feasibility study for a Native Men's Residence.

l. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”** please outline below your community's progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing

homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

*If the priority has not been met*, please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

Final report produced: Needs Assessment for an Aboriginal Men’s Residence – completed by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (output).

Operational feasibility study currently underway to look at site-specific and design factors with Stevenato and Associations (output).

It is anticipated that this Aboriginal Men’s Residence will be a priority for the Aboriginal community in the upcoming Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

### Community Priority # 9

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Link homelessness initiatives with development projects – create sustainable jobs for Aboriginal community.

m. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

n. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

*If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”* please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

*If the priority has not been met*, please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

The construction of the Urban Native Homes has contributed to sustainable jobs and job skills in the Aboriginal community (both urban and Six Nations). This project involved youth apprenticeship programs and high school co-op placement hours (outcome).

The Hamilton Regional Indian Centre has hired youth graduates of the programs to help run the next series of programs (outcome).

The Aboriginal community hired youth to help provide security around the Red Hill Valley construction site (outcome).

One of the factors that contributes to Aboriginal youth being able to find and secure sustainable employment is education around Aboriginal culture and identity. This education is one component of the Life Skills programs and other cultural awareness programs run by Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton. In the last three years, there have been a number of youth who have graduated from these programs (outputs).

Challenges: Aboriginal youth unemployment remains disproportionately high. The drop-out rate for Aboriginal youth in Hamilton is disproportionately high. The combination of these factors, coupled with a loss of cultural identity, make sustainable long term employment challenging.

### Community Priority # 10

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Develop training packages for community agencies (to increase access to and provide cultural awareness and traditional programming).

o. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

p. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

***If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”*** please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.

***If the priority has not been met,*** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

The original intent of this priority was to create a training manual cultural sensitivity and anti-racism/oppression from an Aboriginal perspective. This would allow for consistent messages and curriculum for mainstream agencies to discuss Aboriginal issues. To this point, the manual has not been developed. This is due to competing priorities for funding (or not enough resources). We have made this proposal to several different funders.

There is ongoing work in this priority with NiWasa’s Cultural Awareness Training Program (NHI funded). Aboriginal agencies also receive regular requests to provide cultural awareness training for mainstream agencies and institutions. They provide this service as often as resources allow (requests exceed the ability to offer workshops).

Niwasa Head Start Pre-School opened a resource centre in 2003-4 that provides resources, information, referral, and tool kits to help with Aboriginal cultural awareness and training. To date there have been 3,908 families and children served through this program.

NiWasa also received funding in the extension year to create a Drum and Dance program. Through this program, there were 9 workshops on Aboriginal self-identification that reached over 3,000 youth in Hamilton. As well, the program reached over 6,000 youth in schools around traditional Aboriginal culture.

NiWasa additionally ran two summer camps for Aboriginal children aged 6-12 years to have the opportunity to learn about traditional Aboriginal culture and values. There were a total of 180 different Aboriginal children who attended these camps over two years.

## 6.2 – Priorities and Investments

Considering your community plan priorities and the analysis completed above:

- a. Please **outline** and **explain** how your Phase II-funded projects addressed the housing and/or support service areas: a) of most pressing need in your community (**demand**); and b) of focus in your plan (**supply**).
- The funded projects in Phase II reflected the priority areas of the housing continuum as set out above: Emergency Services and Supports, Transitional and Supportive Housing, and Prevention.
  - The Allocations Committee balanced both the pressing needs in the community with the focus in the plan:
    - Approximately 50% of the resources fell into the Emergency Services and Supports category
    - Approximately 46% of the resources were allocated to transitional and supportive housing
    - Approximately 7% of the resources funded prevention strategies including health and well-being and cultural awareness programs.
  - In terms of percentage of resources allocated, the large percentage went to the transitional and supportive housing line. This was due to the high costs of a capital build.
  - The Aboriginal community also identified as a priority the emergency needs of people living on the streets or in shelters. They funded a large number of projects (food banks, emergency supply hampers, medical supplies, and traditional healing) that were intended to respond to these pressing needs in the community.
  - The community also recognized the role of cultural awareness and public education around the unique factors surrounding Aboriginal homelessness by providing funding to a number of projects intended to raise awareness and promote traditional Aboriginal knowledge.
- b. Please comment on the impact (if any) of the wording of your community plan priorities on the type of project proposals received by your homelessness initiative relative to the expectations and/or vision of your community plan.
- There was no impact. The Allocations Committee received a range of proposals and was able to identify projects that met the targets set out in the Community Plan.

## Element 7 – HOMELESS AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS

### 7.1 – Priorities and Populations

Referring to your completed “B,” “C” and “D” Series Tables, please consider the **funding choices** made by your community as you complete the analysis below.

1. Population At Risk of Homelessness
- a. Please briefly describe any activities implemented by your community to identify individuals/families at risk of becoming homeless and related prevention strategies.
- In Hamilton, the Aboriginal community has put a significant amount of resources to address those people at risk of homelessness. For the National Homelessness Initiative, the community has focused on Aboriginal people living below the poverty line and those accessing emergency food programs as those at risk. An additional focus has been on Aboriginal men and women being discharged from correctional facilities and those with addictions.
  - There were seven (7) projects funded that addressed people at risk of homelessness. These projects included emergency food programs with outreach, access to over the counter medications and traditional healing, a drop-in program with referral service, and a holistic Aboriginal Men’s circle.
- b. Please **indicate** the progress made in preventing homelessness in your community as a result of these efforts.
- [ ] Significant progress    [ x ] Some progress    [ ] Little progress    [ ] No progress

Then **comment** on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- The community has made some progressing addressing the risk of homelessness by the funding of seven projects, however, the underlying risk factors: particularly poverty and the legacy of colonization are significant challenges that were outside the scope of the NHI to address.
- The NHI funding did enable the creation of an emergency food depot with distribution that has targeted 5,000 visits and assistance packages (output).
- The creation of a drop in program with life skills programming and emergency food has provided assistance and referral help to 440 different men and women (output).
- Access to medications and traditional healing have been provided to 400 people to help address health issues (output) and more people are expected to receive assistance in the extension year (outputs not yet available).
- Almost 100 families and children were helped with nutritional supplements to enable their children to participate in a pre-school program (output).
- NHI funding enabled the continuation of a program for men at risk of homelessness and their families in a holistic support group setting (output).
- NHI funding also enabled the creation of a training workshop that increased public understanding of the Aboriginal experience of homelessness. Twelve organizations and thirty two staff participated in the training (output).

2. Hidden Homeless

a. Please briefly describe any efforts made by your community to identify those individuals/families experiencing homelessness, but not immediately apparent as being homeless, and any related housing referral services.

- Hidden homelessness is a major issue for the Aboriginal community. Many of the programs that address people at-risk of homelessness also address people experiencing hidden homelessness.

b. Please *indicate* the progress made in identifying the hidden homeless population in your community and in moving these individuals or families to greater housing stability.

Significant progress     Some progress     Little progress     No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- See Section 2B for outputs.
- One of the major challenges for this sub-group is identification of those experiencing it. Many times people are not willing to divulge their current living situation, and reluctant to access services that may be able to help.

3. Population Living on the Street

a. Please describe any activities implemented by your community to assist individuals and families living on the street to move to shelter or stable housing.

- There have been a number of initiatives – primarily the creation of 24 beds for homeless Aboriginal seniors – and the feasibility study for an Aboriginal men’s residence that will have an impact on this population. Refer to Question #4 as there is a high degree of overlap with the short-term sheltered population.

b. Please *indicate* the progress made in moving these individuals/families to shelter or stable housing.

Significant progress     Some progress     Little progress     No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- Refer to Question #4.

Chronically Living on the Street Sub-Population

c. Please describe any efforts made by your community to assist the chronically living on the street to connect to services and to move to stable housing.

- The Aboriginal community has not funded any service directly related to this population. However, many of the Aboriginal men living chronically on the street have serious addictions and require significant help.
- The opening of Claremont House during Phase 2 for people experiencing chronic homelessness and requiring treatment based on harm reduction principles is expected to contribute significantly to this population.

d. Please *indicate* the progress made in moving the chronically living on the street to connect to services and to move to stable housing.

Significant progress     Some progress     Little progress     No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- The creation of 16 beds of supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness and chronic dependence on alcohol will have an impact on the Aboriginal community (output). Aboriginal statistics for this program are not currently available.

4. Short-Term or Crisis Sheltered Population

a. Please describe any activities implemented by your community to assist individuals and families in short-term or crisis shelter to move to greater housing stability.

- The creation of 24 units of transitional housing for homeless Aboriginal seniors will reduce the number of Aboriginal seniors who are living on the street or in emergency shelters.
- The Needs Assessment and the Feasibility Study for the Aboriginal Men’s Residence/Transitional Housing Facility are likely to result in additional housing that will help homeless Aboriginal men to move into more stable housing.
- The NHI enabled the creation of additional life skill, support, and referral programs to be implemented in one of the women’s shelters to assist families to move into more stable housing.

b. Please *indicate* the progress made in assisting individuals and families in short-term or crisis shelter to move to greater housing stability.

Significant progress       Some progress       Little progress       No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- The creation of 24 beds for homeless Aboriginal seniors is a major step forward to help people achieve stable housing. As the first residents are currently being assessed for suitability, outcomes are not yet available for this program.
- The completion of the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for a Men's Residence (outputs) were intended to lay the groundwork for the creation of additional transitional housing spaces for Aboriginal men who would like to move into more stable housing within an Aboriginal setting.
- The additional life skills programming, support and referral programs at the Native Women's Centre (outputs) have contributed to families ability to move into more stable housing.
  
- One of the challenges facing the Aboriginal community is a lack of information from mainstream emergency shelters – particularly the men's shelters – about Aboriginal clients. Additional information about the numbers of Aboriginal people accessing mainstream services along with the primary issues they are facing would be very helpful in moving people into more stable housing. We expect to make significant progress in this regard as HIFIS data is refined.

#### Episodically Sheltered Sub-Population

c. Please describe any efforts made by your community to stabilize the life circumstances of the episodically sheltered homeless and to move these individuals to greater housing stability.

- Refer to #4a.

d. Please *indicate* the progress made in stabilizing the episodically sheltered homeless and connecting these individuals to stable housing.

Significant progress       Some progress       Little progress       No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- Refer to #4b.

#### 5. Long-Term or Supportive Housed Population

a. Please describe any activities implemented by your community to assist individuals and families in long-term or supportive housing to maintain their housing stability.

- The Aboriginal community did not focus on this population in their community plan.

b. Please *indicate* the progress made in assisting individuals and families in long-term or supportive housing to maintain their housing stability.

Significant progress       Some progress       Little progress       No progress

Then *comment* on this progress using as many indicators from Annex C as applicable, and highlight any challenges that impacted your efforts.

- This population was not a focus in the community plan.

## Component Three: Knowledge and Communication

### Element 8 – COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

#### 8.1 – Priorities Analysis

To conduct this analysis, you will need to refer to your completed “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables. One community priority table has been added here. You may copy and paste as many supplementary tables as you need to ensure each of your knowledge and communication priorities has its own table. If your community did not set any priorities in this area, please indicate so in the space below (e.g. “We did not include a priority in this area.”), and then simply delete the table.

Community Priority # 10
Please include below the <i>exact wording</i> of the community priority:
Develop training packages for community agencies (to increase access to and provide cultural awareness and traditional programming).
<p>q. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <i>best describes</i> your approach to setting targets.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <i>did not set targets</i>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We <i>set the target(s)</i> listed below:</p>
<p>r. Please check the statement that best describes <i>whether or not</i> your community <i>has met this priority</i> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>addressed beyond expectations</i>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>fully met</i>.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>partially met</i>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This priority has <i>not been met</i>.</p> <p><i>If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”</i> please outline below your community’s progress in either: a) preventing individuals from becoming homeless; and/or b) moving individuals/families experiencing homelessness to greater housing stability, using as many indicators from Annex C in the Guide as applicable.</p> <p><i>If the priority has not been met,</i> please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.</p>
<p>The original intent of this priority was to create a training manual cultural sensitivity and anti-racism/oppression from an Aboriginal perspective. This would allow for consistent messages and curriculum for mainstream agencies to discuss Aboriginal issues. To this point, the manual has not been developed. This is due to competing priorities for funding (or not enough resources). We have made this proposal to several different funders.</p> <p>There is ongoing work in this priority with NiWasa’s Cultural Awareness Training Program (NHI funded). Aboriginal agencies also receive regular requests to provide cultural awareness training for mainstream agencies and institutions. They provide this service as often as resources allow (requests exceed the ability to offer workshops).</p>

### Element 9 – KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

#### 9.1 – Data Collection

- a. Referring to your “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables, please describe any efforts made by your community to collect data on the *homeless and at-risk populations* in your community, including the *frequency* with which this data was collected and analyzed. If you experienced any challenges in data collection, please also describe those.
- In Hamilton, emergency shelters are the primary source of data for people experiencing homelessness. While we have data on a given night from 1995 – 2005 for emergency shelters, we do not have reliable information regarding Aboriginal people’s service usage. Very few shelters have chosen to ask whether a client is Aboriginal or not.
  - With the incorporation of HIFIS at the men’s emergency shelters, the Aboriginal community is hopeful that the quality of information will improve. It is likely though that some sort of partnership and training will be required in order to ensure the information is reliably and sensitively gathered.
  - For the last few years, the Aboriginal community has chosen to estimate Aboriginal homelessness at 20% - based on similar data in Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver – as well as Hamilton’s proximity to Six Nations – the largest Aboriginal reserve in Canada. There is significant travel between the reserve and Hamilton – particularly for youth.
- b. Please identify how your data collection efforts have assisted your community in the decision-making related to your homelessness initiative, using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.
- With increased awareness of Aboriginal homelessness achieved over Phase 1 of the NHI, the mainstream CAB allocated a higher proportion of funding to the Aboriginal community for phase 2 and the extension year.

## 9.2 – Promising Approaches

a. Referring to your “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables, please describe any efforts made by your community to identify effective intervention and prevention approaches to assist those experiencing homelessness in moving to greater housing stability.

- The feasibility study for Aboriginal Men’s Transitional Housing included a review of various scenarios and analysis around best practices for developing transitional housing for people who have been homeless.

b. Please **indicate** the effectiveness of this information gathering in supporting your funding decisions.

Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then **comment** on this effectiveness using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.

- The impact of the promising approaches will be seen when the project is implemented.

## 9.3 – Research

a. Again, referring to your “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables, please describe any efforts made by your community to build knowledge and understanding of homelessness and the issues that contribute to homelessness. If you have an articulated research strategy, please attach a copy to your completed CPA.

N/A

b. Please describe how this knowledge or information has been used to effect change within your community related to homelessness, focusing on any changes that have occurred in your community thanks to this increased knowledge (e.g. “Through surveys of the homeless population, it was clear that more representation of the homeless population was needed on community committees,” etc.), using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.

N/A

c. Please indicate if access within your community to information or research related to homelessness has improved over the course of Phase II, using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.

- The community is anticipating better information regarding Aboriginal homelessness from HIFIS – however, to this point, this data has not been published. Additionally, there will need to be more emphasis on gathering Aboriginal specific information on a regular basis from emergency shelter users.

## Element 10 – COMMUNICATIONS

### 10.1 – Information Sharing

a. Referring to your “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables, please describe any efforts made by your community to share information regarding the supports and services available to assist those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Please also indicate whether these efforts or networks include the individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- HEDAC coordinated a Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Orientation for the mainstream Community Advisory Board. The intention of that presentation was to 1) ensure there was an understanding of the unique causes and conditions of Aboriginal homelessness in Hamilton; and 2) work toward a coordinated effort to address those causes and conditions while respecting Aboriginal autonomy.
- HEDAC also coordinated 4 seasonal events per year that provided an opportunity for the publicizing of services and supports for people that were homeless. These events included people experiencing homelessness and their families.
- HEDAC also worked with the City of Hamilton as an official Advisory committee on Aboriginal Issues.

b. Please **indicate** the effectiveness of these efforts or networks in ensuring that information is shared among agencies within your homelessness network and with individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then **comment** on this effectiveness using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.

- Increased amount of financial contribution from mainstream SCPI funds to Aboriginal projects.
- Creation of innovative decision making model that allowed for Aboriginal community retaining autonomy
- City of Hamilton Equity Office staff person assigned to support the work of HEDAC

10.2 – Public Awareness

a. Referring to your “C,” “D” and “E” Series Tables, please describe any activities implemented by your community to inform the public about issues related to homelessness. **Note: “Public” refers to individuals who are not homeless and who are not working in the homelessness sector in any capacity.**

- The Aboriginal community in Hamilton holds a series of community events and festivities every year surrounding National Aboriginal Day. While these festivities focus on Aboriginal issues broadly, there are announcements and profiles of projects being undertaken to address homelessness.
- Many of the Aboriginal community’s planning documents, reports, and event notices have been posted on the website of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton in order to increase public awareness and access to this information.

b. If any of your efforts *related to public awareness* have resulted in homelessness issues being placed on the *public agenda*, please describe those efforts and their specific results (e.g. media series on homelessness in your community, mainstream organizations sponsoring discussions on housing or homelessness issues, etc.).

- These annual events each resulted in at least one media article. They have also resulted in increased interest by the public (and politicians) in helping with the various projects (see below).

c. If any of your efforts related to public awareness *strengthened community mobilization* on issues related to homelessness, please describe those efforts and their specific results (e.g. local elected officials holding a town hall meeting on housing and homelessness; increase in the number of volunteers and/or level of donations to homeless serving agencies, etc.).

- As a result of these efforts around public awareness, the number of volunteers contributing to the project has increased. Additionally, there have been public statements of support from local city councilors Bob Bratina and Dave Braden.

d. Please *indicate* the effectiveness of your communications efforts in placing homelessness issues on the public agenda and/or strengthening community mobilization.

Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then *comment* using as many indicators from Annex D as applicable.

- Continued priority and understanding of the unique conditions of Aboriginal homelessness
- Increased resources designated for Aboriginal homelessness from the mainstream Community Advisory Board
- Increased number of councillors publicly supporting Aboriginal homeless projects
- Increased number of media articles mentioning Aboriginal homelessness.

## Component Four: Community Development (Community Capacity)

### Element 11 – COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

#### 11.1 – Priorities Analysis

Referring to your completed “C,” “D,” “F” and “G” Series Tables, please analyze your priorities related to community development (or what was formerly referred to as community capacity). One community development priority table has been added by default in the CPA. Please copy and paste as many supplementary tables as you need to ensure each of your priorities has its own table. If you did not set any priorities in this area, please indicate so in the space below (e.g. “We did not include a priority in this area.”), and then simply delete the table.

<b>Community Priority # 1</b>
<b>Please include below the <i>exact wording</i> of the community priority:</b>
1. Negotiate the 1:5 principle with Hamilton mainstream homelessness entity.
a. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <i>best describes</i> your approach to setting targets. <input type="checkbox"/> We <i>did not set targets</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <i>set the target(s)</i> listed below:
The target was 20% of Hamilton’s mainstream allocation – based on conservative estimates that Aboriginal homelessness constituted 20% of homelessness in Hamilton.
b. Please check the statement that best describes <i>whether or not</i> your community <i>has met this priority</i> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community. <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>addressed beyond expectations</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>fully met</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>partially met</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has <i>not been met</i> .
<b>If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”</b> then please outline below your progress in: a) evolving your strategic planning process; b) enhancing the relationships and level of inclusion of your homelessness initiative stakeholders; c) enhancing sustainable development; and/or d) informing government or policy structures to effect positive change in your community related to homelessness, using as many indicators from Annex E in the Guide as applicable.  <b>If the priority has not been met,</b> please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.
The Aboriginal community successfully negotiated the allocation of 18% of Hamilton’s mainstream SCPI allocation. This funding was utilized for the capital construction of Urban Native Homes’ transitional project.  This priority will result in 24 transitional housing beds for people experiencing absolute homelessness (output).  We anticipate the outcome of this project will be of great assistance to move people from emergency shelter, on the street, or in hidden homelessness into more permanent housing.

<b>Community Priority # 2</b>
<b>Please include below the <i>exact wording</i> of the community priority:</b>
Community based partnerships, old and new [Refers to development and promotion of partnerships with Aboriginal and mainstream agencies that allows for Aboriginal decision making]
c. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that <i>best describes</i> your approach to setting targets. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We <i>did not set targets</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> We <i>set the target(s)</i> listed below:
d. Please check the statement that best describes <i>whether or not</i> your community <i>has met this priority</i> and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community. <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>addressed beyond expectations</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>fully met</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This priority has been <i>partially met</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> This priority has <i>not been met</i> .

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”** then please outline below your progress in: a) evolving your strategic planning process; b) enhancing the relationships and level of inclusion of your homelessness initiative stakeholders; c) enhancing sustainable development; and/or d) informing government or policy structures to effect positive change in your community related to homelessness, using as many indicators from Annex E in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

Increased number of partnerships with mainstream agencies and governments since 2004 (outputs).

- Program delivery partnerships established with:
- Aboriginal Health Centre and Living Rock Ministries
- NiWasa Head Start and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Stay in School Initiative)
- Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

Hamilton Executive Director’s Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) has been identified as a formal advisory committee to the City of Hamilton on Aboriginal Issues (output).

HEDAC has worked closely with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness in Hamilton to develop protocols to identify priority Aboriginal projects, strengthen partnerships between the two groups, and to maintain Aboriginal autonomy. HEDAC has been granted 2 seats at the 12 member Community Advisory Board.

These outputs resulted in the following outcomes:

- Increased representation of the Aboriginal community in formal networks in the community.
- Increased connectivity within the sector – better dialogue and decision making between the mainstream and Aboriginal NHI process.

Issues for further attention:

- Continue to support and promote partnership with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and the City of Hamilton
- Partnerships with men’s emergency shelter providers.
- Partnerships with the youth emergency shelter and transitional housing providers
- Build on and expand existing partnerships – particularly the Stay in School Initiative.

**Community Priority # 4**

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Community capacity building and human resources and governance (refers to community development supports and capacity building to support HEDAC and link/coordinate programs)

e. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We **did not set targets**.

We **set the target(s)** listed below:

f. Please check the statement that best describes **whether or not** your community **has met this priority** and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been **addressed beyond expectations**.

This priority has been **fully met**.

This priority has been **partially met**.

This priority has **not been met**.

**If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”** then please outline below your progress in: a) evolving your strategic planning process; b) enhancing the relationships and level of inclusion of your homelessness initiative stakeholders; c) enhancing sustainable development; and/or d) informing government or policy structures to effect positive change in your community related to homelessness, using as many indicators from Annex E in the Guide as applicable.

**If the priority has not been met,** please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

There has been progress linking programs particularly for the youth in the Life Skills Training Program that links with Hamilton Regional Indian Centre’s Alternative School Program and the Stay in School Initiative (output)

NiWasa Head Start Program partnered HWDSB and HWCDSB to provide cultural awareness training to schools and public requests (output).

The primary challenge to this priority has been the lack of resources. To achieve this goal, operational dollars to sustain the capacity in Hamilton’s Aboriginal Community are required.

To this point, HEDAC has been unable to secure such funding.

**Community Priority # 10**

Please include below the **exact wording** of the community priority:

Develop training packages for community agencies (to increase access to and provide cultural awareness and traditional programming).

g. Some communities chose to set targets for their priorities. Please check the statement that **best describes** your approach to setting targets.

We *did not set targets*.

We *set the target(s)* listed below:

h. Please check the statement that best describes *whether or not* your community *has met this priority* and bridged the corresponding gap(s) in your community.

This priority has been *addressed beyond expectations*.

This priority has been *fully met*.

This priority has been *partially met*.

This priority has *not been met*.

*If this priority has been “addressed beyond expectations,” “fully met” or “partially met,”* then please outline below your progress in: a) evolving your strategic planning process; b) enhancing the relationships and level of inclusion of your homelessness initiative stakeholders; c) enhancing sustainable development; and/or d) informing government or policy structures to effect positive change in your community related to homelessness, using as many indicators from Annex E in the Guide as applicable.

*If the priority has not been met,* please outline your challenges in meeting this priority.

The original intent of this priority was to create a training manual cultural sensitivity and anti-racism/oppression from an Aboriginal perspective. This would allow for consistent messages and curriculum for mainstream agencies to discuss Aboriginal issues. To this point, the manual has not been developed. This is due to competing priorities for funding (or not enough resources). We have made this proposal to several different funders.

There is ongoing work in this priority with NiWasa’s Cultural Awareness Training Program (NHI funded). Aboriginal agencies also receive regular requests to provide cultural awareness training for mainstream agencies and institutions. They provide this service as often as resources allow (requests exceed the ability to offer workshops).

## Element 12 – STRATEGIC PLANNING DIMENSION

### 12.1 – Strategic Planning Process

a. Please *briefly describe* your homelessness initiative’s strategic planning process, focusing on: a) who was involved or engaged in the process; b) what structure is in place for planning, implementation and decision-making; and c) whether or not your process established a vision and/or guiding principles.

- a) The responsibility for strategic planning around Aboriginal homelessness in Hamilton lies with HEDAC and its members. There is a strong sense of ownership of the issue of homelessness by HEDAC. As a part of the strategic planning process, HEDAC (primarily Aboriginal voluntary sector organizations) holds community meetings and events to broaden participation from community members and people experiencing homelessness. In addition to planning around homelessness specifically, HEDAC has also recently developed a community plan around Aboriginal issues generally, and how homelessness fits into that broader framework.
- b) As mentioned above, HEDAC is the primary body for planning. HEDAC designates a sub-committee to develop the planning with both service-providers and non-service providers. The implementation rests with HEDAC along with the Local Delivery Mechanism (NPAAMB, ALFDC, or the City of Hamilton), as HEDAC is unincorporated. Decision-making ultimately rests with the Local Delivery Mechanism – however, the recommendations of a Homelessness Allocations Committee (made up of members of HEDAC with no submitted proposals) play a strong role in the decision making.
- c) A vision and guiding principles based on Aboriginal culture and values were used in the strategic planning process.

b. Reflecting on your strategic planning process as well as the outcomes achieved in your community, and drawing on the results of the Community Development Survey (Series F in the Data Tools), please *indicate* the effectiveness of this process in building a clear vision, and implementation and measurement strategies for your homelessness initiative.

Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then *comment* on this effectiveness using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable.

Agencies who were surveyed strongly supported the strategic planning and implementation process:

- An agreement percentage of 90% and mean score of 3.7 for question #1: “In my community, we have developed integrated goals and objectives to help in planning services and supports for the homeless people”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and mean score of 3.7 for question #2: “In my community, the individuals and organizations working together to prevent and reduce homelessness have a shared sense of purpose and similar values”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and mean score of 3.3 for question #3: “In my community, there is a regular evaluation of progress toward our strategic goals to address homelessness”.

One of the recommendations was fully achieved (Recommendation #1). Most of the other recommendations had significant action taken on them, but specific targets were not set. Many of the needs that the priorities set out to address are ongoing.

There was some additional feedback that recommendations and priorities could be made more specific in order to help with ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts.

## Element 13 – SOCIAL DIMENSION

### 13.1 – Community Leadership and Cohesiveness

- a. Please describe any efforts made by your community to build the leadership or to strengthen the cohesiveness within your homelessness initiative.
- HEDAC operates on a consensus decision making model which allows for increased cohesiveness when decisions need to be made.
  - HEDAC places emphasis on youth involvement and community representation in addition to service providers and agencies to ensure that decisions reflect the community will.
  - Volunteer board members and Elders are also involved in the planning and implementation process.
  - The local and autonomous decision making model currently being used has allowed HEDAC to successfully implement programs and services that respond to local needs. This has contributed a stronger sense of cohesiveness as a group.
- b. Referring to your “F” and “G” Series Tables, and drawing on the results of the Community Development Survey, please describe the strength of your community’s: a) leadership and b) cohesiveness, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable.

The survey showed that the survey respondents believe strongly in the **leadership** of the people in the Aboriginal community who are addressing homelessness in terms of being representative of the population, sharing power, and working to resolve conflicts and build consensus. However, there was strong feedback that the broader community coordination efforts were not nearly as representative or responsive to the views of Aboriginal people.

- An agreement percentage of 100% and a mean score of 3.5 for Question #6: “The people in our Aboriginal community who address homelessness are diverse and representative of the population”.
- An agreement percentage of 100% and a mean score of 3.6 for Question #7: “The people in our Aboriginal community who address homelessness share power with community members”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.9 for Question #8: “The people in our Aboriginal community who address homelessness work to resolve conflicts and find consensus”.
- An agreement percentage of 30% and a mean score of 2.3 for Question #9: “The people in our broader community who are coordinating efforts to address homelessness are diverse and representative of the population, including the Aboriginal population”.
- An agreement percentage of 40% and a mean score of 2.2 for Question #10: “The people in our broader community who are coordinating efforts to address homelessness are responsive to the views and concerns of community members, including Aboriginal members”.

The survey showed that the survey respondents believe strongly in the **cohesion** of the Aboriginal community effort to address homelessness, particularly in terms of the cooperation, good working relationships, and enthusiasm.

- An agreement percentage of 100% and a mean score of 3.6 for Question #12: “There is a strong sense of cooperation within my Aboriginal community to address homelessness”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.3 for Question #13: “In my Aboriginal community there are good working relationships between organizations and agencies addressing homelessness”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.2 for Question #14: “My Aboriginal community has the drive and enthusiasm to follow through with solutions to prevent and reduce homelessness”.

### 13.2 – Inclusion

- a. Please describe any activities implemented by your community to increase the breadth or depth of inclusion within your homelessness initiative.
- Active recruitment of all Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton.
  - Active recruitment of youth to participate in decision making and planning.
  - Community forums to hear input from the broader community
  - Active recruitment and participation from the Elders in the community.
  - Active recruitment of people who have experienced homelessness in the Allocations Committee and planning committees.
  - Increased participation by HEDAC members with mainstream committees (Community Advisory Board, Food, Shelter and Housing, Poverty Roundtable)
  - Cultural events that are held seasonally to inform and invite community members to be involved.
  - There are also many volunteers at the program level (e.g. the Food Bank and Outreach) that have expanded the breadth of inclusion.
  - The Food Bank has also recruited two sponsors from the private sector.

b. Referring to your “F” and “G” Series Tables, and drawing on the results of the Community Development Survey, please **identify and explain** any changes in the level of inclusion of your homelessness initiative stakeholders, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable.

- The Aboriginal community included youth, people experiencing homelessness and Aboriginal people in the planning, decision-making, and implementation phases of the work to address homelessness.
- The strong partnerships are most evident between Aboriginal organizations who have been acting together for both Phase 1 and 2.
- Although there has been significant ground gained, as table G.1 shows, there continue to be challenges around the inclusion of the Provincial government, mainstream homeless sector agencies and the private sector in the Aboriginal community’s efforts to plan for and address homelessness.

The survey showed that the respondents believe strongly in the **inclusiveness** of the Aboriginal community effort to address homelessness, particularly in terms of greater representation from various sectors and inclusion of people who have been homeless.

- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.4 for Question #4: “There is a greater representation of people from various services and sectors, participating in the Aboriginal community’s efforts to address homelessness than there was a few years ago”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.4 for Question #5: “In my Aboriginal community, efforts have been made to include homeless or formerly homeless people to participate in efforts to address homelessness”.

### 13.3 – Assessment of Relationships

a. Please describe any efforts made by your community to increase the breadth or depth of the relationships within your homelessness initiative, including any efforts to connect to other broad-based community initiatives (e.g. Vibrant Communities, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Crime Prevention Strategy, etc.).

- The Aboriginal community agencies that make up HEDAC are very well connected and active amongst themselves. This coalition building has been the primary focus for the last phase of UAS – H.
- The Aboriginal community has developed successful partnerships at the “coordination” level with HRSDC and the City of Hamilton in phase 2. This is an improvement from phase 1.
- There have been steps forward in Phase 2 – particularly with mainstream agencies – to develop networking partnerships.
- There are continued gaps in partnerships with the Provincial government and the private sector.

b. Referring to your “F” and “G” Series Tables, and drawing on the results of the Community Development Survey, please **identify and explain** any changes in the relationships among your homelessness initiative stakeholders, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable.

- The above changes are supported by findings from the Community Development Survey:
  - An agreement percentage of 50% and a mean score of 2.5 for Question #15: “In my Aboriginal community, there are strong relationships between governments, non-profit and private sectors and Aboriginal community agencies”.
  - An agreement percentage of 80% and a mean score of 3.2 for Question #16: “My Aboriginal community works well with its funding partners”.

## Element 14 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIMENSION

### 14.1 – Financial and Non-Financial Resources

Referring to your completed Tables G.4 and G.5, please:

a. **Identify and explain** any increases/decreases (between Phase I and Phase II) in the **number of different sources** of funds or in-kind contributions secured in your community for the implementation of your homelessness initiative, and outline any efforts made by your community to increase the number of different sources.

- The United Way has provided significant funding to support the Urban Native Homes Inc and bridge funding for the Food Bank program. This is in part due to an increased capacity to develop proposals, as well as a local re-alignment of priority setting by the United Way.
- There was an increase in volunteer hours from phase 1 to phase 2. This is primarily due to increased opportunities for volunteering (the creating of the Food Bank with Outreach component).
- The Food Bank at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre was also able to leverage a contribution from two private sector companies – who had not previously been involved with the homelessness initiative.

b. **Comment** on changes between Phase I and Phase II in terms of the number of different organizations accessing funding through your community’s homelessness initiative. In particular, please identify **any specific strategies** that might have been implemented by your community to improve access of community organizations to your homelessness initiative funding.

- There was a large drop from Phase 1 to Phase 2 in the number of funded agencies (from over 20 to 6). There are three reasons for this: 1) a targeted large capital project, 2) better priority setting and narrowing of focus, 3) a smaller geographic area from the LDM perspective (the initial area was for the Golden Horseshoe through NPAAMB).

The Community Development Survey additionally found that over the past few years there has been an **improvement of the coordination of resources** to the Aboriginal community agencies working in the homelessness sector (Question 22: Agreement percentage = 80%, Mean Score = 3.3).

The Community Development Survey found that respondents believe that Aboriginal agencies and organizations that help homeless people can more easily adapt to situations of limited resources and high demand for services that a few years ago (**increased resilience**). (From Question #20: Agreement percentage = 80%; Mean Score = 3.2).

The Survey also found that **respondents do not believe there are enough funding partners** to ensure adequate on-going financial resources for addressing homelessness (Question #23: Agreement Percentage: 0%; Mean Score = 1.5).

## 14.2 – Human Resources

Referring to Annex F in the Guide, please:

- a. **Describe** any efforts made by your community to **identify and develop** the knowledge, skills and attitude assets in your community related to strategic planning, fundraising, public awareness, etc. If you have developed a human resources plan or succession plan for your homelessness initiative, please attach a copy to your completed CPA.
  - The partnership between the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton has resulted in significant capacity to conduct and carry out research within the Aboriginal Community. Additional capacity was gained in planning and evaluation skills.
- b. **Describe** any efforts made by your community to address human resource stability within the homeless-serving sector in your community to improve the overall organizational stability of this sector.
  - There was a decision to pursue operational funding (as opposed to project funding) for a Tenant Outreach Worker at the Urban Native Homes Elder’s Residence.
  - Human resource stability has been identified as an ongoing major concern of this sector. Much of this is due project funding and the resulting gaps in programs.
- c. **Indicate** the effectiveness of your efforts in strengthening the knowledge, skills and attitude of those involved in your homelessness initiative.  
 Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then please **comment**, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable.

- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.7 for Question #18: “Over the past few years, the people in my Aboriginal community have improved their knowledge, attitudes and skills related to working with people who are homeless”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.4 for Question #19: “My Aboriginal community has enhanced its ability to address the problem of homelessness through relevant skills development”.
- An agreement percentage of 80% and a mean score of 3.0 for Question #26: “In general, citizens in my Aboriginal community believe that their local efforts can help to prevent and reduce homelessness”.
- An agreement percentage of 90% and a mean score of 3.1 for Question #27: “In general, citizens in my broader community believe that their local efforts can help to prevent and reduce homelessness”.

## 14.3 – Environmental Resources

- a. Please **describe** any efforts made by your community to address environmental sustainability through your: a) capital projects; b) operating projects; and/or c) other activities (i.e. incorporating energy efficiency into capital project designs, or recycling and conservation education into project operations).
  - Environmental sustainability is very important to the Aboriginal community. We have established numerous partnerships with environmental groups and have regular presentations on environment initiatives in Hamilton.
  - Land, environment and rights are central to the overall strategic plan of HEDAC.
- b. If applicable, please outline the results of your efforts related to environmental sustainability (e.g. reduced energy consumption, lower heating costs, etc.).
  - Reduced pesticide use – none of the Aboriginal organizations use pesticide on their properties.
  - Reduced energy consumption through compact fluorescent light bulbs at agencies and in the capital projects.

## Element 15 – POLICY DIMENSION

### 15.1 – Policy Development

- a. Please describe any efforts made by your community to **inform itself** as to the government and policy structures most applicable to your homelessness initiative.
  - Communication and updates from the Local Delivery Mechanism – ALFDC and/or NHPO
  - Communication with Service Canada – Ontario Region
  - Communication with City of Hamilton housing officials around Aboriginal housing programs.
- b. Please describe any activities implemented by your community to **engage government and policy structures** on homelessness issues and to suggest possible strategies to address these issues.

- In the past, the Aboriginal community has been very active in engaging government around Aboriginal homelessness issues. While the community has not been very active in this regard over the course of Phase 2, there is still a strong ability to mobilize its members to bring public pressure to bear on policy issues.

c. Please **indicate** the level of effectiveness of your efforts to engage these structures in effecting positive change in your community related to homelessness (e.g. a housing development plan, by-law changes, etc.).

Very effective       Effective       Somewhat effective       Not effective

Then **comment** on this effectiveness, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable and including any unintended outcomes of your efforts.

When NPAAMB and related communities were very active, there were increased resources allocated to address Aboriginal homelessness specifically.

d. Please describe any efforts made by your community to coordinate your efforts to bring about positive change with other broad-based community initiatives (e.g. Vibrant Communities, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, etc.) and/or broader community networks (e.g. PovNet, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, etc.).

- The Aboriginal community has representation on the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (Vibrant Communities) to address the disproportionate number of Aboriginal people living below the poverty line.

e. Please **indicate** the progress of your efforts in this regard.

Significant progress       Some progress       Little progress       No progress

Then please **comment** on this effectiveness, using as many indicators from Annex E as applicable and including any unintended outcomes.

- Participation has resulted in a better understanding on both sides of the issues – mainstream understanding of Aboriginal issues, and Aboriginal understanding of mainstream perspectives and approaches.
- Results from the Community Development Survey show that respondents believe there have been improvements in the understanding of the problem of homelessness (Question #17: Agreement Percentage = 100%; Mean Score = 3.5).
- There was also strong agreement that “My Aboriginal community has the capacity to develop strategic solutions to address homelessness” (Question 24: Agreement Percentage = 100%; Mean Score = 3.6)

## Component Five: Moving Forward

### Element 16 – COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### 16.1 – Future Trends Consideration

Reflecting on the demographic, socio-economic, political and structural trends in your community over the course of the past four years, which of these trends are likely to continue to affect your community in the foreseeable future and what consideration should be given to these trends in future planning related to homelessness (impact on supply)?

The significant accomplishments listed above notwithstanding:

- Given the current projections of Aboriginal people across Canada, we would anticipate continued higher numbers of youth compared with the non-Aboriginal population.
- Without a major anti-poverty initiative at the Provincial level, we would anticipate continued inadequate social assistance rates.
- Due to the long history of unjust policies and wide range of challenges facing urban Aboriginal people, the community of Hamilton sees the following trends continuing:
  - Higher than average rates of poverty in the urban Aboriginal community and continued lower performance on a range of social well-being indicators;
  - A disproportionate number of Aboriginal people who are homeless
  - A disproportionate number of Aboriginal youth who are street involved

#### 16.2 – Trends and Community Needs

Reflecting on the trends in your community's homeless and at-risk populations over the course of Phase II, which of these trends are likely to continue and how might these trends influence future needs in your community (impact on demand)?

- While there is relatively little information available about Aboriginal homeless and at-risk populations over the course of Phase 2, there is information about emergency shelter use in the mainstream shelters that indicate that there has been a leveling off in the growth of people experiencing homelessness. This is a significant development – as the number of people experiencing homelessness has been growing over the last 20 years.
- Even with the leveling off of the number of people experiencing homelessness, the number of people is double that of 20 years ago.

### Element 17 – CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORT

#### 17.1 – Areas Requiring Attention in the Future

In reviewing your community's asset inventory, as well as the projects funded through the National Homelessness Initiative over the course of Phase II, which areas might require specific attention by your community in the future?

1. Improve **data collection** about Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness.
2. Nurture **community partnerships** through increased access to cultural awareness and traditional programming (standardized manual) and increased partnerships with the Province, men's shelters, and the private sector.
3. To assess the need for addressing **mental health issues and addictions**, especially concurrent disorders.
4. To explore **preventative measures** that will help reduce Aboriginal homelessness.
5. To increase **community capacity** for homelessness planning and community fundraising.

#### 17.2 – Additional Focus and Strategies

Considering your priorities and the progress made by your community in meeting each priority, where might additional focus need to be applied? Given the analysis completed as part of this CPA, are there specific strategies that you have identified for further exploration to meet ongoing or emerging needs in your community? If so, please identify.

1. Negotiate the 1:5 rule with the mainstream CAB.
2. Ensure that the Elder's Residence is successfully implemented and is financially sustainable.
3. Work toward an Aboriginal Men's Transitional Housing facility.
4. Continuation of Emergency Food Banks and Outreach Services to prevent homelessness and to help supply basic and emergency needs.
5. To promote and ensure a holistic approach to health issues is accessible to Aboriginal people at risk of and experiencing homelessness – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional. This could include exploring partnerships with mainstream service providers around concurrent disorder treatment strategies.
6. To develop a coordinated youth service delivery initiative/model that includes counseling, life skills, employment, and cultural awareness components.
7. To promote traditional Aboriginal culture and history – Celebrating Culture, Health, and Wellness.
8. Develop a strategy to support Aboriginal post-secondary students in finding and maintaining appropriate housing,

#### 17.3 – Housing Stability and Future Recommendations

Linking your priorities to your community's homeless and at-risk population profiles, which strategies seemed most effective in moving individuals and/or families to greater housing stability, and what recommendations would you make for building on those strategies for the future?

1. Programs and services that offer culturally relevant services. Many Aboriginal people who are homeless become re-engaged through traditional and cultural services. The process of leaving the street is approached holistically – incorporating the entire family and community in a culturally sensitive way.

2. Programs need to be flexible. HEDAC's ability to make decisions locally is very important to ensure that programs can respond to local issues and needs.
3. Programs and strategies need to focus on engagement. The Aboriginal community has been able to develop a number of strategies – outreach and emergency food, cultural celebrations, community meetings, and various programs – to engage with homeless Aboriginal people and help them begin and continue the journey off the street.
4. People who have left the street often want to give back to the community that helped them. Being able to offer meaningful activities through volunteerism is a strength of Hamilton's Aboriginal service community.

## Element 18 – KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION

### 18.1 – Data Collection and Analysis

Considering the current availability of data and analysis, how might your community achieve greater clarity and focus on homelessness?

1. Develop a strategy for both the mainstream and Aboriginal community to get more detailed, accurate information about Aboriginal people's use of mainstream emergency services (for men, women, and youth). This strategy should be constructed so it could be used by other sectors.
2. Develop an information gathering strategy that includes people who are accessing the Aboriginal food banks as well as people who are receiving emergency food and nutritional supports through other Aboriginal agencies and at community events.

### 18.2 – Information Sharing

What suggested improvements would you make to your community's information sharing network, including the general public (e.g. awareness of homelessness-related issues, etc.)? Are there any new strategies you might consider for the future?

1. The loss of the Native Inuit Indian Photographer's Association (NIIPA) has had a profound detrimental impact on information sharing, and the promotion of traditional Aboriginal values and culture.
2. While this is not a new strategy, there must be continued emphasis on ensuring there is an Aboriginal presence on decision-making committees regarding homelessness.
3. HEDAC will also work to be present on information-sharing committees regarding homelessness. The intent of this participation is increase the ability for mainstream and Aboriginal communities to work together to address homelessness.

## Element 19– COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 19.1 – Community Planning and Implementation Process

In terms of your planning and implementation processes, what aspects seem to be working very well, and what changes if any would you suggest for the future?

1. HEDAC is very effective at planning and delivering services for the Aboriginal community. We would not recommend any changes to this planning mechanism locally.
2. Members have expressed that there could be improvements to the way data is collected and reported on. Improvements in this area would be very helpful for monitoring and evaluation.
3. Over Phase 1 and Phase 2, the LDM has changed two times and between phase 1 and 2, HEDAC explored alternative AHRDA holders to deliver this funding. Continuing to ensure consistent, reliable, and accountable operations by the LDM and AHRDA that respect the autonomy of HEDAC will be very important to the success of HEDAC's efforts.

### 19.2 – Representation and Decision-Making

Reflecting on the representativeness of your planning and decision-making processes, as well as their cohesiveness, what might you continue to place emphasis on or what might you alter to strengthen these areas?

1. HEDAC has been very pro-active in recruiting and supporting the involvement of people experiencing homelessness, youth, and elders in the planning and decision making process. This emphasis will continue into the new HPI.
2. In the next phase, HEDAC will explore expanded relationships with the City of Hamilton, the Province of Ontario, and Service Canada. These relationships will strengthen HEDAC's knowledge and decision-making, but not take away from the autonomy.

### 19.3 – Community Financial and Non-Financial Leveraging

In terms of your community's ability to leverage financial and non-financial resources, which strategies have been most effective in attracting contributions from other sources? Are there strategies that have not yet been engaged by your community that you might recommend for further exploration in the future? If so, please outline.

- A longstanding priority of HEDAC has been to increase fund raising capacity by having a staff position that could identify and develop funding proposals to increase resources.
- HEDAC will continue to emphasize the volunteer support that has been so important in leveraging the financial resources.
- HEDAC will continue to seek out and engage the private sector to increase the financial leveraging of government resources.
- There has been some success when agencies have dedicated volunteer or staff time to leveraging funds and seeking out private sector donations. This strategy will be pursued over the next several years.
- When these efforts are successful there must be staff time dedicated to the recognition of charitable donations/financial leveraging. This will encourage the likelihood of repeat participation.

#### 19.4 – Community Knowledge and Expertise

Reflecting on the knowledge and expertise within your homelessness initiative, what suggestions would you make for future succession planning to ensure that the momentum within your community’s homelessness initiative can be maintained?

- Continue with HEDAC as the overall planning body to ensure continuity and momentum.
- Make connections with the Strategic Plan of HEDAC to ensure continued alignment of the objectives regarding homelessness and the other objectives of HEDAC.
- Increase involvement of youth coordinators in HEDAC’s Strategic Planning and action-planning around homelessness to ensure momentum over the longer term.

#### 19.5 – Policy Development

Considering the progress you were able to make in influencing or shaping policy development, which strategies in this regard were most effective for your community, and where might you wish to focus additional effort?

- The ability to encourage change in mainstream government policy from an Aboriginal perspective is a very complicated issue. There is a significant amount of negative history affects the willingness to engage with mainstream government policy.
- However, regarding homelessness, income support, health and housing policies, political awareness must be increased and channels of decision-making must be publicized.
- There is still a strong ability to mobilize Aboriginal community members to bring public and media pressure to bear on policy and program issues.

### Element 20 – COMMUNITY SUPPORT

#### 20.1 – Support Needed

To enable your community to continue its efforts related to its homelessness initiative, please identify any supports that might be helpful for your community (e.g. leadership development sessions, assistance in developing long-term financial plans, establishing a community network for sharing information/resources among communities, etc.).

- Administrative and Planning Capacity to help with HEDAC’s activities and strategic planning.

#### 20.2 – Knowledge and Expertise to Share

Does your community have specific knowledge or expertise it would be willing to share with other communities? If so, please explain.

- HEDAC is a model of collaboration between Aboriginal agencies that has made extraordinary progress building bridges with the mainstream sectors. We would be willing to share our experience with other communities on the process, successes, and some of the challenges of that work.

## The Last Word

Now it is *your turn*. If you wish, please *share your stories* of the impact the National Homelessness Initiative has had in your community on the lives of those directly affected by your efforts, those individuals/organizations involved in your homelessness initiative, or others within your community.

The Aboriginal community had many success stories to share about the impacts of the National Homelessness Initiative on the lives of the people who are homeless in Hamilton.

One story was about a man who we will call Steve. Steve contacted an outreach worker shortly after his discharge from a brief stay in jail. Over the course of his stay there, he had lost all his belongings, and desperately needed help with clothing and food. The outreach worker helped get food and clothing to help him get back on his feet (he only had one set of clothes, and so was unable to even do laundry). Steve continued to be in touch with the outreach worker. Two years later, Steve is a regular volunteer at the community food bank. He was granted temporary custody of his grandchild, which helped his family bridge a very difficult time. He is present at Aboriginal community gatherings, and regularly reaches out to other Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. Steve and other volunteers who have been homeless assist the outreach worker to identify service gaps and potential new solutions. He gives credit to the outreach worker and the services for helping to find meaningful activities for him to participate in and give him a sense of hope.

Another story was about a woman who we will call Julie. Julie appeared at another community food bank several years ago, and required emergency food and support. Over the next few months, she was a regular client of the food bank. As happens often with clients at emergency services, Julie disappeared and the staff did not know what had become of her. Several months later, she reappeared at the food bank with a \$100 donation. She had been able to stabilize her living situation, and had received some money back from a tax rebate and she told staff that she wanted to give back to the agency that had helped her through the difficult time.

An additional story focused on four youth who had graduated from the life skills program provided through one of the Aboriginal agencies. Two of the youth are now employed full time, and another two had been accepted into programs at Mohawk College.

A final success story has to do with the Hamilton Executive Director's Aboriginal Coalition itself. With the help of the National Homelessness Initiative to galvanize and bring together the community around a specific issue, HEDAC has progressed to a very effective planning body for the Aboriginal community. While the focus of HEDAC has broadened to issues in addition to homelessness, the ability for the different Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton to come together, make decisions, and plan strategically has been a major success in Hamilton.