

**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

The Strait - Richmond Housing Matters Coalition began in December 2018 and is comprised of individuals and members of organizations that represent a wide spectrum of housing related issues including, Nova Scotia Health, Housing Nova Scotia, Dept of Community Services, several community based health and social service organizations and municipal representatives. Our vision is inclusive, healthy, affordable, sustainable, and accessible housing is available in Strait Richmond communities.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Rural Nova Scotia faces unique challenges. The Strait Richmond Housing Matters Coalition partners have identified the lack of data available in our communities to support different housing options needed by different groups (including seniors, youth, those who experience family violence, homelessness, addictions, and mental health issues), the lack of adequate and affordable housing for seniors and young adults, and the benefit and need for rent supports.

A Service Based Count is an indirect estimation method that involves collecting information during a one month period from knowledgeable sources or key informants about the number of homelessness people and persons experiencing precarious housing accessing services in a given area within a set time frame. In the healthcare setting this type of study is often referred to as a file or chart review. Intrinsic to this method is to have a standardized data collection tool and set of definitions of homelessness that all participating services are trained to use in order to collect the information.

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

Obtaining community-level data on homelessness will be critical to gaining an initial understanding the scope and nature of homelessness, improving local solutions to homelessness, and securing funding for local services to assist with homelessness. This project provides an effective way to capture the hidden homelessness that exists in non-urban or rural areas, and would be more effective than a point in time count in capturing the hidden homeless population. There are many local, knowledgeable and engaged service providers across different sectors who are working to address homelessness - bringing knowledge from service providers from different sectors together will provide a more comprehensive picture of homelessness, and unite the community's ability to identify solutions to homelessness.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.