

We released the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy in early 2021 and since then we've been working together with our community partners to move forward on the priorities our community identified. We are pleased to present this update to share the progress we've made and announce several new initiatives that are launching this fall.

## Community Navigation Training

Community Navigation helps to bridge the gap between complex systems and those living in poverty. This training is for those working in roles that include interactions with those living in poverty or who are vulnerable. This includes staff with front counter, outreach and administrative roles such as receptionists and volunteers. We have delivered this training three times and are offering three more trainings this fall and winter in partnership with Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy. Funded by UBCM in partnership with the City of Williams Lake. Subscribe to the Social Planning Council newsletter for upcoming training dates.

## COVID Impacts

There is no doubt that the pandemic has interrupted almost every aspect of our lives. Together with the City of Williams Lake, we are launching a community survey to better understand these impacts on community members, what support they need in recovering, and how we can help. Watch for links to the survey coming soon.

## Rent Supplements

We are working to raise awareness and provide support for families and seniors to apply for and access BC Housing Rent Supplement programs. This is funded by the Union of BC Municipalities Poverty Reduction program and is a partnership with the City of Williams Lake.

Call for information or help with an application: **778-267-9394**

## Rent Bank

Rent banks provide housing stability for low-to-moderate income renters who are unable to pay rent and/or utilities due to a financial crisis. The rent bank will provide financial assistance in the form of a no interest repayable loan, to households at risk of eviction for reasons such as non-payment of rent or utilities. It can also provide damage deposits for individuals or families to move to sustainable housing. The focus of a rent bank is to keep people housed. This is a six-month pilot project in partnership with CMHA and with funding support from BC Rent Bank, and contributions from Community Futures, Williams Lake & District Credit Union and Mike Austin Financial.

Additional Information available at:  
<https://cariboo.cmha.bc.ca/williams-lake-rent-bank/>

## Central Cariboo Food Hub

The Food Hub will be a network of community organizations and individuals working together on initiatives that will reduce food insecurity and strengthen the local food system. We will be focusing on supporting immediate food access needs, like providing groceries, food hampers, coupons, or prepared meals, as well as supporting services important to improving food security, like food literacy and wellness programming, and increase local food access. This will be a network of non-profit partners, residents, businesses, all levels of government, the agricultural sector and other funders working collaboratively. This project is funded by United Way BC and is a partnership with Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy and the Williams Lake Food Policy Council. Check the [www.wlspc.ca](http://www.wlspc.ca) website for updates.

## Food Security

Housing & Homelessness  
Health and Wellness  
Financial Security and Employment  
Lifelong Learning and Literacy  
Transportation