



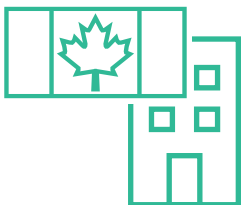
Stephen Gaetz & Erin Dej

Definition of the Prevention of Homelessness

Homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and supports to stabilize their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the risk of the recurrence of homelessness.

The causes of homelessness include individual and relational factors, broader population-based structural factors, and the failure of many public institutions to protect people from homelessness. This suggests that homelessness prevention must not only include interventions targeted at individuals, but broader structural reforms directed at addressing the drivers of homelessness. That not only communities but all orders of government, and most departments within have a responsibility to contribute to the prevention of homelessness is in keeping with a human rights perspective.

TYPOLGY



Structural prevention

Legislation, policy, and investment that builds assets, and increases social inclusion and equality.

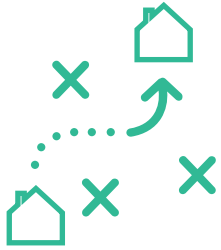
Examples: Increase the affordable housing stock, anti-discrimination policy, practice, and training, poverty reduction strategies, and income supports



Systems prevention

Addressing institutional and systems failures that contribute to the risk of homelessness.

Examples: Barriers to accessing supports, such as transportation challenges, disability, linguistic barriers, cost, citizenship requirements, difficulty with system navigation, etc.



Early intervention

Policies and practices to support individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness or who have recently become homeless.

Examples: Family mediation, shelter diversion, and case management



Evictions prevention

Programs and strategies designed to keep people at risk of eviction in their home and avoid homelessness.

Examples: Landlord/tenant legislation, rent supplements, emergency funds, legal advice, and representation



Housing stability

Initiatives and support for people who have experienced homelessness that allows them to exit homelessness quickly and never experience it again.

Examples: Housing First, help obtaining and retaining housing, supports for health and well-being, education and employment, and enhancing social inclusion

PREVENTION SURVEY RESULTS¹

89% agree

IT'S POSSIBLE TO
PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

98% agree

THAT HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
SHOULD BE A BIGGER PRIORITY (IN TERMS
OF POLICY, INVESTMENT, AND PROGRAMS)

1. A total of 633 individuals answered the survey. The largest percentage of respondents identified themselves as service providers. Eleven percent of the respondents were people with lived experience of homelessness.