



# Collaborating on an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Halifax

A presentation to the Standing Committee on Community Planning and Economic Development

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# Topics for Discussion

1. Halifax in 2017
2. The needs in our City
3. A Halifax approach to poverty
4. Our collaborations and partnerships to date
5. Community support and national alignment

# 1. Halifax in 2017

# Halifax has many strengths

- Third highest GDP growth of Canadian cities
- A progressive Regional Council
- A record of collaborating and putting the issues first
- A readiness among community, business, and government to focus on compassion and inclusion



## 2. The needs in our city

Halifax. United by compassion.  
Rich in opportunity. Free of poverty.





## **3. Poverty Strategy for the City**

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life ...

Nelson Mandela

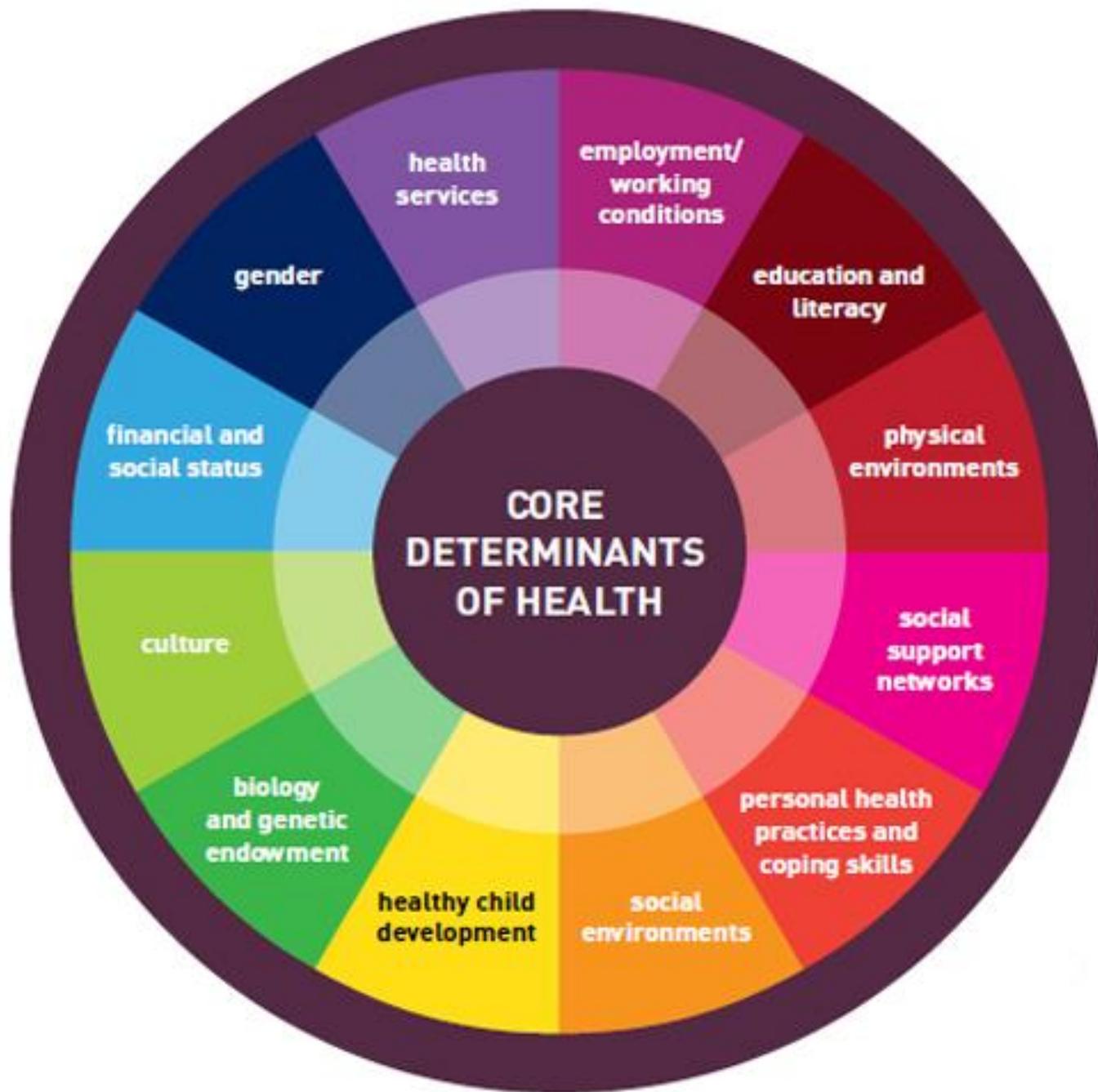


## The Strategy

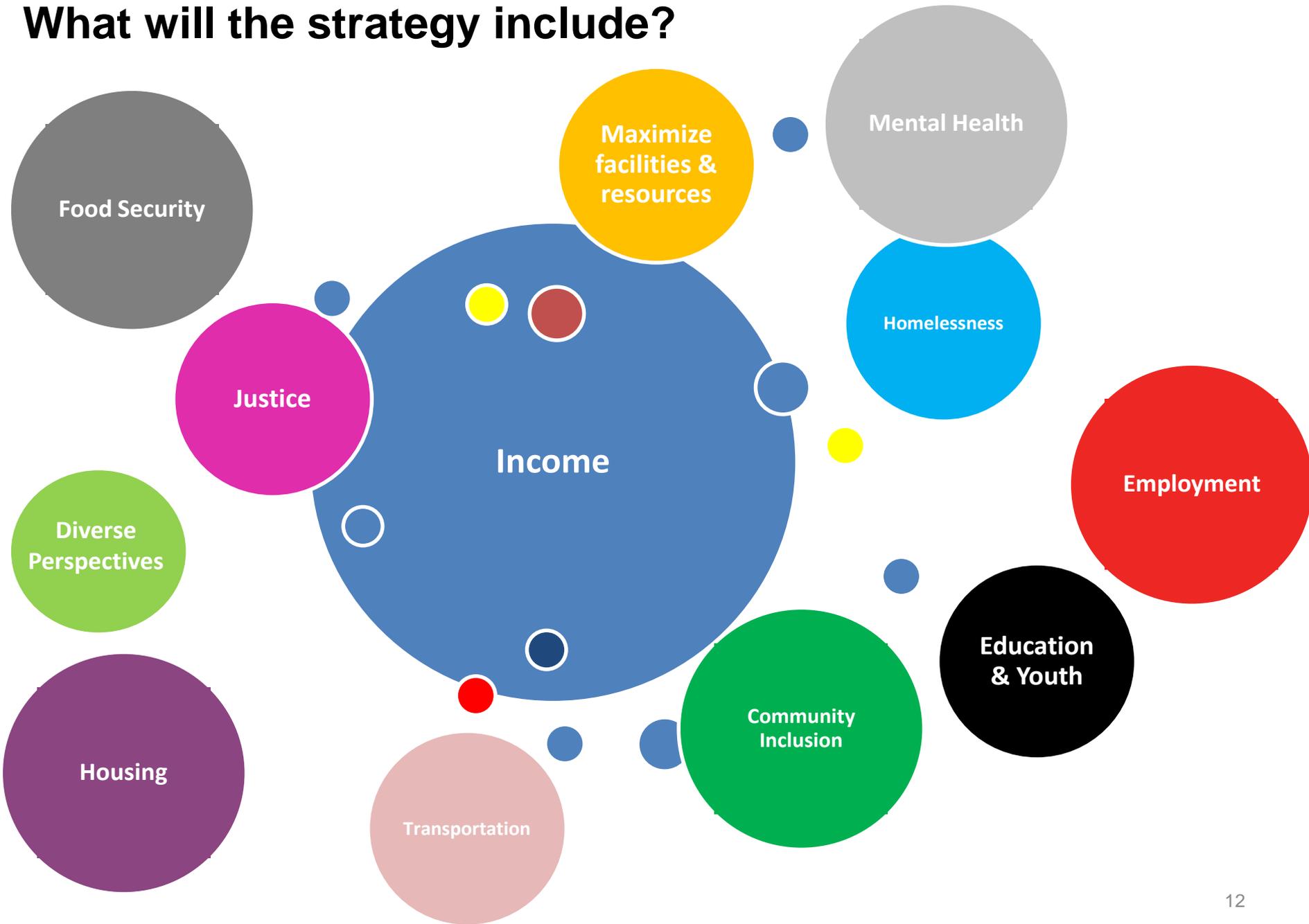
United Way Halifax is proposing a partnership with the Halifax Regional Municipality to launch a progressive anti-poverty plan to benefit the economy and social fabric of our great city.

The strategy will go beyond the traditional measures of income and an ability to meet essential needs such as food, housing and clothing. This strategy will focus on root causes and core determinants of health, and make bold recommendations within and outside of the Municipal purview.

This will be a collaborative process, giving voice to our citizenry, including first voice, community, and business from all parts of the municipality - urban, suburban and rural. The plan will be completed in 2017; implementation will begin in January 2018.



# What will the strategy include?



# Proposed Timeline

- Feb. 2017 – Present to CPED for endorsement
- Apr. 2017 – Poverty Strategy Co-Chairs publicly announced
- May 2017 - Full work team and governance finalized – first meeting held
- June 2017 - Co-chairs release a discussion paper and community challenge to solve poverty together
- July – Nov. 2017 - Consultations and input from business, community-sector, government, first-voice, newcomers, youth, Indigenous community, African Nova Scotian community, and more to ensure urban, suburban and rural issues are well understood
- Dec. 6/2017 - Public launch of the Halifax Poverty Strategy, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Explosion
- Jan. 2018 - Plan implementation begins, with reporting against progress. Regular updates to investors (including CPED). Work of the Co-chairs and work team continue
- 2019 - The plan is fully implemented

## **4. Current United Way – City collaborations**

<p><b>Housing &amp; Homelessness Partnership</b></p>	<p>A coalition of partners working to end homelessness in our city. Includes the work of Housing First (By MOSH &amp; Herring Cove Apartments) and the Housing Needs Assessment</p> <p>Council Endorsed</p>
<p><b>Mobile Food Market</b></p>	<p>Makes affordable, high quality, fresh fruits and vegetables available in communities with limited access to fresh food.</p> <p>Council Endorsed</p>
<p><b>Try Do Partnership</b></p>	<p>A partnership dedicated to developing nutrition and active living strategy for Halifax</p> <p>Municipality actively involved</p>
<p><b>Dedicated Volunteers &amp; Staff Partners</b></p>	<p>Almost 20 formal touch points with various talented people focused on community development</p>
<p><b>Workplace Fundraising Campaign</b></p>	<p>Municipality raises important funds for community work with United Way as charity of choice</p>

## Financially Supporting the Strategy

- To finance the creation of the strategy, it is ideal that United Way Halifax, the Halifax Regional Municipality, and a private donor all contribute to the staffing, project and consultation fees to complete the strategy in the coming months.
- It is envisioned that after the strategy is completed, private sector investment will come together with all three levels of government to change conditions for Haligonians for years to come.

## **5. Community Support & National Alignment**

**end**poverty  
edmonton



# POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY



**United Way  
Centraide  
Canada**

together  
we are  
possibility



**United Way**  
Halifax

# Testimonials of Support

## **Overview of community support**

- Over the past several months, and in particular over the past few weeks leading up to this presentation date, United Way Halifax has reached out to many partners, donors, community leaders, and caring citizens to seek feedback and support for a Halifax anti-poverty strategy. We have had excellent and engaging conversations – so many share this vision for change and we know the process of building the plan will be collaborative and enriched by many different voices and perspectives. A sampling of these voices can be found in the following pages...

“Halifax Regional Police (HRP) have long recognized that one of the most pernicious effects of poverty has been the absence of opportunity for people, particularly young males of marginalized communities. The absence of opportunity, be it educational, work-related or general life experience can, and in many cases, does lead to criminal activity which results in a corresponding drop of social capital and individual potential.

We also recognize the imperative of dealing with poverty not in silos, but as an overall coordinated strategy involving the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

HRP will not only encourage this approach, we will support it in any way we can, recognizing that we are talking about the future of individuals and especially our collective future.”

**CHIEF JEAN-MICHEL BLAIS**

Halifax Regional Police

“My vision for Halifax would be for everyone to be treated equally and everyone to have the same amount of opportunities.

When I was 17-years-old, I was living in a homeless shelter. My son was 5 months old at that time. With the help from United Way, I've gone to high school and graduated. I've gone to college and graduated.

My son is in Grade 3 now. I believe from my own experience that anyone can make it in life with the right amount of support. Because we all need it at some point in our lives.”

**AMANDA YOUNG**

Dartmouth Resident

“Speaking on behalf of the association I fully support your organization in relation to anti-poverty in the Halifax area, it's something that's long overdue.”

**SPENCER COLLEY**

Chairman

East Preston Ratepayers Community Development Association

“United Way Halifax has a long history of making our city a better place to live, but there is still work to be done and support needed. It is for this reason that I strongly urge you to join us in creating a Poverty Strategy for Halifax so we make this city a better place for all.”

**NANCY TOWER**

Chief Corporate Development Officer

Emera

“Poverty is the number one determinant of health locally and globally. Solutions require our collaborative commitment, investment, and support of a shared strategy. The IWK Health Centre is proud to be a meaningful partner with the United Way on this all-important initiative.”

**TRACY KITCH**

President & CEO  
IWK Health Centre

"Two issues that must be looked at in any discussion concerning an anti poverty strategy is the lack of safe and affordable housing for those at or below the poverty line, and the role mental health and addictions issues play in maintaining the poverty cycle."

**TODD LEBLANC**

Business Manager

The Salvation Army