



For Immediate Release

Housing First - Phase One Initiative Getting Underway

(April 30, 2015 - Dartmouth, NS). The Housing and Homelessness Partnership (Partnership) announced it is launching a Housing First - Phase One initiative. At a meeting held today, the Partnership introduced the Housing First - Phase One program with an information session for stakeholders and those interested in applying for the role of implementation partner.

Housing First - Phase One aims to house 50 - 60 of Halifax's most chronically and repeatedly homeless individuals. With funding provided by the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and the Housing and Homelessness Partnership – this program is the first step and an important initiative at the heart of any effective program to deal with homelessness in the region.

"The Housing First initiative marks a major milestone as we move forward in this collaborative approach to end homelessness," said Catherine Woodman, President & CEO, United Way Halifax.

Housing First is a program and philosophy that accommodates people regardless of their challenges. It supports them to remain housed without a requirement that they first become "housing ready". We know from similar programs across North America that a Housing First Program is a very effective intervention to offer people who have long struggled with homelessness.

The Housing and Homelessness Partnership is a coalition of eight organizations committed to working together to put an end to homelessness and housing poverty in the Halifax region. All eight Partners have contributed financial and supporting resources to the work of the Partnership. The parties include: Halifax Regional Municipality, Housing Nova Scotia, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia, the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK and United Way Halifax.

-30-

For further information, please contact Carole McDougall, Director of Communications, Brand Management, United Way Halifax at cmcdougall@unitedwayhalifax.ca or call: 902 461-3082.