

REDUCING POVERTY STONY PLAIN

Background

Realizing that poverty and homelessness were growing problems in our area, Community Consultations were held starting in 2014 with local and regional service providers to identify causes of poverty and homelessness in our community, along with trends, gaps, challenges and needs in our community. Surveys of community members including people at risk of being homeless were taken to gain a better understanding of the issues specific to our community.

In January of 2017, **11 key priorities** were defined along with **35 strategies** for reducing poverty in our community.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to make the changes required to ensure all people in our community have full access to all they need – not just to live, but to thrive.

Working together we can continue to build a strong, health and connected community.

Plan Overview



REDUCING POVERTY TOGETHER

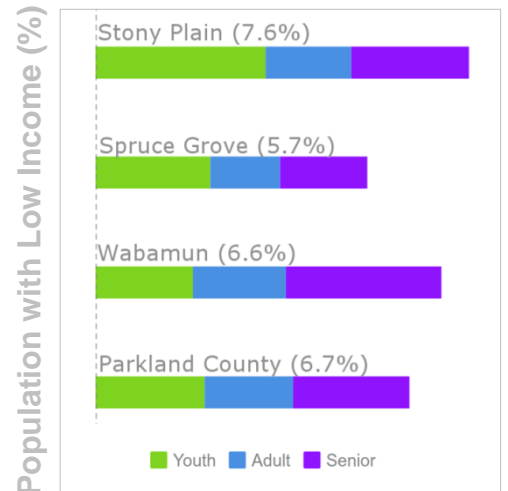
Did You Know?

Every year, Albertans pay **\$7.1-\$9.5** billion to manage poverty.

1,280 of our 17,189 residents of Stony Plain are living in poverty – **470 youth and children under 17**, **140 children under 5** and **200 older adults** (+65).

**Source: 2016, Stats Canada Census Profiles, based on Low-Income measure after tax statistics – a generally accepted measure of poverty within communities across Canada.*

In 2017 (YTD October), Parkland Food Bank has provided **14,423 food hampers** providing necessities to **3,705 people** in our Tri-Region community.



Our Vision

Realizing an end to poverty and homelessness whereby Stony Plain and area residents are enriched through a **strong, healthy, connected community.**



“ We need to de-stigmatize poverty and homelessness ”
Community Consultation Participant

“ Poverty and Homelessness are regional issues. There is a need to work together. ”

Community Consultation Participant

With collaboration, we can make a collective impact across organizations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.

Our Approach

Poverty is not just about money – it's about food, education, healthcare and shelter and barriers to those basic needs. Addressing the root causes of poverty in our community will require many integrated initiatives, program and partnerships. It is clear through our work so far that all aspects of society need to come together to address the key priorities identified for our community starting with:

- ☀ Poverty Awareness and Education
- ☀ Accessible and Affordable Transportation
- ☀ Affordable Housing

Using a Collective Impact approach, we can work together to build a stronger, healthier and more connected community.

Learn more about how **poverty impacts all of us** and **take actions** to prevent and reduce poverty in our community...

Contact: FCSS Stony Plain, Telephone **780-963-8583**, email pfcss@stonyplain.com

Visit: www.stonyplain.com/PreventReducePoverty

REDUCING POVERTY STRATEGIES AT A GLANCE



PRIORITY 1 **DEFINE END TO POVERTY**

1. Define what ending poverty means in Stony Plain.



PRIORITY 2 **LIVED EXPERIENCE** **PERSPECTIVES**

2. Foster and develop relationships with individuals who have lived experience.



PRIORITY 3 **TRI-REGION APPROACH**

3. Develop a collaborative plan to combat poverty and homelessness in Tri-region.



PRIORITY 4 **ADDRESSING ISSUES OF** **THOSE MOST AT RISK**

4. Support and develop youth programs: mentorship, employment opportunities, and volunteering.
5. Continue to monitor the effectiveness of current senior programs.
6. Assess feasibility of a youth emergency shelter; research options temporary to permanent structures.
7. Assess feasibility of domestic violence emergency shelter.



PRIORITY 5 **CULTURAL AWARENESS**

8. Host Cultural Awareness workshops to service providers teaching sensitivities to serve different cultures.
9. Develop partnerships/relationships with Indigenous peoples, minority groups and visible minorities in our community.
10. Promote multicultural awareness, activities, events, and opportunities for interaction.



PRIORITY 6 **FOOD SECURITY**

11. Continue programming to enhance food literacy.
12. Address barriers of transportation to food banks.
13. Research trends, best practices and current initiatives for Food Security in other municipalities.



PRIORITY 7 **LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

14. Evaluate and explore opportunities for early childhood development initiatives and programs within the community.
15. Emphasize literacy and numeracy skills in educational and training programs.
16. Research trends, best practices and current initiatives for promoting lifelong learning in other municipalities.



PRIORITY 8 **ACCESS TO RECREATION,** **SOCIAL, AND COMMUNITY** **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

17. Build, develop and foster community connectiveness.
18. Ensure recreation, cultural and social pursuits are accessible for individuals with low-incomes.



PRIORITY 9 **TRANSPORTATION**

19. Support transportation needs assessment.
20. Use community feedback to learn about barriers and opportunities for transportation within Stony Plain.
21. Support the development of public transportation methods for individuals in Stony Plain.



PRIORITY 10 **AWARENESS, EDUCATION** **AND ADVOCACY**

22. Form action groups to address poverty and homelessness strategies.
23. Commit staff time to project and initiatives.
24. Develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign.
25. Continue to engage the community through consultation sessions.
26. Develop a comprehensive electronic service list for our community including contact information.
27. Develop pocket-size crisis resource book for clients.
28. Develop a communication plan to ensure community events, programs and initiatives are promoted adequately.



PRIORITY 11 **HOUSING**

29. Review federal and provincial housing strategies to identify opportunities for partnerships, funding, and initiatives.
30. Develop affordable housing partnerships among local stakeholders (developers, funders, non-profits).
31. Explore partnering with local landlords to find a solution for lowering rents.
32. Assess the need and feasibility of a formal housing first program within Stony Plain or collaboratively with Tri-region.
33. Explore the feasibility of an emergency shelter program in Stony Plain.
34. Advocate for secondary suites within Stony Plain to offer more affordable housing options to the community.
35. Develop comprehensive and diverse housing strategy to ensure Stony Plain is an attractive place of all income levels.

Building a **strong, healthy, connected** community