Regional Household Affordability and Prosperity Project (RHAP)

Evaluative Summary February 2023

Proposed Activity	Description
Activity 1: Establish regional municipal and stakeholder advisory groups.	1: leadership group from municipalities that will shape and oversee the project, confirm key activities, deliverables 2: Community partner advisory to include community perspectives, vulnerable households, lived experience of housing poverty
Activity 2: Evidence base and case studies	1: Literature review of best practices 2: Case studies of applicable cities
Activity 3: Data profile of household vulnerabilities, risk factors	Data driven report profiling household vulnerabilities and intersectional lens regarding household affordability and risk factors.
Activity 4: Local policy instruments in place and planned to address housing affordability challenges	Report regarding policy instruments that are in place and planned to address housing affordability challenges.
Activity 5: Increase local capacity	Workshops, research, educational materials
Activity 6: Community Engagement	Engage with stake holders, those with lived experience: • Municipal staff, councils • Businesses • Developers, related associations • Organizations working with low-income groups & housing related issues • Tenant & landlord groups
Activity 7: Communication	Communicate to the public – raise awareness of housing poverty, affordability solutions research, shared learnings on housing poverty
Ongoing Evaluation	Reporting project progress throughout duration
Final Evaluation and reporting	Final evaluation, project report at completion. Evaluation will be participatory with leadership from advisory committees/CoP.

Proposed Activity 1: Regional Stakeholder and Municipal Advisory Groups

Community of Practice (Municipalities):
Work Complete
Municipalities/Entities participating: • Colwood (Host and Lead City) • Victoria (Municipal Partner) • Saanich (Municipal Partner) • Oak Bay • Esquimalt • Langford • Capital Regional District (CRD) Originally, the three RHAP lead, and partner municipalities were limited to participation in this Community of Practice. However, this group has now expanded to informally include 3 other municipalities and the CRD. This CoP has met usually about every month or month and a half since June 2022. The CoP has been instrumental at outlining priorities for the scope and work completed for this project, thus far.

Activity 2: Evidence Base and Case Studies

1: Literature review of best practices	
The CSPC has created a toolkit that outlines best practices of tools and policies that can be used to effect housing affordability. As well, this toolkit outlines examples where these tools have been put into place across the province.	
Status	Completed in February 2023

2: Case Studies of Applicable Cities	
The CSPC is creating, with input from the CoP, a report highlighting a series of case studies from cities from around the world and what innovations and successes they have had regarding housing policy, tools, and outcomes.	
Estimated Overall Completion	Early-April 2023

Activity 3: Data Profile of Household Vulnerabilities & Risk Factors

1: Data Profiles
The CSPC is creating a report that will profile household vulnerabilities and risk factors, in the region but particularly for the participating municipalities, Colwood, Saanich, and Victoria.

Estimated Overall Completion	Early June 2023

Activity 4: Local Affordable Housing Policy Instruments Report

1: Local Policy Instruments Report	
The CSPC is creating a report outlining policy instruments that are in place and planned to address housing affordability challenge, in our region and particularly within Colwood, Saanich and Victoria.	
Estimated Overall Completion	End of April 2023.

Activity 5: Increase Local Capacity

1: "The Councillor Learning Session: Municipal Levers for Housing Affordability" Event
Activity
On December 5, 2022, the CSPC in partnership with the RHAP municipalities held an in-person workshop focused on bringing together new and experienced councillors and mayors, to engage in roundtable discussions and educational presentations. Approximately 65 staff, councillors and mayors, and representatives from the CRD, non-profits, city planners, and academics attended. At this event, the toolkit draft was shared with all attendees.

Upcoming in Person Events	
March 2023	Follow up in person event for city councillors, mayors, and staff regarding housing affordability in our region.
Spring 2023	An in-person event focusing on housing for families, and its importance in our region and how to support increased creation of affordable housing for families.

Activity 6: Community Engagement

Online Webinars
Drivers of Homelessness
The CSPC held an online webinar, focused on the content of our Drivers of Homelessness Report. This webinar can also be accessed as a recording on our website.

Date	June 22, 2022
Filling the Gap: Analytics to Support Housing for All in Greater Victoria	
"Filling the Gap" explored UBC's HART Method and highlights the variations in local need by looking specifically at the municipalities of Sooke, Esquimalt, Saanich, and the City of Victoria in comparison to Greater Victoria. The HART Method, developed by UBC's Housing	

Research Collaborative, offers an approach to determining local housing needs that includes housing size, accessible homes, and the maximum costs for rent at specific income levels. The Community Social Planning Council has piloted the HART Method of developing housing needs assessments for five areas in Greater Victoria and discussed the resulting findings at this event.

Following this public webinar, the CSPC held a private roundtable conversation for elected officials. The recorded online event and discussion can be accessed [here](#).

Date	September 20, 2022

Policy + Protection: How Municipalities Can Increase Density While Protecting Tenants

The CSPC hosted this event in conjunction with Liveable Victoria, to hold a solutions-based conversation with experts, community members, and those with lived experience.
This event functioned as a forum to have community ideas heard and share in dialogue on an important issue facing our community. The objective of this conversation is to identify ways in which we can:
- Provide strong tenant protections/displacement supports while
- Increasing housing supply and thereby addressing the systemic shortage of housing.

The recorded online event and discussion can be accessed [here](#).

Date	September 28, 2022

Making Affordable Housing Happen: Non-profit Solutions for Cities

The CSPC held this webinar with local leaders in the non-profit field discuss non-market solutions to the housing crisis. Past reports and webinars such as the Housing Needs Assessment, Drivers of Homelessness, and Tenant Displacement Protection provided a basis for the presentations and conversation, with discussion from community members, elected officials, and local government staff.
The recorded online event and discussion can be accessed [here](#).

Date	November 16th

Community Engagement

We have met with several members of the business community regarding their experiences, concerns and input regarding regional housing affordability.

We have engaged with individuals from the business community, community organizations and those who have lived experience regarding housing unaffordability and homelessness.

Activity 7: Communication

Webinars & Reports
All CSPC webinars and reports regarding housing have been communicated widely to the public and are available on our website. We have created press releases for many of these events, which have amplified community knowledge and engaging with these events and their learnings.