

Frequently Asked Questions about Poverty and Poverty Elimination¹

1. How do you define poverty?

Poverty is defined as when people lack, or are denied, economic, social and cultural resources to have a quality of life that sustains and facilitates full and meaningful participation in the community. (EndPovertyEdmonton, 2016).

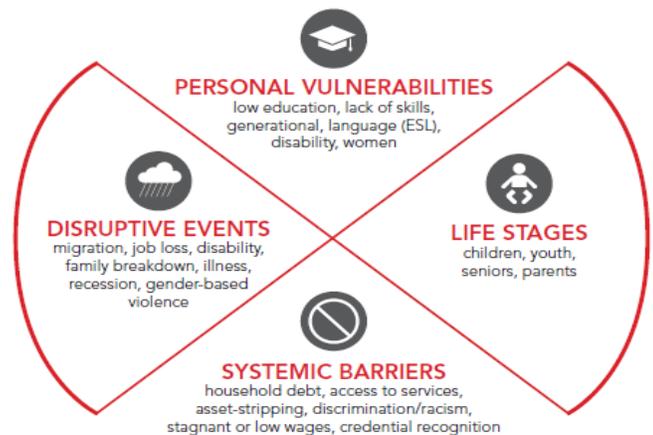
2. How do you define poverty using standard economic indicators?

EndPovertyEdmonton uses the Low Income Measure after Tax (LIM-AT) as its economic measure of poverty. LIM-AT is calculated by asking how many Canadians have an after-tax income lower than 50% of the adjusted median income for all Canadian economic families in a given year. The LIM thresholds are updated each year; when incomes increase (or decrease), the thresholds shift in lockstep. LIM-AT is the most widely used measure in Canada for poverty elimination and reduction strategies, but also in governmental and non-governmental reports on poverty rates in industrialized countries.

3. What causes poverty? What are the root causes of poverty?

EndPovertyEdmonton believes that poverty is multidimensional and no single cause or factor can explain why people are poor or remain poor. Four sources of vulnerability can increase the risk of poverty as shown in the chart.

Sources of Vulnerability*



4. Who are most impacted by poverty?

In 2014, there 107,960 or 12.1% Edmontonians lived in low income.² The highest poverty rate was experienced by lone-parent families. Several populations are overrepresented among Edmontonians who live in poverty: children and youth, Indigenous people, low income workers (working poor), newcomers, women, isolated seniors and persons with disabilities.

¹ Excerpts from EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy (September 2016) and Road Map (December 2016).

² A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton Update. (2017) Edmonton Social Planning Council.

5. What are key actions to end poverty in Edmonton?

The EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy and Road Map are rooted in the fundamental belief that that all Edmontonians must enjoy the basic rights and freedoms needed to take part fully in community life. The priorities and actions articulates a strong human rights approach by responding to urgent and immediate needs, removing barriers to change, and tackling the root causes of poverty.

EndPovertyEdmonton will focus on actions in five key areas: (For details, please see EPE Overview)

- ▶ **Toward True Reconciliation** - actions aimed at providing opportunities for Indigenous Edmontonians enjoying prosperous lives, being proud of their history and culture and connected to the larger community.
- ▶ **Justice for All** – initiatives towards this goal include catalyzing conversations about human rights, challenging stereotypes and prejudice, building skills to work effectively with people from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and removing systemic barriers.
- ▶ **Move People Out of Poverty** – actions aimed at addressing urgent and immediate actions to lift people out of poverty that include investments in affordable housing and transportation, livable incomes, along with timely and adequate access to mental health and supplemental health services provide opportunities for people to thrive – both as individuals and contributors to a healthy and prosperous community.
- ▶ **Invest in our Poverty-Free Future** - are long-term and preventive actions that will create the conditions that protect Edmontonians at-risk of poverty. a
- ▶ **Change the Conversation** - actions are designed to raise awareness and nurture empowered individuals and communities so that they can be agents of change who will mobilize Edmontonians to take actions towards ending poverty and achieving sustained prosperity.

6. What will success look like in a poverty reduction and elimination strategy?

EndPovertyEdmonton has five year target: **Lift 10,000 people out of poverty!**

This target is a yardstick and rallying point to measure progress within EPE’s holistic definition of poverty as follows:

- ▶ **ECONOMIC** - Individuals have control of their monetary and material resources to meet their daily needs such as a sufficient income, a bank account and less than 30% spending on decent housing.
- ▶ **SOCIAL**- Individuals and families have control of all non-monetary resources such as access to services, social support and connection, to function effectively at home, at work and in their community.
- ▶ **CULTURAL**- People can enjoy life through full civic participation and retain and express their history, heritage and traditions such Indigenous and non-Indigenous Edmontonians gather and celebrate in community spaces or “hubs” or under-represented groups participate in civic committees

EPE will used a combination of population level measures (LIM, Deprivation Index, Community Well Being Index) and asset-based measures to track progress at the individual and household level (human, physical, financial, social and personal assets).