



MEDIA RELEASE

Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation committed to build upon funding announced by Alberta Government's \$1.8 Million for Bridge Healing Transitional Accommodation Program

March 19, 2025

EDMONTON, AB—The Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation extends its gratitude and congratulations to the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services after it announced it will provide \$1.8 million in funding to ensure the continued operations of the Bridge Healing Transitional Accommodation program for 2025-2026.

This critical investment will sustain vital support services for vulnerable individuals leaving the hospital, helping them stabilize and transition to long-term housing and community care. Since 2023, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation has been fundraising in support of the Bridge Healing Transitional Accommodation program. Through this funding and that by government, the Jasper Place Wellness Centre provides short-term accommodation, comprehensive care coordination, and tailored support services, including healthcare access, income supports, and housing navigation for its residents for the next two years.

“This funding commitment from the Government of Alberta is a testament to the importance of transitional programs that bridge the gap between emergency healthcare and stable housing,” said Sharlene Rutherford, President and CEO of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. “By ensuring individuals discharged from hospital are not returning to the streets but instead have a place to recover and access essential services, we are building a healthier and more compassionate community. A true investment in finding a human way forward for patients who need it most.”

Since 2023, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation has been engaging individuals and community groups to come together to be part of the solution to end the city's housing and homelessness crisis.

The Royal Alexandra Hospital's Emergency Department handles by far the lion's share of this patient population – and discharging to the streets is deeply distressing to all healthcare providers.

Preliminary data collected by Alberta Health Services is demonstrating that the program is helping to reduce emergency department visits, improving health outcomes for participants, and freeing up inpatient hospital beds.

The Bridge Healing Transitional Accommodation program is a proven model of healthcare and social service collaboration that supports the most vulnerable Albertans. With this new funding, the program will continue to provide essential services that foster long-term success for individuals in need.

For more information and to support the Bridge Healing program, please visit:

www.royalalex.org/bridgehealing.

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Media Contact:

Lindsay Robertson
Vice President, Communications, Marketing and Brand
Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation
lrobertson@royalalex.org
780.217.2613

About the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation

Established in 1984, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation is committed to supporting improved health care outcomes for the hundreds of thousands of people who seek treatment at the Royal Alexandra Hospital every year. The Foundation funds ground-breaking education, cutting-edge research, next-generation technologies and facility enhancements. It also supports a growing number of specialized centres of health care excellence located at the Royal Alexandra Hospital campus, including the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, the CK Hui Heart Centre, the Orthopedic Surgery Centre and the Eye Institute of Alberta.

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