

# Journey HOME



*Kelowna City Council presentation  
April 15, 2019*

# Central Okanagan Journey Home Society

The Journey Home is Kelowna's 5 year strategy to end homelessness in our community.

The Task Force that was initiated by the City in 2017 presented the strategy to Council in the spring of 2018.

The majority of the people on the Task Force stayed involved in the transition team that focused on executing the strategy.

The **Central Okanagan Journey Home Society** was established in the fall of 2018 to be the backbone organization that is responsible for executing the Journey Home Strategy to end homelessness in 5 years.

In February our Executive Director, Gaelene Askeland, started her role, and in March our Systems Planner, Dr. Saran Mallinson began her role.



# JOURNEY HOME

*Embodies our Community's Voice*

*"We need leadership that  
inspires and drives action"  
Design Lab Participant*



The intentional approach of bringing new and different perspectives into an open discussion on this complex issue has been a **game changer** for our community.

It opened doors we never thought possible with new ideas and access to new resources to create a com drive the action-based strategy.

# Central Okanagan Journey Home Society Progress

## **Start-up:**

Office Set-up and Society Start-up Activities Complete  
Staffing – ED and Systems Planner

## **Governance:**

Board of Directors, Ex-Officios and Liaison  
Six Committees of Board struck: Governance, Education & Advocacy, Coordination & Collective Efforts,  
Communications, Resource Development, Development/Housing  
Transition of Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness (LECoH) and Youth Advisory for Homelessness (YAfH)

## **Building Connections and Awareness**

Involvement with leadership groups, communications teams, and planning teams for shelters, supportive  
housing and response teams  
Multiple presentations to interested groups about Journey Home and homelessness

# Central Okanagan Journey Home Society Progress

## Key Initiatives Underway

Initiatives Guided by LECoh: Homeless Simulator and PEOPLE Employment Services

Research Cluster – Local Researchers to conduct community participatory research to relevant to assisting in advancing the Journey Home Strategy implementation.

Capacity Building – A number of training and education opportunity have, and continue to be offered to service providers for example: Housing First for Youth, Housing First for Indigenous and Metis Peoples

## Systems Mapping and Coordinated Access:

Research underway and building the foundation for mapping of services

Preparation underway for Systems Planning to enhance Coordinated Access Efforts

Exploring opportunities for a one-stop-shop model

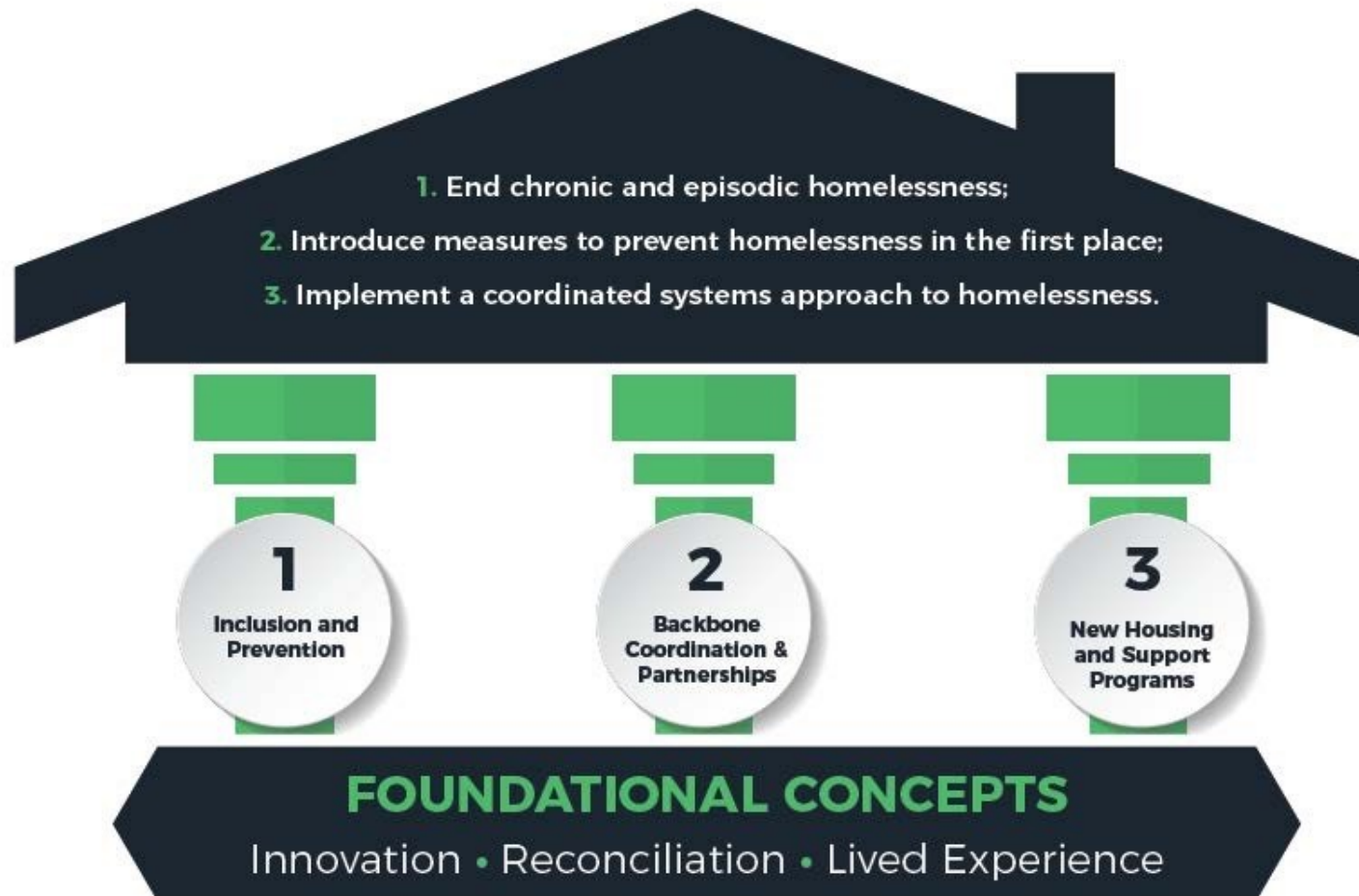
## Shelter Design Lab

Best Practices application in the Kelowna Context

Designing a model for Shelters to ensure integration into the system of care

Informing funders by outlining Kelowna's preferred shelter model/needs

# Central Okanagan Journey Home Society



**Central  
Okanagan  
Journey Home  
taking on the  
role of leading  
implementation  
of Strategy**

**\$47M**

**IMPLEMENTATION  
COSTS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD**

86 Units Complete (96 Housed)  
101 units in Development Process  
49 units soon to be announced  
**64 Units Left to be funded**

01

**HOUSING**

**\$18M**

**300**

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS NEEDED**

Long-term housing in buildings with supports onsite for people with complex needs (addictions, mental health, medical needs):

- BC Housing has currently committed to development of two buildings (88 units) and are in ongoing discussions regarding an additional 102 units.
- This leaves 110 units that are still required, an estimate of 3 buildings at a total estimated cost of approximately \$18M.

02

**BACKBONE ORGANIZATION & COORDINATION**

**\$2.7M**

A neutral Backbone Organization is proposed with focus on/and accountability for Journey Home Strategy implementation:

- Funding Coordination
- Homeless System Planning
- Capacity Building
- Leadership and Accountability
- Partnerships and Innovation

**\$1,092,678  
raised to date**

03

**SUPPORTS**

**\$26M**

**500**

**NEW PROGRAM SPACES**

supporting people in rental housing across communities with wraparound supports following the Housing First model, including:

- Assertive Community Treatment
- Intensive Case Management
- Rapid Rehousing
- Prevention

# HOUSING

Long Term Supportive Housing	# of Units	# Housed	Timeline
HearthStone	46	51	November, 2018
Heath House	40	45	January, 2019
Agassiz	51		Estimated Fall 2019
McIntosh	50		Estimated Fall 2019
Soon to be announced	49		Opening Spring 2020
Total Number of Units	<b>236</b>		
Total Number of People Housed to Date		<b>96</b>	

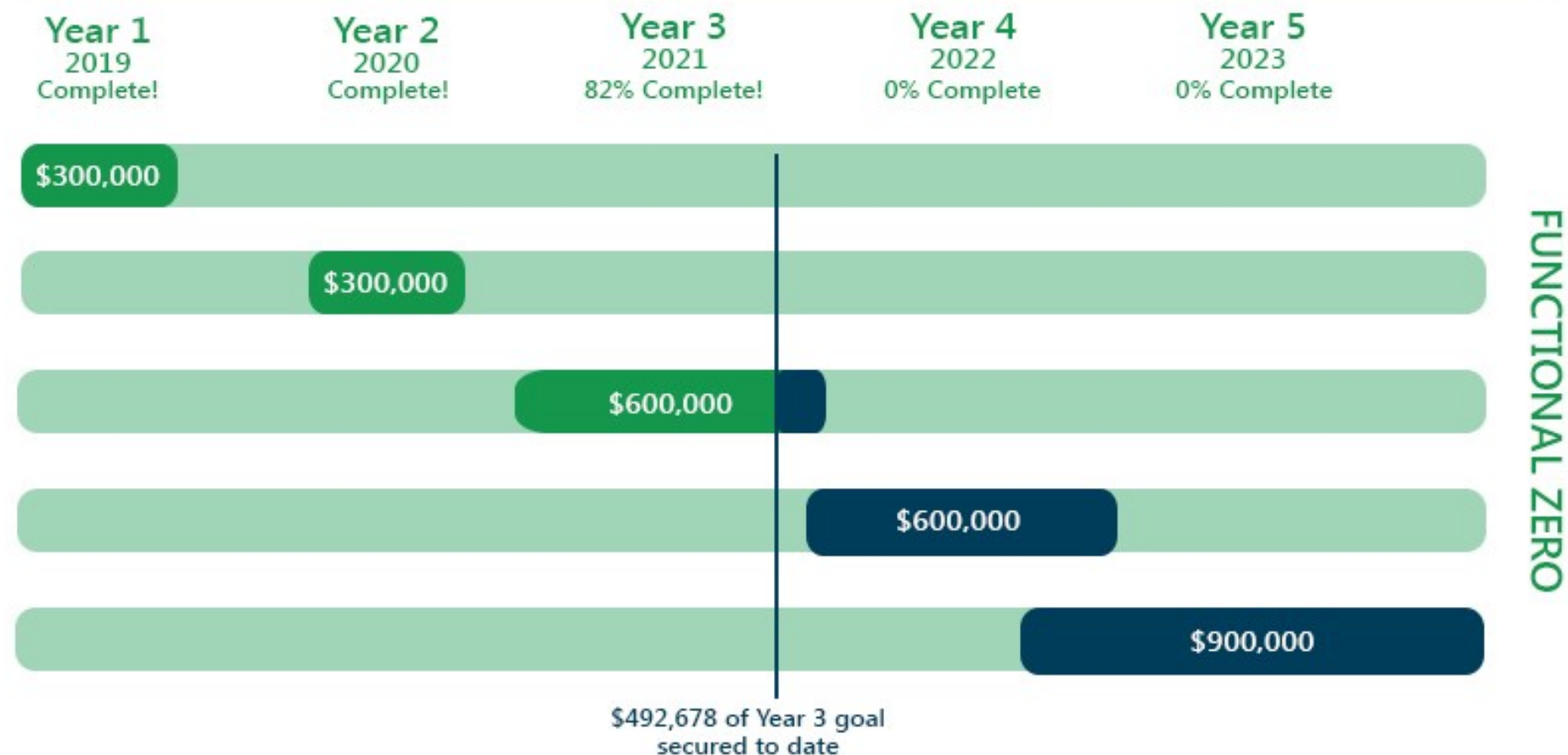
***Housing Needed:***  
***Strategy called for***  
***300 supportive***  
***housing units over***  
***five years.***

***Since the publishing***  
***of the strategy, 236***  
***have been created!***



# JOURNEY HOME FUNDRAISING

Raising \$2.7 million to fund the Journey Home Society for its first five years.



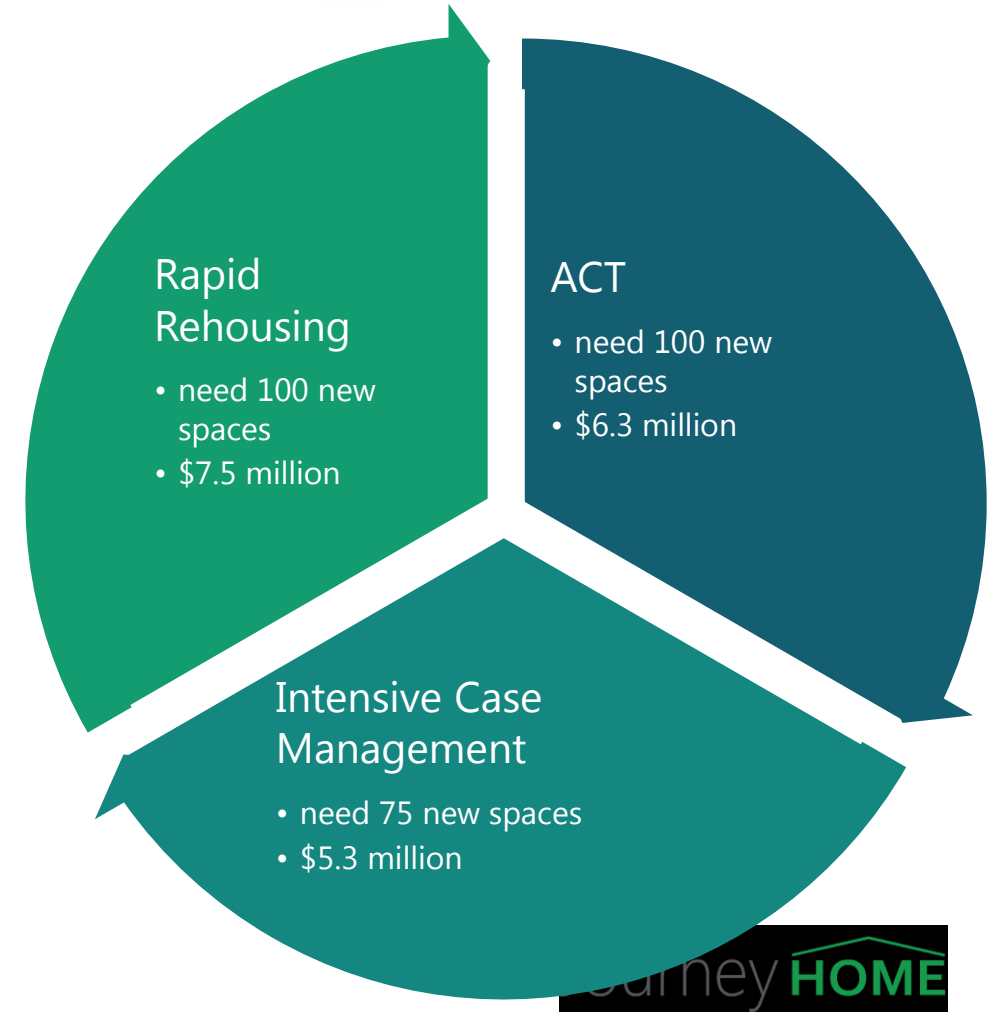
# Housing with *Supports*

So what does *SUPPORTS* mean?

The ACT team is an interdisciplinary group with **Interior Health** that works intensively with people who have a psychosis diagnosis and are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and often have addictions or other tertiary disabilities.

ACT **does not work** with people who live with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, other developmental disabilities, personality disorders, and those with drug-related psychosis. This is a huge gap.

**Intensive Case Management** is currently offered by Canadian Mental Health Association. They have 70 funded spaces currently. An additional 75 means we will need to double that current capacity. The Intensive Case Management provides weekly visits at minimum. Helps with daily life skills, obtaining ID, etc. No time limit on service



# Supportive Housing

**Who will be successful in Supportive Housing (Heath House, Hearthstone, Agassiz, McIntosh, etc.)?**

People who can live in close proximity to others without much difficulty

Those who need the support of staff onsite – but don't take up too much staff time on a regular basis

Those who can live comfortably within a secure environment

# Supportive Housing

## Who will be NOT be successful in Supportive Housing?

People living with FASD, personality disorders, and others who struggle to regulate their emotions

People who live with personality disorders who have really difficult behaviours

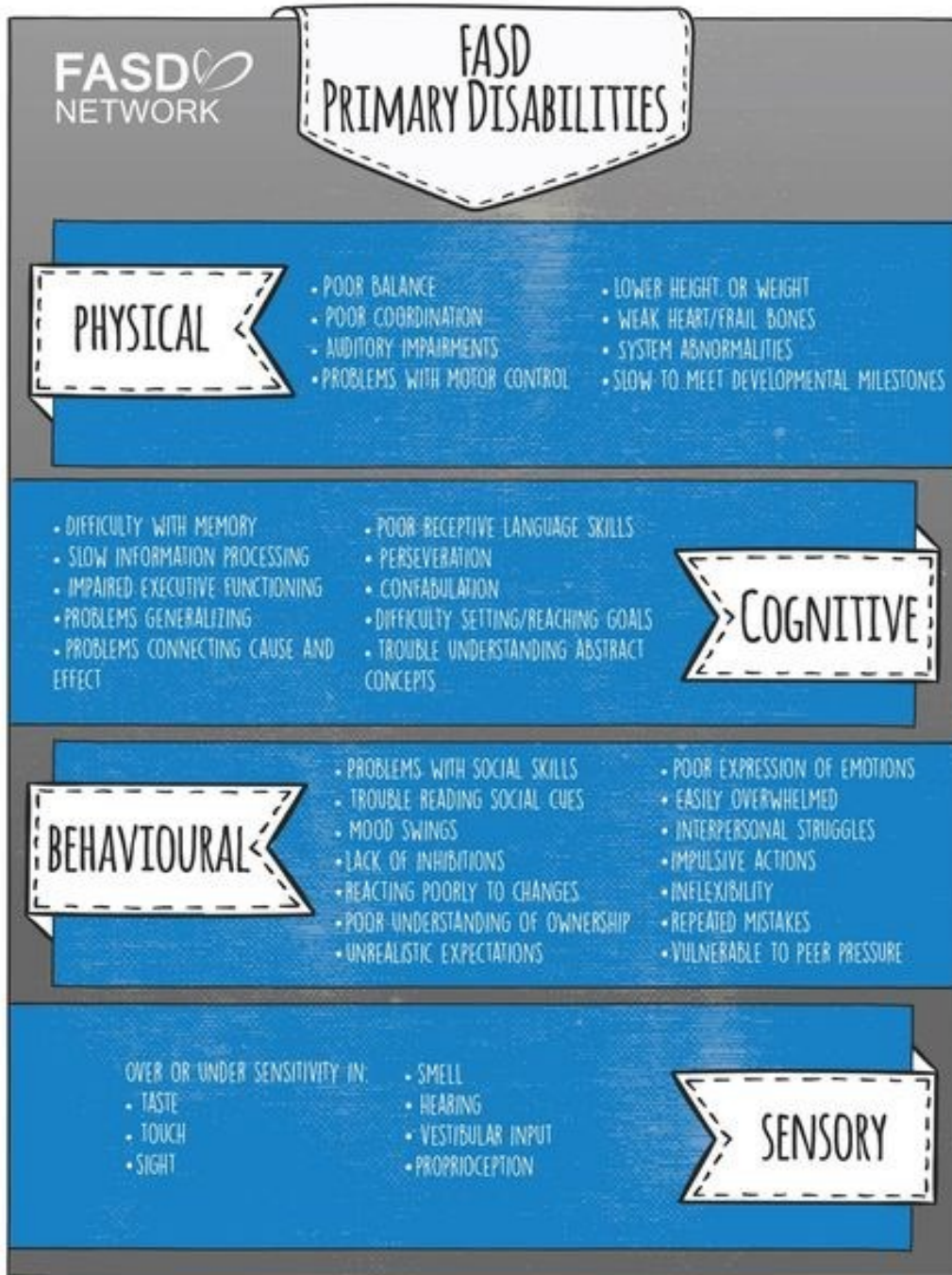
People who live with persistent mental illness and require a significant amount of staff resources

People who dislike their freedoms being curtailed living in a secure environment

People whose behaviours can be egregious to other residents and staff.

**So in our present system, where does that leave the 50-70 or so of these citizens? . . . . *In our shelters.***





Desert Hope

And we wonder why they struggle with staying housed?



# Why do they get stuck in shelter?

## **Intensive Supports Needed**

Supportive housing as we have been building it under the Rapid Response to Homelessness funding (BC Housing) provides staff support, but not enough for this population. These folks need much more.

## **Too Challenging to Live in Buildings Housing 40 to 50 others**

These residents become too challenging to manage within a building where 40-50 other people live. Their behavior often negatively affects other residents, and staff have to make very difficult risk management decisions, often ending in eviction.

## **Challenges in Keeping Housing**

There is some funding under the Housing First program to pay for damages to units, but landlords don't like serious damage and are unlikely to give references or take in others through support programs.

## **Challenges in Transitioning out of Shelter**

Their disabilities keep them from being able to save enough to get out.

# How Can You Help Complete this Journey Home for our Citizens?

## ADVOCACY

### **2-3 Smaller Number of Housing Units of With 24/7 Intensive Supports:**

With the Ministries of Health and Mental Health and Addiction to work with the City and BC Housing on specific intensive housing for these most difficult to house people. Two or three smaller unit buildings with intensive 24 hour supports would meet the needs.

### **Supports – New Program Spaces:**

With the Health Authority to increase the capacity of the ACT team and/or create another intensive multidisciplinary team that works specifically with those living with personality disorders. Coastal Health has a team in the downtown east side that works with that client base. Why can't we?

# How Can You Help Complete this Journey Home for our Citizens?

## **AWARENESS RAISING**

Know who our homeless people are.... and are not.

Keep learning about the struggles poor people in Kelowna face

Keep supporting diversity, in all of its forms, in our community

Be champions of Journey Home regionally, nationally and internationally

Keep supporting affordable housing initiatives!



# How Can You Help Complete this Journey Home for our Citizens?

## **FUNDING**

We are so thankful for the City's commitment of \$150,000 per year for the first three years of this project

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

We will need the City to support our other efforts to raise funds to achieve our goals, whether from other levels of government, foundations or other private donors.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** between the City and COJHS is under development:

- A Framework in principle to guide working together on the Journey Home Strategy Implementation
- Clarification of Roles
- Stressing the importance of a strong working relationship and providing a framework for exploring future opportunities

**Our success at getting to Functional Zero is your success!**

Journey **HOME**