



# Digby and Area Affordable & Supportive Housing Group

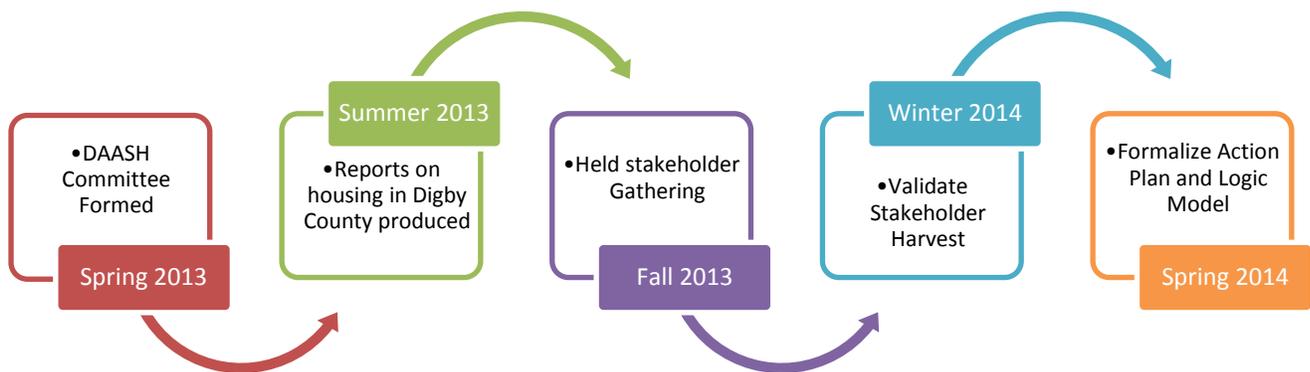
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## Overview:

DAASH is a diverse community group committed to safe, accessible, and affordable housing in our Digby County communities with representation from several organizations and agencies including the Tri-County Women's Centre, Juniper House, SHYFT Youth Services and South West Health Mental Health and Addictions Services, Public Health Services, Digby SchoolsPlus, Digby Board of Trade, Municipality of Digby, Town of Digby, Senior Safety Services, Transport de Clare, Employment Opportunities Partnership, Maison Jerome, Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Society of our Lady Saint Mary, Croft Care Services, and more.

The following illustrates our path to date:



In the fall of 2013, two stakeholder gatherings were held to identify housing issues and possible solutions. A large cross section of community members and service providers attended to share their passion, stories and information around housing in Digby County. From these sessions, the DAASH group developed a logic model committing to priorities focused on information, collaboration, infrastructure and rules / regulations (See DAASH Logic Model attached). The logic model developed by DAASH outlines a workplan that is congruent with the eligible activities of the HPS funding strategy.

Through the consultation of community stakeholders and the review of data from the Canada Census, DAASH has identified challenges and successes related to housing in Digby County.

We want to build on our work to date and use our strong stakeholder partnerships to operationalize our logic model, which includes the following priorities:

**Safe, accessible, and affordable housing for our Digby County communities.**



- Work with the citizens of Digby County to have access, support and understanding of the information they need pertaining to safe, affordable, and accessible housing.
- Use our collective strengths to create a more effective system for addressing supportive and affordable housing needs.
- Provide support and leadership for infrastructure that works across sectors (government, non-profit, private) to meet the diverse needs in Digby County.
- Be a champion for rules and regulations that ensure equity within the housing system.

**Operationalizing our logic model will enable us to:**

- Explore , define, and implement an affordable and supportive housing model that assists with housing placement, housing retention and improves collaboration across sectors to meet the needs of vulnerable populations in a rural community where few, if any, support services exist (e.g., mental health and addiction services, shelters, transitional housing, transportation, etc).
- Build the capacity of the area to address issues of homelessness through improved collaboration, process mapping, and by enhancing the profile of the issue through resource development (Photovoice, Facebook page, website, infographic, process mapping).
- Work collaboratively with local governments to establish bylaws (e.g., safe, warm, and dry) that protect citizens and the risk of retaliation by property owners, resulting in homelessness.
- Understand how population demographics and trends impact housing issues in a rural setting and determine what is required in infrastructure and partnerships to implement a housing first model in our rural and remote area.

**More specifically, our Project Activities will be:**

**A) Support Services:**

- Developing resources and partnerships for our clientele to facilitate housing placements and prevent housing loss, navigate income and education supports, and identify housing needs, including off reserve First Nation’s citizens. *We are in communication with our Bear River Mi’kmaq community and keep them updated on our current work.*
- Exploring the implementation of a housing first model in a rural and remote community setting for those precariously housed in order to provide appropriate rural services to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless in Digby County.

**B) Coordination of resources & leveraging:**

- Collaborating across organizations, agencies and all levels of government to create a model that addresses housing issues across Digby County, integrates and improves services, develops partnerships and acts as a consultant for coordination and community planning.
- Continue to build on the investment from Public Health Services to identify opportunities and barriers in support of a broader systematic approach to addressing homelessness. This will be accomplished through mapping the rural housing system funding, Process Mapping Training and PhotoVoice Training.

**C) Improve data collection and use:**

- Working in partnership with Public Health, DAASH has begun the work of local research, information collection and sharing. See reports; “In Search of Safe and Affordable Housing: Digby County – Fall 2013” and “Housing in Our Communities: A quick look at the numbers”. Our next steps include further understanding the current housing and rural homelessness situation in Digby County.

We feel that these defined activities clearly match the HPS eligible activities as defined in the request for proposals.

Our **cliente** are citizens of Digby County, from Bear River to Beaver River, who face housing challenges, particularly those most vulnerable including; children, lone-parent families, women experiencing violence in the home, unattached individuals, seniors, off reserve Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, visible minorities, and low-wage workers. We have positive relations with our Mi’kmaq Bear River Community and will continue that dialogue as we progress, insuring DAASH can be supportive of their housing needs. We are also very connected to our Acadian populations through stakeholder involvement.

Provision of housing support and navigation for the citizens (First Voice) who are facing housing retention and homelessness will be an important part of our work as we carry out our project activities. This will enable us to stabilize their situation and use their experiences and expertise to create appropriate and sustainable housing solutions.

**Evaluation:** The logic model and projected outcomes will be used by DAASH to evaluate project successes every two months. An evaluation plan is based on expected outcomes listed below.

**Outcomes:**

Priority Area	Work	Expected Outcomes
<b>Information</b>	To ensure citizens of Digby County to have access, support and understanding of the information pertaining to their housing needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the next year, citizens and stakeholders are able to identify housing challenges specific to Digby County.</li> <li>• In the 18 months, resources to facilitate housing placement supports are developed.</li> <li>• In the next year, first voice stories are captured using PhotoVoice.</li> <li>• Over the next year, a communication plan will be developed.</li> <li>• In the 18 months, Stakeholders can identify housing partners and know who to collaborate with when housing issues arise.</li> <li>• At project completion, a supportive housing model meeting the specific needs of Digby County is defined.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	To use our collective strengths to create a more effective system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information collected is shared with community partners as it is produced.</li> <li>• Communicate with all levels of government on what is unique to rural homelessness.</li> <li>• Make available a directory of housing resources.</li> <li>• At project completion, a supportive housing model meeting the specific needs of Digby County is defined.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Support housing infrastructure that works across sectors (government, non-profit, private) to meet the diverse needs in Digby County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a process map of the housing system in Digby County over the next 18 months.</li> <li>• Document knowledge of the gaps, barriers, solutions and successes related to housing and homelessness in Digby County.</li> <li>• Strategic partners are identified and engaged.</li> </ul>
<b>Rules/Regulations</b>	Champion for rules and regulations that ensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a process map of the housing system in Digby County over the 18 months.</li> </ul>

Priority Area	Work	Expected Outcomes
	equity within the housing system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and bylaws are reviewed and considered across local Municipal gov't over the next 18 months (Safe, Warm &amp; Dry).</li> <li>• Follow-up with UNSM progress regarding minimum standards.</li> </ul>

### Sustainability Plan

With the completion of funds from HPS and DAASH logic model components achieved, Digby County will be positioned with the information and collaborative partnerships they need to implement an affordable and supportive housing model that works for citizens of Digby County. Through this process, an inventory of existing and required resources will be identified. The DAASH committee will be required to source additional funding to implement the identified model and support the development of required infrastructure, if needed.

**Project Logistics:** On behalf of the DAASH group the Tri County Women’s Centre (TCWC) will be the proponent for this application. TCWC has the human resources infrastructure to administer and oversee the day to day operations of the project activities. In consort with the TCWC, a Project Committee will be formed, consisting of members from the larger DAASH group who will assist with overseeing the month to month activities of the project.

### Other financial or in-kind contributions

In -kind

- Meeting Space: Municipal Chambers/ SchoolsPlus Digby – 1,800.
- PhotoVoice\* Training (provide through Public Health) – 2,650.
- Process Mapping\* (provide through Public Health) – 4,200.
- Supervision of Staff – 25. /hr. @ 3 hrs. /week @ 78 wks. = 5,850.
- DAASH Committee Work – 15 people, monthly meetings, 3 hours each, combination of volunteer and salary hours 15 people x 12 meetings x 3 hours each @ \$25 = 13, 500.

**Total: \$28,000.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup>. Party Commitment Letter:

- See email message –Municipality of Digby County - \$500.

\***Photovoice** is a group analysis method commonly used in the field of community development and public health education that often combines photography with social action

\***Process Mapping** - A pictorial representation of the sequence of actions that comprise the work being undertaken.