

Youth Emergency Shelter Review Report Recommendations — Government Response

Recommendation	Alberta Government Response	Status of Implementation
<p>1. That CFSA's work with youth emergency shelters to ensure contracts or agreements define program, operating and reporting standards; and to support, in partnership with other community stakeholders, a continuum of care for youth at risk and to address capacity issues that arise at the local level.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>CFSA's will work collaboratively with youth emergency shelters to ensure that program, operating and reporting standards are in place as part of the contact or agreement process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review found that all shelters measure the effectiveness of their services although the outcomes measured are not consistent between shelters and all shelters use the Canadian Accreditation Council of Human Services standards. <p>A continuum of care is critical to address capacity issues that arise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review found that shelter usage is driven by local area needs rather than provincial trends and that most shelters are able to address capacity issues as they arise; however the following shelters experienced periods of over 90% occupancy in 2005: Calgary Avenue 15 – 8 months; Edmonton's Inner City – 6 months; Medicine Hat Inn Between – 2 months; and Calgary Exit Youth Shelter – 1 month. 	<p>May 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.</p>
<p>2. That youth emergency shelter governors and boards encourage connection to and partnership with the broader community service providers and develop opportunities for networking among shelters.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Strengthening linkages will support coordination of services for youth at-risk within and between communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review found that the majority of shelters are already connected to service providers in the community and access community resources. 	<p>May 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.</p>
<p>3. That the Department and CFSA's work with youth emergency shelters to provide advice and develop case management practices to strengthen support</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>Shelters wanted more assistance with case management practice, especially the more difficult cases, including youth in care, high risk youth and youth with complex needs who access shelters.</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.</p>

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<p>provided to youth with complex needs, high risk youth, and youth in care accessing the shelter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters report that some of the youth come to the shelter with challenging problems because of conflict over rules at home, addiction problems and abuse in the home. These youth have typically experienced some form of exploitation, have been engaged in prostitution and/or have been engaged in criminal activity. Some of these also have already had a number of placements in foster and group homes. <p>The Department will sponsor a provincial forum to improve communication, collaboration and management of youth with complex needs, high risk youth, and youth in care accessing youth emergency shelters.</p>	