

Nanaimo Homeless Coalition

Let's Talk About Homelessness in Nanaimo



For Immediate Release

More Funding Announced for Housing the Homeless in Nanaimo

Nanaimo, BC – August 2, 2016 – United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI), in partnership with the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition, are pleased to announce that Nanaimo will receive an additional \$298,642 in funding over two years (2016/2017 and 2017/2018) through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

The funding has been provided by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy and will be managed by United Way. United Way will work with the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition on how to best distribute the funds. The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition is composed of members from the RCMP, the City of Nanaimo, Island Health, the John Howard Society, Tillicum Lelum Friendship Centre, non-profit organizations and local experts working with homeless people.

A call for proposals for new Housing First and Non-Housing First support projects is posted on United Way's website. For funding and eligibility requirements, visit uwcnvi.ca.

Service Canada announced the additional funding in June, which will build on the program's HPS five-year investment (2014-2019). The funds will be distributed in September with new projects helping the homeless starting in the fall.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to support noteworthy projects conducted by organizations like United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island," said the Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

"Every segment of our society must be treated with dignity and respect and be given the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution. The face of homelessness is changing and the government recognizes the need to provide adequate support to communities to build capacity to help homeless population's lead valuable lives."

Housing First moves people who are chronically and episodically homeless as rapidly as possible from the street or emergency shelters into permanent housing with supports that vary according to the client's needs.

"This additional funding will allow local agencies to help local residents who are affected by homelessness in Nanaimo. Members of Nanaimo's Homeless Coalition will be working collaboratively to achieve maximum impact with the additional funding," said John Horn, Co-chair of the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition and Social Planner at the City of Nanaimo.

"There were 175 absolute homeless people counted in the February Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, adds Signy Madden, Executive Director of UWCNVI. "We know that there is a high number of

hidden homelessness, which was exempted from the PiT Count. Moving forward, we plan to capture the number of hidden homeless and couch surfers. These numbers tend to be much higher in summer months.”

The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition’s vision is to harness the assets and capacity of the community and initiate collaborative responses to end homelessness. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) has allocated funds to be invested in our community from 2014 – 2019. The use of this funding is determined by the HPS Community Plan, which is written by the coalition in consultation with the community.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island’s goal is to create opportunities for a better life for everyone in our community. Funds are raised and distributed to credible programs that help tackle social issues in our community, such as homelessness.

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