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Community Plan 2007-2009

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

Framework

Community: Urban Aboriginal - Hamilton

Region: Ontario

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Who should complete this Framework?

As is the case with all community planning efforts, the Community Plan cannot be completed by a single individual in isolation. It is the expectation of the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat (HP Secretariat) that completion of this Plan 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 HPS, and nuances in delivery within each designated community, we have chosen to use the word "community" throughout this Framework to cover all possible homelessness strategy structures. For the purposes of the Framework, whenever "community" is used, it refers to the homelessness strategy 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 strategy.

Component One: Community Profile

Element 1 – POPULATION, HOUSING AND INCOME DYNAMICS

1.1 – Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends

Please reflect on the demographic and socio-economic trends in your community over the past few years and briefly describe the population, housing and income dynamics that affect your community. Please refer to the “A” Series Tables you have completed in the Data Tools, as well as the information you provided in the Community Plan Assessment (CPA).

- 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 much 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, mental health issues, 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 – Upcoming Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends

Please describe how your community expects these dynamics to change over the next 2 years. Are there trends which you foresee will continue or change?

- We expect the trends above to continue over the next several years without major changes.

1.3 – Policy and Structural Trends

Please describe any recent changes in the policy and regulatory environment you work within. This includes government structures at the local or provincial/territorial level, and changes to legislation or regulations which may affect homelessness and housing. Do you anticipate additional changes in this environment that could affect your community’s activities regarding homelessness in the next two years?

- 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.
- There have been announcements about a Provincial Aboriginal Off Reserve Housing Program that could build units in Hamilton. There is no information about how or when this funding will flow.
- 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.
- As with the demographic and socio-economic trends, we do not expect any major changes in these areas over the next two years.

Element 2 – TRENDS IN HOMELESSNESS AND THE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

2.1 – Homelessness Trends

Referring to your completed “B” Series tables, please *profile, identify and explain the trends* in each of your community’s homeless and at-risk populations, as well as any trends you foresee for the next two years. In completing your analysis, please consider the current profile of each population or sub-population (Table B.2) as well as the socio-economic factors in the “A” Series tables. The HP Secretariat recognizes that many communities may not have data (numbers or estimates) for each of these populations or they 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.

b. Hidden homeless 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. Living on the street population (also make specific reference to the sub-population chronically living on the street 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, but those living on the street face extreme health risks. It is likely that of those who do live on the street, Aboriginal men and youth make up a disproportionate number.

- d. Short-term or crisis sheltered population (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. Supportive housed population
- There is not data available on this population in Hamilton.

Element 3 – COMMUNITY ASSETS ANALYSIS

3.1 – Assets

Referring to Tables C.1 and C.2, please comment on the nature and availability of your community assets or resources for the next two years (2007-2009) e.g. do you expect the assets in your community to be maintained at the same level, or do you expect some assets to grow or be reduced?

- As indicated in tables C1 and C2, the UAH funding has had a major impact on Aboriginal services in Hamilton – particular in the development of the seniors transitional housing project, and in the prevention of homelessness initiatives. For these assets to continue to impact people experiencing homelessness, continued funding is necessary.
- The organizations that are currently providing service and delivering most of the programs are anticipated to continue throughout the next two years. Their ability to deliver programs above will be greatly affected by available funding.
- The seniors transitional housing project will require continued attention, funding, and outreach to ensure it is viable over the long term and is able to offer the required amount of support to its tenants.
- There is a possibility that the inventory of affordable and supported housing will be expanded with the development of the Off Reserve Aboriginal Housing funding.

Component Two: Issues and Priorities

Element 4 – ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

4.1 – Issues and related homeless and at-risk populations

Based on the *Moving Forward* section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile, as well as consultation with a broad range of community stakeholders, please list below the main issues which must be addressed in your community in order to prevent and reduce homelessness. To support your work, you may use Worksheet - D in the Data Tools.

Four “Issue” tables have been included in the *Framework*. As a first step, copy and paste as many supplementary tables as you need to ensure that each of your identified issues has its own numbered table, and then complete the tables.

Issue # 1
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
Aboriginal organizations are under-resourced and over-burdened. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the Aboriginal community must seek to leverage increased funding (capital and operational) to deliver programs and supports.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
N/A

Issue # 2
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI will require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable. An additional gap is transitional housing for Aboriginal men experiencing homelessness.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)

Issue # 2
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
Aboriginal seniors with a history of homelessness, Aboriginal men with addictions and/or mental health issues, Aboriginal families living in low income

Issue # 3
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> : Homelessness must be prevented through culturally appropriate assertive outreach, supply of basic needs, and life skill programming.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
Aboriginal men, women, youth, seniors, families with low incomes and/or multiple life skill issues

Issue # 4
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> : Many Aboriginal people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness have multiple health issues and problems. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community must promote and ensure a wholistic approach to health issues is accessible to Aboriginal people at risk of and experiencing homelessness – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional – including the treatment of concurrent disorders, trauma, addictions, and mental health.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
Primarily Aboriginal single men with addictions and mental health issues who are disconnected from Aboriginal heritage/family/community. However, at risk populations also include Aboriginal

Issue # 4
families, seniors, women, and youth.
Issue # 5
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
There are a high number of Aboriginal youth who are homeless. Many of these youth are new to Hamilton from the reserve. Others are urban Aboriginal youth – many of whom struggle to stay in school. Aboriginal youth – males in particular – have the highest drop out rate of any sub-population in the public school system. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will develop a coordinated youth service delivery initiative/model that includes counselling, life skills, employment, schools and cultural awareness components.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
Aboriginal youth faced with cultural disconnect, substance use, extreme poverty, mental health issues, inter-generational conflict, FAS/D, high drop-out rates from school, literacy/learning disability issues

Issue # 6
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
Many Aboriginal people who are homeless have lost touch with their heritage and culture. For some, re-connecting to this culture and tradition is a pathway off the street.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
N/A

Issue # 7
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
Aboriginal students need increased and alternative support to succeed at post-secondary education. To prevent and reduce the risk of homelessness, the community will develop a strategy to support Aboriginal post-secondary students in finding and maintaining appropriate housing.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At-risk of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Living on the street <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically living on the street (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term or crisis sheltered <input type="checkbox"/> Episodically sheltered (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive housed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
Many Aboriginal students who come to McMaster and Mohawk face barriers finding and maintaining housing that can jeopardize their success at post-secondary education.

Issue # 8
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
There is a lack of consistent, quantitative data about Aboriginal homelessness – from the risk of homelessness to hidden homelessness to the numbers of those sleeping “rough”. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will work to improve data collection about Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. As there are many Aboriginal people who use mainstream homelessness services, strategies around data collection need to involve mainstream services.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input type="checkbox"/> At-risk of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Living on the street <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically living on the street (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term or crisis sheltered <input type="checkbox"/> Episodically sheltered (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive housed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write “N/A”.
N/A

Issue # 9
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> :
The level of collaboration needs to increase between Aboriginal and mainstream organizations who are addressing homelessness to provide better service, leverage additional resources, and share information. To prevent and reduce homelessness, community partnerships will be nurtured and expanded through 1) increased access to cultural awareness and traditional programming (standardized manual) into

Issue # 9
mainstream organizations and 2) increased partnerships with the Province, men's shelters, City of Hamilton, youth serving organizations, and the private sector.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write "N/A".
N/A

Issue # 10
a. Please briefly describe the <i>issue</i> : The Aboriginal community capacity for homelessness planning, program development and delivery, and program evaluation needs to be increased.
b. Affected Homeless and at-risk population For this issue, please select the most affected at-risk or homeless population. You may select more than one.
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At-risk</i> of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hidden homeless</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Living on the street</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chronically living on the street</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Short-term or crisis sheltered</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Episodically sheltered</i> (subpopulation) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Supportive housed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (The issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals.)
c. Population characteristics Please briefly outline the key characteristics of the at-risk or homeless population(s) who are most affected by the issue (as in Table B.2 in the <i>Data Tools</i>). Again, if the issue does not involve direct service provision to homeless and at-risk individuals, write "N/A".
N/A

Element 5 – COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

5.1 – Community Plan priorities 2007 to 2009

From the issues outlined in Element 4, please identify those your community will focus on as priorities for the next two years (2007-2009). To support your work, you may use Worksheet – D in the *Data Tools*.

Two Community Priority tables have been included by default in the *Framework*. As a first step, copy and paste as many supplementary tables as you need to ensure that each priority has its own numbered table, and then complete the tables.

Community Plan Priority # 1
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.
Aboriginal organizations are under-resources and over-burdened. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the Aboriginal community must seek to leverage increased funding (capital and operational) to deliver programs and supports.
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population Of the populations identified in b. and C. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - Please describe the groups which your priority will address.
c. Rationale Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.
This priority was identified as the top priority by HEDAC. In order to accomplish the priorities outlined here, additional dollars will be required. The Aboriginal community has been granted a significant portion of mainstream SCPI dollars in each of the past two programs (15% in SCPI 1, and 18% in SCPI 2). These resources have enabled significant progress toward helping Aboriginal people get off of the street and escape homelessness.
d. Funding used How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?
<input type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding
e. Activity area Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development

Community Plan Priority # 2
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.
There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI may require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable. An additional gap is transitional housing for Aboriginal men experiencing homelessness.

Community Plan Priority # 2
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population
Of the populations identified in b. and c. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i>
c. Rationale
Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.
<p>To respond to this issue, there are three areas of focus.</p> <p>The first is to ensure that the Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex Aboriginal Seniors residence, begun under SCPI, is sustainable and viable over the long term. This may require additional funding, outreach, and supports. This transitional housing fits within the HPS objectives and is consistent with the Aboriginal community needs.</p> <p>The second area of focus is to explore the development of an Aboriginal Men’s Transitional Housing residence. The timing is right for this initiative as a Needs Assessment and a Feasibility Study with site information have been completed for HEDAC. Like the Senior’s Residence, this project fits into HPS objectives and would fill a major community gap.</p> <p>The final area of focus is to maintain the existing Aboriginal transitional and supported housing stock across the housing continuum. Examples of these include the Native Women’s Centre, Sacajawea Non-Profit Homes, etc.</p>
d. Funding used
How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding
e. Activity area
Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development

Community Plan Priority # 3	
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.	
Homelessness must be prevented through culturally appropriate assertive outreach, supply of basic needs, and life skill programming.	
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population Of the populations identified in b. and C. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i>	
c. Rationale Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the "Moving Forward" section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.	
<p>As discussed in the Moving Forward section of the CPA, this issue is an ongoing priority for the Aboriginal community to prevent and reduce homelessness. Through the National Homelessness Initiative, community programs were able to support prevention activities through outreach, life skill programming, drop-in space, and the supply of basic needs. The demand for these services continues to be high.</p> <p>These programs fit well within the HPS objectives and activity areas around preventing homelessness and strengthening support services.</p>	
d. Funding used How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding	
e. Activity area Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an "X" in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports	
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development	
Community Plan Priority # 4	
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.	
Many Aboriginal people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness have multiple health issues and problems. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community must promote and ensure a holistic approach to health issues is accessible to Aboriginal people at risk of and experiencing homelessness – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional – including the treatment of concurrent disorders, trauma, addictions, and mental health.	
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population Of the populations identified in b. and C. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i>	
c. Rationale	

Community Plan Priority # 4	
Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.	
<p>The Aboriginal community has successfully responded to these needs over the course of the National Homelessness Initiative with funding to support traditional healing, over the counter medications, and treatment responses for FAS/D. An emerging need is focused on helping people with concurrent disorders – mental health and additions as well as those people dealing with trauma.</p> <p>This was identified as a priority in the Community Plan Assessment Moving Forward and fits well within the HPS Objectives.</p>	
d. Funding used	
How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding	
e. Activity area	
Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports	
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development	

Community Plan Priority # 5	
a. Statement of the priority	
Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.	
<p>There are a high number of Aboriginal youth who are homeless. Many of these youth are new to Hamilton from the reserve. Others are urban Aboriginal youth – many of whom struggle to stay in school. Aboriginal youth – males in particular – have the highest drop out rate of any sub-population in the public school system. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will develop a coordinated youth service delivery initiative/model that includes counselling, life skills, employment, schools and cultural awareness components.</p>	
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population	
Of the populations identified in b. and C. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i> Aboriginal youth.	
c. Rationale	
Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.	
<p>Aboriginal youth are a priority of the community. There are currently several programs targeted to Aboriginal youth that can be supplemented by the life skills program and outreach proposed under Priority 3.</p> <p>Movement on this priority is consistent with the Aboriginal community profile which shows a higher proportion of youth in the Aboriginal community versus the general population. As well, there are a disproportionate number of Aboriginal youth that are at-risk. This objective is consistent with the HPS objectives and with HEDAC’s strategic plan.</p>	
d. Funding used	

Community Plan Priority # 5
How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?
<input type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding – (included in Priority #3 above)
e. Activity area Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development
Community Plan Priority # 6
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.
There is a lack of consistent, quantitative data about Aboriginal homelessness – from the risk of homelessness to hidden homelessness to the number of those sleeping “rough”. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will work to improve data collection about Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. As there are many Aboriginal people who use mainstream homelessness services, strategies around data collection need to involve mainstream services.
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population Of the populations identified in b. and c. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i>
c. Rationale Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.
<p>There are several reasons for moving ahead with this recommendation currently.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A better understanding of the numbers of Aboriginal people using emergency shelters would be beneficial to both the Aboriginal community and the mainstream services in terms of developing program responses. 2. The level of trust and partnership between mainstream and Aboriginal agencies is now conducive to partnering to gather this information. This relationship is still relatively new, and has taken some time to develop; however, it would allow for this research to take place. 3. The implementation of the HIFIS programs in the mainstream shelters potentially allows for the gathering of this data on an ongoing basis. This is an opportunity that HEDAC feels should not be missed.
d. Funding used How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?
<input type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding. Potentially partner with the Mainstream CAB on this initiative (under \$5,000)
e. Activity area Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)

Community Plan Priority # 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development
Community Plan Priority # 7
a. Statement of the priority Please copy the issue statement from Element 4.
The Aboriginal community capacity for homelessness planning, program development and delivery, and program evaluation needs to be increased.
b. Focus on the at-risk or homeless population Of the populations identified in b. and C. in Element 4, will your priority focus on all of them?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No - <i>Please describe the groups which your priority will address.</i>
c. Rationale Please provide the rationale for identifying this issue as a priority for 2007-2009. In the rationale, please refer to the “Moving Forward” section of your CPA, your updated Community Profile and the HPS objectives.
As discussed in the Moving Forward section of the CPA, there is a lack of capacity in the Aboriginal community to conduct homelessness planning, facilitate program development, delivery, and evaluation. An additional focus would likely be increasing financial support for various programs addressing homelessness.
As the CPA found, “these findings support the sense of 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” (CPA, 2007).
This capacity building priority responds to this need, and additionally fits well within the HPS objectives.
d. Funding used How will your community priority be funded for the next two years?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HPS funding (may also include other, leveraged funding sources)
<input type="checkbox"/> No HPS funding
e. Activity area Please select the activity area to which the priority relates by marking an “X” in the appropriate area. Please note that your priority may apply to more than one area:
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Housing and Supports
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Communication (including Data Collection)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development

Component Three: Community Plan Outcomes

Element 6 – OUTCOMES RELATED TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

6.1 – Continuum of Housing and Supports: Priorities and Related Objectives

For each of the issues identified as community priorities under the Continuum of Housing and Supports, please identify the objective(s) and the related outcomes your community plans to achieve by 2009.

To support your work, you may use Worksheet – E in the Data Tools.

In this section:

6.1.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

6.1.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Two Community Priority tables have been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS	
6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 2	
a. Please state the exact wording of the issue identified as a community priority:	There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI may require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable. An additional gap is transitional housing for Aboriginal men experiencing homelessness.
b. Statement of Objective Please state the objective your community plans to achieve by 2009:	<p>2.1) To ensure that the Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex Aboriginal Seniors residence, begun under SCPI, is sustainable and viable over the long term.</p> <p>2.2) To explore the development of, and implement if possible, a 6-10 bed Aboriginal Men's Transitional Housing residence.</p> <p>2.3) The final area of focus is to maintain the existing Aboriginal transitional and supported housing stock across the housing continuum.</p>
c. Measurement Strategy	
c.1 Indicator(s) Please identify the specific measure of the progress your community plans to make toward meeting your objective. Please use the indicators from Annexes C and D in the <i>Reference Guide</i> as well as any additional indicators which your community has identified.	<p>2.1) - Number of beds for homeless Aboriginal seniors. - Vacancy rate in the UNH project - Budget statements for the project.</p> <p>2.2) - Number of transitional housing beds for Aboriginal homeless men.</p> <p>2.3) - Number of units of existing Aboriginal housing stock (see Community Asset list)</p>
c.2 Data Sources Please indicate the sources of information that will be used to measure the selected indicator(s). Please refer to Annexes C and D for suggestions for data sources.	Each of these indicators can be gathered from program information and project reporting forms.
c.3 Current Situation or Baseline (OPTIONAL) Please indicate: a) the current situation or baseline against which you will measure your progress;	

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS	
6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 2	
and b) the <i>strategy used</i> to determine your baseline if you do not have a current level:	
2.1) Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex currently has 24 beds available, and due to the recent start up, has five units occupied (October 1, 2007).	
2.2) There are no Aboriginal men’s transitional housing beds currently.	
2.3) See the Community Asset Map for current number of units in the Aboriginal housing stock.	
c.4 Target(s)	
Please indicate the <i>specific results you hope to achieve</i> in relation to this objective.	
2.1) - Number of beds for homeless Aboriginal seniors = 24. - Vacancy rate in the UNH project less than 5%. - Balanced budget for the project.	
2.2) - Increase of 6-10 transitional housing beds for Aboriginal homeless men.	
2.3) - Maintain the existing Aboriginal housing stock (see Community Asset list)	
d. Generic Outcomes	
Please select the generic outcome which is related to this objective:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduction of homelessness and transitions to housing stability	<input type="checkbox"/> Social integration
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement in service quality or service capacity

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS	
6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 3	
a. Please state the <i>exact wording</i> of the issue identified as a community priority:	
Homelessness must be prevented through culturally appropriate assertive outreach, supply of basic needs, and life skill programming.	
b. Statement of Objective	
Please state the objective your community plans to achieve by 2009:	
To engage Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness through the enhancement of the emergency food outreach program, life skill programming, and drop in services	
c. Measurement Strategy	
c.1 Indicator(s)	
Please identify the <i>specific measure</i> of the progress your community plans to make toward meeting your objective. Please use the indicators from Annexes C and D in the <i>Reference Guide</i> as well as any additional indicators which your community has identified.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of people whose income improves due to receiving services - Number of people whose employment status improved - Number of people who go from non-participation to volunteering - Number of people whose housing stability increases. - Number of people served in each program - Number of referrals - Number of people whose education status increases 	
c.2 Data Sources	
Please indicate the sources of information that will be used to measure the selected indicator(s). Please refer to Annexes C and D for suggestions for data sources.	

<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p>	
<p>Community Priority # 3</p>	
<p>- These indicators will be available through the Project Reporting Forms and the Intake/Evaluation forms for the programs.</p>	
<p>c.3 Current Situation or Baseline (OPTIONAL)</p> <p>Please indicate:</p> <p>a) the <i>current situation or baseline</i> against which you will measure your progress; and</p> <p>b) the <i>strategy used</i> to determine your baseline if you do not have a current level:</p>	
<p>The Hamilton Regional Indian Centre has expected 5,000 visits over the course of the most recent year of service delivery. The HRIC has provided the following statistics 2006-2007 – all statistics are monthly averages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 Clients received special assistance • 51 people received delivered emergency food and supplies to seniors and vulnerable households with limited mobility and access • 343 people took part in community dinners • 345 people experiencing absolute homelessness received outreach, food, and supplies • 187 youth received school supports and food • Emergency food assistance was provided to an average of 65 families with 140 dependants and 75 single people. <p>The Native Women’s Centre Drop In program has provided the following statistics for 2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1753 visits for emergency food • 216 school supports • 170 winter assistance • 42 life skills participants (41 completed) • 135 households for Christmas toys. <p>We would anticipate that volume to continue. There is not currently baseline information about housing status or source of income. We will add this to intake data in order to assess progress.</p>	
<p>c.4 Target(s)</p> <p>Please indicate the <i>specific results you hope to achieve</i> in relation to this objective.</p>	
<p>- Maintain number of people served as described in section C3.</p> <p>- Establish a record keeping system that will track outcomes of these contacts, and allow the community to set targets based on the indicators in Section C2. The target for HPI is to establish the record-keeping system, pilot the record-keeping system, and evaluate the system. We are anticipating that baseline information will be gathered as a part of the development of the system.</p>	
<p>d. Generic Outcomes</p> <p>Please select the generic outcome which is related to this objective:</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of homelessness and transitions to housing stability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of homelessness</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social integration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement in service quality or service capacity</p>
<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p>	
<p>Community Priority # 4</p>	
<p>a. Please state the <i>exact wording</i> of the issue identified as a community priority:</p>	

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS	
6.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 4	
Many Aboriginal people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness have multiple health issues and problems. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community must promote and ensure a holistic approach to health issues is accessible to Aboriginal people at risk of and experiencing homelessness – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional – including the treatment of concurrent disorders, trauma, addictions, and mental health.	
b. Statement of Objective Please state the objective your community plans to achieve by 2009:	
4.1) To maintain traditional healing programs	
4.2) To maintain the emergency medicine supply program	
4.3) To explore, develop and deliver a strategy to help people with concurrent disorders (mental health and addictions).	
c. Measurement Strategy	
c.1 Indicator(s) Please identify the <i>specific measure</i> of the progress your community plans to make toward meeting your objective. Please use the indicators from Annexes C and D in the <i>Reference Guide</i> as well as any additional indicators which your community has identified.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of services offered in the community - Number of clients served - Number of referrals - Number of training/info sessions. 	
c.2 Data Sources Please indicate the sources of information that will be used to measure the selected indicator(s). Please refer to Annexes C and D for suggestions for data sources.	
Program information, Project Reporting Forms	
c.3 Current Situation or Baseline (OPTIONAL) Please indicate:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the <i>current situation or baseline</i> against which you will measure your progress; and b) the <i>strategy used</i> to determine your baseline if you do not have a current level: 	
Previous programs under this priority have provided over 400 consultations to 25 different people, but will not be continued without further funding.	
c.4 Target(s) Please indicate the <i>specific results you hope to achieve</i> in relation to this objective.	
The Aboriginal Health Access Centre has provided the following statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,180 people received traditional healing services • 3,800 people received over the counter medications • 2,330 people participated in open healing circles, health fairs, and public presentations. <p>These statistics include repeat users. We will add unique individuals to data collection forms in the next phase of the project.</p> <p>As this project will receive fewer resources than in the previous years, the target is to maintain the current levels of service.</p>	
d. Generic Outcomes Please select the generic outcome which is related to this objective:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduction of homelessness and transitions to housing stability	<input type="checkbox"/> Social integration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement in service quality or service capacity

6.2 – Knowledge and Communication: Priorities and Related Objectives

For each of the issues identified as community priorities under Knowledge and Communication, please identify the objective(s) and the related outcomes your community plans to achieve by 2009.

To support your work, you may use Worksheet – E in the Data Tools.

In this section:

6.2.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

6.2.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Only one Community Priority table has been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION	
6.2.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 6	
a. Please include below the exact wording of the issue identified as a community priority:	
There is a lack of consistent, quantitative data about Aboriginal homelessness – from the risk of homelessness to hidden homelessness to the number of those sleeping “rough”. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will work to improve data collection about Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. As there are many Aboriginal people who use mainstream homelessness services, strategies around data collection need to involve mainstream services.	
b. Statement of Objective Please state the objective your community plans to achieve by 2009:	
6.1) To conduct surveys that will result in quantitative information about the number of Aboriginal people using emergency shelters in Hamilton.	
6.2) To establish an ongoing method to report on Aboriginal homelessness and usage of mainstream services in partnership with the City of Hamilton and mainstream emergency shelters.	
c. Measurement Strategy	
c.1	Indicator(s) Please identify the specific measure of the progress your community plans to make toward meeting your objective. Please use the indicators from Annex D in the <i>Reference Guide</i> as well as any additional indicators which your community has identified.
	- Number of surveys completed at emergency shelters over the next two years to identify Aboriginal people - Number of HIFIS using shelters that are accurately gathering information about Aboriginal clients.
c.2	Data Sources Please indicate the sources of information that will be used to measure the selected indicator(s). Please refer to Annex D for suggestions for data sources.
	- HEDAC minutes - City of Hamilton HIFIS data reviewed by HEDAC
c.3	Target(s) if applicable Please indicate the specific results you hope to achieve in relation to this objective.
	- Three surveys (one night each) carried out over the next two years. - Education sessions with mainstream service providers about including Aboriginal status in HIFIS data.

6.3 – Community Development: Priorities and Related Objectives

For each of the issues identified as community priorities under Community Development, please identify the objective(s) and the related outcomes your community plans to achieve by 2009.

To support your work, you may use Worksheet – E in the Data Tools.

In this section:

6.3.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

6.3.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Only one Community Priority table has been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
6.3.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 7	
a. Please state the exact wording of the issue identified as a community priority:	
The Aboriginal community capacity for homelessness planning, partnership development, program development and delivery, and program evaluation needs to be increased.	
b. Statement of Objective	
Please state the objective your community plans to achieve by 2009:	
7.1) To invest in staff resources that will be responsible for assisting agencies and HEDAC in homelessness planning, program development and delivery, and program evaluation.	
7.2) To increase the amount of funding available to address Aboriginal homelessness.	
7.3) To increase the number of collaborative partnerships between Aboriginal agencies and mainstream agencies	
c. Measurement Strategy	
c.1	Indicator(s) Please identify the specific measure of the progress your community plans to make toward meeting your objective. Please use the indicators from Annex D in the <i>Reference Guide</i> as well as any additional indicators which your community has identified.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in dollars leveraged to address homelessness - Increased number of proposals submitted to potential non-homelessness sector funders to address Aboriginal homelessness - Increase number of successful proposals to funders - Increased number of sustainable organizations addressing Aboriginal homelessness - Increased number of partnerships and relationships
c.2	Data Sources Please indicate the sources of information that will be used to measure the selected indicator(s). Please refer to Annex D for suggestions for data sources.
	<p>This information will be available from several sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency self report - Minutes from the HEDAC meetings - Project reporting forms - Agency program data. - Community Plan Assessment and Update
c.3	Target(s) if applicable Please indicate the specific results you hope to achieve in relation to this objective.
	<p>Baseline information summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The last phase of the UAH leveraged \$2 million in SCPI funding and \$275,000 in operational funding from the Province. - Additionally, there were 2 submissions to the United Way. One was successful for approximately \$60,000 of annually renewable funding.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

6.3.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 7

- Currently the Aboriginal community does not invest in specific capacity building staff resources.
- Aboriginal agencies currently report limited partnerships with mainstream homelessness agencies and the private sector.

TARGETS:

- Leverage 20% of mainstream HPI dollars to address Aboriginal homelessness
- Submit at least 4 funding proposals to increase resources to address Aboriginal homelessness from “non-homelessness” funders.
- Reduce and eliminate the outstanding costs for the Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex
- Allocate the equivalent of 1.0 FTE capacity building staff position.
- Increase the number of partnerships in the following areas:
 - Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex referrals
 - Data collection opportunities
 - Private Sector Donors
 - Shared program delivery

Element 7 – HPS GENERIC OUTCOMES

There are four groups of HPS Generic Outcomes:

- 1) Reduction of homelessness and transition to housing stability
- 2) Prevention of homelessness
- 3) Social integration
- 4) Improvement in service quality or service capacity

Please complete the Baseline and Target columns of this table. The targets are for the community-level outcomes your community expects to achieve by 2009. Note that Baseline data is not required for all the outcomes.

HPS Generic Outcome #1: Reduction of homelessness and transitions to housing stability		
Indicators	First Measurement Period (Nov 1, 2007 – Feb 29, 2008)	Second Measurement Period (Nov 1, 2008 – Feb 28, 2009)
1.1 Shelter use		
1.1.1 Number of different people using shelters	On a given night survey of shelters with Aboriginal researchers to gather % Aboriginal. Community Priority #6	
1.1.2 Average length of stay in shelters	Work with HIFIS to incorporate Aboriginal statistics Community Priority #6	
1.1.3 Occupancy rate of shelter beds	Work with HIFIS to incorporate Aboriginal statistics Community Priority #6	

HPS Generic Outcome #1: Reduction of homelessness and transitions to housing stability		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
1.2 Changes in housing status		
1.2.1 Transitions in housing status: <i>Number of individuals who have moved from homelessness toward greater housing stability</i>		UNH – 24 Life Skills/NWC: 30 Life Skills/HRIC: 30 Aboriginal Men's: 10
1.2.2 Housing maintenance: <i>Number of individuals (from 1.2.1) who have maintained their housing for a 3-month follow-up period after receiving housing placement services</i>		N/A


HPS Generic Outcome #2: Prevention of Homelessness		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
2.1 Housing Retention		
2.1.1 Number of individuals who have retained their housing for a 3-month follow-up period after receiving housing loss prevention services		N/A
2.2 Housing placement		
2.2.1 Transitions in housing status: <i>Number of individuals who have experienced transitions toward greater housing stability as a result of housing placement services prior to discharge into the community from a health facility, the criminal justice system, or the child welfare system.</i>		N/A
2.2.2 Housing maintenance: <i>Number of individuals (from 2.2.1) who have</i>		N/A

HPS Generic Outcome #2: Prevention of Homelessness		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
<i>maintained their housing for a 3-month follow-up period after receiving housing placement services</i>		

HPS Generic Outcome #3: Social Integration		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
3.1 Changes in income		
3.1.1 Number of individuals whose income improved due to receiving relevant services		HRIC: 30 NWC: 30
3.2 Changes in employment status		
3.2.1 Number of individuals whose employment status improved due to receiving relevant services		HRIC: 15 NWC: 15
3.3 Participation in volunteer work		
3.3.1 Number of individuals going from non-participation to participation in volunteer work due to receiving relevant services		HRIC: 15 NWC: 15
3.4 Participation in education		
3.4.1 Number of individuals whose educational attainment improved due to receiving relevant services		NWC: 3 HRIC: 3

HPS Generic Outcome #4: Improvement in service quality or service capacity						
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (March 31, 2007)		Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)			
	Number of beds/units		Number of beds/units renovated or improved		Number of beds/units added	
4.1 Service Quality/ Service Capacity	Beds	Units	Beds	Units	Beds	Units
4.1.1 Number of emergency shelter beds and mats	15		0		0	
4.1.2 Number of transitional housing beds and units	0	n/a	0	0	10	n/a
4.1.3 Number of supportive housing beds and units	24	n/a	0	0	0	n/a

HPS Generic Outcome #4: Improvement in service quality or service capacity		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
4.1 Service Quality/ Service Capacity		
4.1.4 Number of services offered in the community		Number of Services added

HPS Generic Outcome #4: Improvement in service quality or service capacity		
Indicators	Current Situation or Baseline (March 31, 2007)	Target (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009)
		4

Component Four: Implementation Strategies

Element 8– IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR THE COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

8.1 – Continuum of Housing and Supports: Priorities and Related Strategies

For each objective in the Continuum of Housing and Supports, please identify the strategies that your community will implement in the course of the next two years to achieve the planned outcomes.

In this section:

8.1.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

8.1.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Two Community Priority tables have been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 2a

a. Please state the **exact wording** of the community priority and related objective:

- **Priority:** There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI will require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable
- **Objective:** To ensure that the Koo Ga Da Win Manitou Housing Complex Aboriginal Seniors residence, begun under SCPI, is sustainable and viable over the long term.

b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.

- Work with Urban Native Homes to ensure that any capital shortfalls can be met and overcome in order the operational viability is not jeopardized.

c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will potentially be involved in the implementation of this strategy, and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use *Worksheet - F* in the Data Tools.
(**Sector** refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of **relationships**, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).

HEDAC – Coalition. HEDAC will continue to work with UNH to ensure the achievement of this objective.

Province of Ontario – both the Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have announced funding that are relevant to this objective. The LHIN has announced new programs for supporting seniors in housing, and MMAH has announced Off Reserve Aboriginal Housing programs. These relationships are currently networking level, but are expected to increase.

City of Hamilton/CAB – The mainstream NHI funded this project. Continued support and resources will be required (Coordination).

d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective. (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.)

- Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects:
 - **HPI Designated communities:** \$ N/A

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 2a

- **HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863**
- Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective
 - **HPI Designated communities**
 - \$ n/a
 - %
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships**
 - \$ 90,000
 - 15 %

e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:

- United Way - \$ 60,000 per year
- City of Hamilton Housing Allowances: \$57,600 annually

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 2b

a. Please state the **exact wording** of the community priority and related objective:

- **Priority:** There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI may require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable
- **Objective:** To explore the development of, and implement if possible, a 6-10 bed Aboriginal Men's Transitional Housing residence.

b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.

- Implement recommendations of the Feasibility Study.
- Project Development Coordinator hired to establish partnerships, lead agencies and sustainable business plan.
- Explore potential sites and purchase site if suitable location is found
- Engage architect for site design.

c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will potentially be involved in the implementation of this strategy, and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet - F in the Data Tools.
(**Sector** refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of **relationships**, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).

Aboriginal agencies/HEDAC – coalition. Will lead the process.

City of Hamilton/CAB – coordination. HEDAC will work with the City around the allocation of mainstream homelessness dollars to support the implementation of this objective based on the 1:5 principle of previous SCPI funding.

Province of Ontario – currently networking level. The Aboriginal community will explore the applicability of various housing program initiatives with regard to this objective.

d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective. (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.)

- Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects
 - **HPI Designated communities: \$ n/a**

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 2b

- **HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863**
- Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective
 - **HPI Designated communities**
 - **Estimate: \$ 1,486,000 (contingent on approval by the Community Advisory Board of Hamilton)**
 - **Approx. 20 % of mainstream**
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships**
 - **\$40,000**
 - **6 %**

e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:

For this objective to move ahead, it will require financial support from the mainstream homelessness funding. We are projecting an amount of 1,486,000 which is generally in line with allocations made to the Aboriginal community in past SCPI allotments.

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 1

a. Please state the *exact wording* of the community priority and related objective:

- **Priority #1:** There are gaps in the housing continuum for Aboriginal specific housing for people who are seeking a more traditional Aboriginal housing environment. In particular the seniors transitional housing project funded through SCPI may require support, funding and outreach to ensure it is sustainable
- **Objective #3:** To maintain the existing Aboriginal transitional and supported housing stock across the housing continuum.

b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.

- Monitor the existing Aboriginal transitional and supported housing stock to ensure they are viable.
- Promote the availability of these housing units to ensure that low vacancy rates are maintained.

c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will potentially be involved in the implementation of this strategy, and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet - F in the Data Tools.
(*Sector* refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of *relationships*, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).

HEDAC/Aboriginal Agencies – HEDAC will take the lead on this.

Mainstream homelessness agencies – networking. Sharing information about the availability of units.

d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective. (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.)

- Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects
 - **HPI Designated communities: \$ n/a**
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863**
- Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships**
 - **\$ 0**
 - **0 %**

<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p> <p>Community Priority # 1</p> <p>e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:</p>
N/A

<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p> <p>Community Priority # 3</p> <p>a. Please state the exact wording of the community priority and related objective:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Homelessness must be prevented through culturally appropriate assertive outreach, supply of basic needs, and life skill programming. • Objective: To engage Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness through the enhancement of the emergency food outreach program, life skill programming, and drop in services
<p>b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.</p> <p>This objective can be met through the enhancement of two different programs currently funded through the Essential Services funding of the HPI. The Emergency Food, Drop In and Life Skill programs at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and the Native Women’s Centre can be enhanced through an increased focus on income support, increasing housing stability, and gathering information on outcomes.</p>
<p>c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will potentially be involved in the implementation of this strategy, and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet - F in the Data Tools. (Sector refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of relationships, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).</p> <p>Aboriginal community agencies through HEDAC will be involved in a coordination level partnership for this project.</p> <p>HEDAC will work to form a working relationship with the emergency food sector to leverage the amount of emergency food available at a low cost.</p> <p>The individual programs will work to increase funding support from the private sector.</p>
<p>d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective. (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Designated communities: \$ ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863 • Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Designated communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$ N/A ▪ N/A% ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$ 400,000 ▪ 68 %
<p>e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:</p>

<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p> <p>Community Priority # 3</p>

<p>CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS</p> <p>8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p> <p>Community Priority # 4</p>
<p>a. Please state the <i>exact wording</i> of the community priority and related objective:</p> <p>Priority: Many Aboriginal people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness have multiple health issues and problems. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community must promote and ensure a holistic approach to health issues is accessible to Aboriginal people at risk of and experiencing homelessness – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional – including the treatment of concurrent disorders, trauma, addictions, and mental health.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>a) To maintain traditional healing programs, b) To maintain the emergency medicine supply program c) To explore, develop and deliver a strategy to help people with concurrent disorders (mental health and addictions).</p>
<p>b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.</p> <p>These objectives can be met by enhancing the current program at De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s.</p>
<p>c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will potentially be involved in the implementation of this strategy, and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet - F in the Data Tools. (<i>Sector</i> refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of <i>relationships</i>, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).</p> <p>HEDAC will be involved in coordination level partnership to monitor progress and outcomes.</p>
<p>d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective. (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Designated communities: \$ ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863 • Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$ 50,000 ▪ 9 %
<p>e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:</p>

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

8.1.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 4

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8.2 – Knowledge and Communication: Priorities and Related Strategies

For each objective under Knowledge and Communication, please identify the strategies that your community will implement in the course of the next two years to achieve the planned outcomes.

In this section:

8.2.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

8.2.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Only one Community Priority table has been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION	
8.2.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS	
Community Priority # 6	
a. Please state the exact wording of the community priority and related objective:	<p>Priority: There is a lack of consistent, quantitative data about Aboriginal homelessness – from the risk of homelessness to hidden homelessness to the number of those sleeping “rough”. To prevent and reduce homelessness, the community will work to improve data collection about Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. As there are many Aboriginal people who use mainstream homelessness services, strategies around data collection need to involve mainstream services.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>6.1) To conduct surveys that will result in quantitative information about the number of Aboriginal people using emergency shelters in Hamilton.</p> <p>6.2) To establish an ongoing method to report on Aboriginal homelessness and usage of mainstream services in partnership with the City of Hamilton and mainstream emergency shelters.</p>
b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three surveys (one night each) carried out over the next two years. - Education sessions with mainstream service providers about including Aboriginal status in HIFIS data.
c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will be potentially involved in the implementation of this strategy and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet – F in the Data Tools. (Sector refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of relationships , please refer to the definitions in Annex A).	<p>HEDAC and Aboriginal Community volunteers</p> <p>City of Hamilton HIFIS analyst</p> <p>Emergency shelters – men’s, women’s and youth</p>
d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Designated communities: \$ N/A ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863 • Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HPI Designated communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$ N/A ▪ N/A% ○ HPI Aboriginal partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$ 0

<p>KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION</p> <p>8.2.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p>
<p>Community Priority # 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None %
<p>e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:</p>
<p>Volunteer hours to carry out the survey.</p> <p>3 surveys x 12 volunteers x 4 hours/volunteer x value \$15/hour = \$2,160</p>

8.3 – Community Development: Priorities and Related Strategies

For each objective under Community Development, please identify the strategies that your community will implement in the course of the next two years to achieve the planned outcomes.

In this section:

8.3.1 is **required** for priorities your community will fund under the HPS

8.3.2 is **optional** for priorities your community will not fund under the HPS, but wishes to include in the *Plan*.

Only one Community Priority table has been added by default in this section. First, copy and paste **as many tables as you have objectives** (grouped according to priority) and then complete the tables.

<p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>8.3.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS</p>
<p>Community Priority # 7</p>
<p>a. Please state the exact wording of the community priority and related objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: The Aboriginal community capacity for homelessness planning, partnership development, program development and delivery, and program evaluation needs to be increased. • Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1) To invest in staff resources that will be responsible for assisting agencies and HEDAC in homelessness planning, program development and delivery, and program evaluation. 7.2) To increase the amount of funding available to address Aboriginal homelessness. 7.3) To increase the number of collaborative partnerships between Aboriginal agencies and mainstream agencies
<p>b. Please describe the programs, services or activities your community intends to develop or enhance to meet this objective and achieve the expected outcome.</p>
<p>The intent of this community priority is to provide funding for staff support that will focus on achieving the objectives described above.</p>
<p>c. Please identify the sectors in your community that will be potentially involved in the implementation of this strategy and the expected relationships among these sectors. To support your work, you may use Worksheet – F in the Data Tools. (Sector refers to: the various levels of government, Aboriginal communities or organizations, homelessness agencies, mainstream agencies, private sector, etc. For types of relationships, please refer to the definitions in Annex A).</p>
<p>Working with and between a wide variety of sectors is the focus of this funding.</p> <p>We would anticipate the potential involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HEDAC as the lead reference group for the staff position as well as oversight of the Strategic Plan for HEDAC including homelessness as a priority area - Non-governmental funders will be involved in a funding relationship. - Governmental funders will also be involved in a funding relationship. - Mainstream homelessness services will be asked to increase the number of collaborative or coalition partnerships with the Aboriginal community. - The City of Hamilton Community Advisory Board will be involved at a coordination level to ensure these efforts are not carried out in isolation of the mainstream community’s similar efforts. - Private sector donations are expected to increase.
<p>d. Please indicate what proportion of your HPS funding will be allocated to the implementation strategy under this objective (This information will also be in Table G.2 in the Data Tools.):</p>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

8.3.1 – Community Priorities funded under the HPS

Community Priority # 7

- Total HPS funding that your community will allocate to total projects
 - **HPI Designated communities: \$ N/A**
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships: \$ 586,863**
- Amount and percentage of the HPS funding allocated to this objective
 - **HPI Aboriginal partnerships**
 - **\$6,863**
 - **1%**

e. Please identify any other sources of financial or in-kind support that will be invested for this objective:

Office space, rent, phone, computer rental = \$ 4,000 per year donated by lead agency.

HEDAC will be submitting a proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the spring 2008 to help complement this funding.

Component Five: Developing and Communicating the Community Plan

Element 9 – COMMUNITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS

a. Please describe your *homelessness initiative's planning process*, describing:

1. who was involved or engaged in the development of the community plan;
2. the organizational structure in place to facilitate the development of the community plan at its various stages (community profile, issue and priority identification, objectives and outcomes, etc.)

- This community plan was developed by the Hamilton Executive Directors Aboriginal Coalition in partnership with the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton. HEDAC is made up of the Executive Directors or Board Presidents of all of the Aboriginal agencies in Hamilton, and it runs by consensus decision making.
- There was a sub committee formed to oversee the various stages of the work. The members of the sub-committee were:
 - Linda Ense, Native Women's Centre (chair)
 - Cathy Staats, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
 - Janice Lewis, Urban Native Homes, Inc
 - Melanie McAuley, Sacajawea Non Profit Homes, Inc
 - Marilyn Wright, Aboriginal Health Access Centre
- The priorities were also presented at a Thanksgiving celebration hosted by the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre. There were over three hundred community members present on October 4, 2007. The priorities received support of the people in attendance.
- The responsibility for monitoring the progress will lie with HEDAC in partnership with its Community Entity.

b. Has the community plan been approved? By whom? (Community of stakeholders? Community Advisory Board (CAB)? Community Entity?)

- The Moving Forward section of the plan was approved by motion at HEDAC's meeting on June 18, 2007.
- The Community Plan Update was approved by the Hamilton Aboriginal Homelessness Advisory (HAHA) Planning Committee on Sept 27, 2007 subject to feedback from the community at the Thanksgiving dinner. The Community Plan Update was approved by the full HEDAC on October 3, 2007.
- Feedback at the Thanksgiving dinner celebration on 4 October 2007 was overwhelmingly positive.

Element 10 – COMMUNICATING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Please describe your community's strategy to communicate the homelessness plan and priorities to: a) the homeless and at-risk populations; b) the homelessness agency sectors; c) the mainstream agency sectors; d) the private sector; e) the public and e) elected officials.

- a) Homeless and At Risk Populations: The Plan and Priorities were presented at a Thanksgiving dinner celebration on October 4, 2007 where many of the attendees have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness.
- b) Homeless Agency Sectors: HEDAC has representation from all of the Aboriginal homeless agencies and will receive monthly updates on progress of the plan. HEDAC

has been deeply involved in both the CPA and the CPU, and the formation of the priorities.

- c) The Mainstream Agency Sectors: There are two Aboriginal agency representatives sitting on the Community Advisory Board for the City of Hamilton. As well, the Plan itself calls for increased partnerships between mainstream and Aboriginal sectors. One of the first steps in this regard is to define and develop a data collection strategy so that there is a better understanding of the numbers of Aboriginal people using mainstream homelessness services.
- d) The private sector will be approached specifically around increasing partnerships for the prevention priorities. This will be done at the individual program level.
- e) The public will be informed by periodic media articles such as National Aboriginal Day and facility openings. The Plan and Priorities will be posted on the Social Planning and Research Council's website.
- f) HEDAC will explore the possibility of presenting the Community Plan to Hamilton City Council's Emergency and Community Services Committee.

Component Six: Sustainable Development

Element 11 – FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- a. Please complete Table H, to identify the sources and amounts of matching funds or in-kind contributions secured by your community for the implementation of your homelessness initiative for the next two years. Please attach letters of confirmation.

Note that this step is not required for Aboriginal Community Entities.

- Not applicable.

- b. Does your community have a funding strategy to increase its financial and non-financial resources for the next two years?

What efforts will your community make to increase the number of different sources or amounts?

- The Aboriginal community has identified increasing the different sources of funding as well as increasing the amounts available to address homelessness as Priority #7. This has been a longstanding issue for the community as it requires specialized community development, partnership development, and writing skills. The Aboriginal community intends to invest staff resources if they are available to work specifically on this issue.

Element 12 – HUMAN RESOURCES

- a. Please describe your community strategies for developing knowledge and skills related to strategic planning, fundraising, public awareness, etc.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- b. Please describe your community strategies to address human resources stability within the homelessness sector to improve the effectiveness 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.
- It is anticipated that the Homelessness Partnering Initiative funding will allow for the continuation of several staff positions, thus somewhat increasing stability for the next year and one half.

If available, please include a plan with your submission. Let us know if your community would be willing to share information on your human resources strategies with other communities

Element 13 – ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Please describe your community strategies to address environmental sustainability in capital projects (e.g. incorporating energy efficiency into capital project designs) or operating projects (e.g. recycling and conservation education).

- 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.
- 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.

If available, please include a plan with your submission. Let us know if your community would be willing to share information on your environmental initiatives with other communities

The Last Word

[From the Community Plan Assessment]

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 re-appeared 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.