



Annual Report 2012-2013

Navigator Street Outreach provides homeless and street-involved individuals with support to address barriers to securing and maintaining employment and housing, support to navigate services around health, mental health and addictions support and partners with a variety of community agencies to ensure individuals receive the supports required to transition.

In 2012-2013, **Navigator Street Outreach connected with 324 different individuals** who were street-involved and/or homeless. Based on these contacts, we know the following about people who are street-involved in the downtown core (based on self-reports or observed behaviors):

Table 1: Client Information 2012-2013

Category	Number of Clients	%
Female	84	26%
Male	240	
Youth (16-30)	158	49%
Senior (55+)	19	
New Clients	146	45%
Panhandled	84	
Income (primary source)		
No Income	35	
Employed	25	
Income Assistance	216	67%
Pension	23	
Housed	117	36%
Rooming House	19	
Homeless	196	60%
Shelter	116	
Couching	16	
Streets	61	

Employment Support

Where individuals are motivated and assessed to be job-ready, the Navigator is able to offer key supports to assist them in securing and maintaining employment. This support ranges from providing bus tickets to get to the work site; to replacing identification (in order to apply for work, open bank account, or cash checks); to providing basic work tools, clothing or specialized equipment (steel-toed boots, anti-skid shoes). Some individuals may also be offered assistance to return to their home community, or relocate to another city if they have secured full-time employment.

In 2012-2013, the Navigator supported 36 individuals to secure and/or maintain full-time employment. The specific services provided are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Direct Support Programs

Service	Clients Served	# of Services Provided	Cost
Lunch Program	21	45	\$550.33
Street Sweeping Program	15	104	\$2298.00
Identification	49	67	\$1469.41
Work tools	8	8	\$186.19
Work clothes	8	8	\$127.85
Work boots	16	16	\$1448.26
Transportation	96	96	\$1728
Relocation	52	52	\$5480
Phone Program	8	8	\$331.67
Training	7	7	\$949.40
Other	30	37	\$852.59
TOTALS		448	\$15,401.70

Stories of Success

The Navigator worked with Kelly O’Neil at the Freedom Renewal Centre to assist two young men in securing employment with a recycling and landscaping company. The two young men both accessed the ARK. One was living in his van, while the other stayed at a men’s shelter. All parties involved were able to ensure the two young men received their confined spaces training, transportation, lunch program and work boots. Both remained employed.

The Navigator worked with Youth Employability Project (YEP) and DriveRight driving school to assist a young man in his efforts to gain his driver’s license. DriveRight provided a subsidized space in a driver’s training course, while Navigator and YEP supported the individual financially.

The young man completed the course, then passed his driver’s test. With his license, he was able to secure full-time employment as a delivery driver. He has also started giving his father impromptu lessons.

Housing Support

In November 2012, Navigator Street Outreach started receiving federal funding through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). This funding allowed for the expansion and enhancement of housing supports available to homeless individuals in HRM. It allowed Navigator Street Outreach to hire a half-time Housing Support Worker, who focuses on ensuring homeless individuals and families are able to secure and maintain housing through individualized support.

Navigator Street Outreach provided housing support to 56 individuals (plus 10 children under 12). Individuals received help with housing searches, damage deposits, identification, power and phone arrears, rental arrears, transportation to viewings, securing funding and references. Of these individuals, 29 were supported to leave the streets or shelter (exited homelessness) and another 27 were prevented from returning to the street or shelter through eviction prevention support.

Table 3: Housing Support Service Breakdown

Intervention	Services Provided	Cost
Power Arrears	14	\$8764.5
Damage Deposit	20	
Rent Arrears	16	
Home Heating	2	
Transportation	30	\$540
Emergency Food	37	\$1280
Other	16	\$700
Total	133	\$11,284.50

Stories of Success

The Navigator assisted a young family to secure, and maintain, an apartment. The couple and their young son had relocated from New Brunswick, and after failing to secure an apartment, the young woman and her son had ended up in a shelter, while the young man was sleeping outside. The Navigator worked with the Housing Support worker from Adsum for Women to secure an apartment for this family, and assisted with damage deposit and rent top-up, as well as emergency food voucher and phone hook-up. This young remains housed five months later, and were the first individuals assisted with HPS grant money.

Navigator Housing supported a young man with mental health issues and addictions to find and secure an apartment. This young man had been evicted from an apartment and support from

another service after his hoarding had reached critical mass. He connected to Navigator Street Outreach while staying at a shelter. He was supported to secure new apartment, provided assistance to address power arrears, provided connection to a trustee as well as supported to set-up his new home (phone, furniture etc). This young man remains housed, and continues to meet with the Navigator Housing to ensure his situation (and mental health) remain stable.

Navigation

Many individuals approached during outreach are not able to secure employment or housing. Often, difficult behaviors associated with mental health or addictions create too big a barrier. The Navigator provides support to these individuals as they attempt to “navigate” various systems, and advocates for specific services; including addictions services, mental health supports, Income Assistance, legal/justice. The Navigator often accompanies individuals to appointments to ensure their attempts to access services are smooth and issue-free.

For individuals that identify struggles with mental health (or are identified by the greater community as potentially in need of assistance) the Navigator works with community partners to ensure that people get the care they deserve. Approximately 30% of individuals engaged had mental health concerns.

For individuals struggling with addiction, assistance is offered to access treatment options, complete referral processes or support with transportation to Detox Units across the province. Approximately 80% of individuals engaged struggled with at least one addiction. Approximately 15% of individuals struggle co-currently with addictions and mental health – many with multiple addictions, physical health and long-term, cyclical homelessness. For these individuals, the Navigator is the “eyes and ears” – ensuring information regarding their health and well-being is forwarded to the appropriate mental health, health or addiction service provider.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Partnerships: In 2012-2013, Navigator Street Outreach worked with a number of community partners to ensure that street-involved and/or homeless individuals had access to appropriate resources and services. Key among these were:

- Youth Employability Project
- the Provincial Ombudsman Office
- Freedom Renewal Centre
- Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH)
- the ARK
- Laing House
- the Public Good Society
- Out of the Cold Shelter

- Adsum for Women
- Halifax Housing Help
- IWK Nursing
- St. Mary's Basilica
- St Vincent De Paul
- and HRP.

Community Initiatives: In an effort to develop new and effective strategies that respond to the addiction, health and socio-economic needs of the street population, the Navigator was involved with the following projects/committees:

- Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS)
- NS Homelessness and Housing Network

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