



Functional Zero

The goal of Built for Zero Peterborough is to **end chronic homelessness** (reach functional zero) **by December 31, 2025.**

Chronic homelessness refers to any person who has experienced homelessness for 6 months or more in the last year.



WHAT IS FUNCTIONAL ZERO

When we talk about ending homelessness, we are talking about reaching functional zero in our community. Functional zero is a milestone a community reaches when homelessness is brief, rare, and non-recurring. We know that there will always be a need for homelessness response services, but we want to ensure that our service system can resolve homelessness quickly and easily for anyone who experiences it.

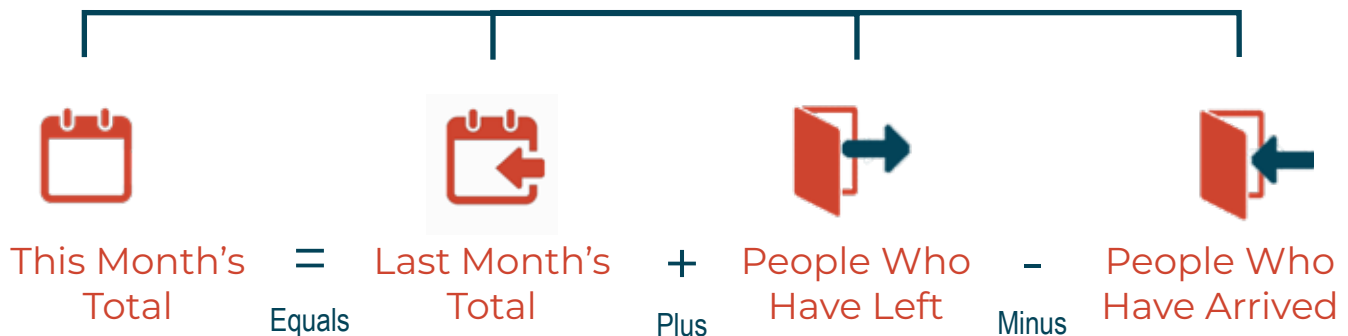
Every community measures functional zero based on the size of their homeless population. In Peterborough City and County, we will have reached our goal when there are no more than 3 people experiencing chronic homelessness at any one time (sustained for 3 months or more). Once we achieve this, we can set new goals towards ending homelessness for everyone.

CHANGING PHILOSOPHY

We have shifted our mindset from being reactive to being proactive. By studying our data in real-time we can focus on achieving outcomes and changing our service system to meet the current needs of the community – because we can't end homelessness if we don't know how many people are experiencing it in our community.

HOW WE MEASURE CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS EACH MONTH

We measure our progress each month by calculating how many people are experiencing chronic homeless, after taking into consideration the people who have entered the homelessness system, and the people who have left.



EACH MONTH WE STUDY THE INFLOW AND OUTFLOW OF CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY. BY TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT THE REASONS PEOPLE ENTER AND LEAVE OUR HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM WE CAN PLAN AND ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE.

Inflow to Homelessness

People who are chronically homeless that:

- We have never met before (hidden homelessness)
- Came to Peterborough City and County this month
- Have been homeless for 6 months or more as of this month
- We previously lost touch with and have reconnected this month
- Lost their housing this month

Outflow from Homelessness

People who are chronically homeless that:

- Have moved into housing this month
- Have left Peterborough City and County this month
- Have not been heard from in 90 days as of this month
- Have passed away this month

PROOF THAT IT IS POSSIBLE

Ending chronic homelessness is possible – and it has been achieved several communities in the United States. Check out the [Community Solutions website](#) to learn more about them!

In Canada, communities are making great progress toward ending chronic homelessness. There are 12 communities that have ended veteran homelessness, 4 have ended chronic homelessness and 3 communities that have ended both!

Medicine Hat AB has reduced chronic homelessness by **50%**

Saint John NB has reduced chronic homelessness by **10%**

Dufferin County ON has reduced chronic homelessness by **10%**

Guelph-Wellington ON has reduced chronic homelessness by **10%**

HOMELESS SYSTEM FLOW

INFLOW



ACTIVELY HOMELESS

OUTFLOW

