



Who We Are

The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH) is a large network of over 100 members **committed to ending homelessness** in Toronto and providing needed housing, housing support, health and employment and training services.

We are **community based**, focused on what we can achieve through our **collective impact**. We recognize the critical importance of working with all levels of government, particularly the City of Toronto, to achieve the goal of ending homelessness.

We work to engage individuals and organizations that **represent a broad segment of society** and include people with lived experience of homelessness (PWLE), service delivery agencies, research and policy organizations, consumer driven organizations, businesses, associations and advocacy groups and community organizations.

What We Believe

- Homelessness is the result of poverty, alienation and abuse, trauma and illness and a lack of affordable housing. It's cost in human lives, potential and suffering is not an acceptable situation for any just or compassionate society.
- Toronto, Ontario and Canada have the resources to end homelessness but lack a common agenda, sufficient coordination of services and adequate targeting of resources to effective solutions.
- Toronto must resolve to end homelessness, set appropriate targets and focus on initiatives that are person-centred and evidence based.
- Inclusion of the experience and views of people with lived experience of homelessness must be an essential part of the work to end homelessness.

The TAEH is guided by a coordinating committee of dedicated volunteers.

These people are all leaders of key organizations serving people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Toronto. Some are people with lived experience.

The TAEH is supported by our Executive Lead, Kira Heineck.

See taeh.ca or write heineck_k@cotainspires.ca for more information.

We know that the time for coordinated and innovative action is now.

What we do

Within the City of Toronto our purpose is to find a way to better work collectively to change how we respond to homelessness and how we can end it. We work in the following areas:

Consultation We provide and participate in opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to discuss issues related to homelessness and associated services, and to be a part of solutions that are developed.

Defining homelessness

The TAEH uses the definitions developed by the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy:

Chronically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e., have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation)

Episodically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year (of note, episodes are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation, and after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or inhabitable location)

The definitions of chronically and episodically homeless individuals include all sub-populations, such as Veterans and/or Aboriginals. The definitions also include individuals exiting institutions (e.g. child welfare system, mental health facilities, hospitals, and correctional institutions) who have a history of chronic and episodic homelessness and cannot identify a fixed address upon their release.

Examples include:

- Individuals who have been homeless (in a shelter or living on the street) for three to five months over a year.
- Individuals who experienced two or more episodes of homelessness over a year.
- Individuals currently in transitional housing.

Service Planning, Coordination, Implementation and Evaluation

We promote an evidence based and coordinated approach to service development and delivery. We serve as a discussion forum to support the implementation and coordination of new and existing services. We respond in an effective and coordinated manner to urgent and important issues.

Education We support cross sector dialogue and associated training.

Advocacy We speak with a common voice to the City of Toronto, other levels of Government and other stakeholders about the issues of housing and homelessness and respond in an effective and coordinated manner to urgent and important issues.

Ending Homelessness

With all three levels of government committed to a strong homelessness and housing agenda we have, for the first time in a very long time, a seminal opportunity to effectively ending chronic and episodic homelessness in Toronto.

To do so, the TAEH is coordinating a city-wide effort to:

- ✓ **Raise public awareness about the issue and the personal and economic benefits of addressing homelessness**
 - ✓ Drive a capital fundraising campaign to support the creation of new deeply affordable housing
- ✓ **Seek funding commitments and innovative solutions for sustainable support services**
 - ✓ Quell NIMBYism
- ✓ **Enable more evidence based housing and support services to be developed and deployed**
- ✓ Demand necessary policy and regulatory changes that will provide focused and sustainable means of ending homelessness