

Edson and District Shelter Pod Pilot Project:

- Initial Concept: September 2020
- Construction start: February 2021
- Open for business: June 15, 2021



Edson and District Homelessness Population

- Approximately 50-80 individuals are homeless at any point in time.
- There was no formal shelter space or program in place.
- Many individuals had to find shelter in outside elements or find other temporary options.
 - Threat of personal violence
 - Theft of belongings
 - Exposure to extreme weather conditions
- Recycling depots are a prime location for individuals to find a spot to crash and find shelter.
- Need to be proactive instead of reactionary.

Solution needed to be:

- Simple, easy to use and sustainable
- Low Capital, maintenance and operational costs.
- Low volunteer and labor needs
- Provide a warm, safe and dry basic place to sleep to the vulnerable sector of our community on a temporary, emergency basis.
- Easy to clean and sanitize every day.

Initial concept:

- Remodel current plastics collection building to include 5 mini 5ft x8ft self contained pods
- Indestructible, easy to wash and sanitize
- Power outlet to charge phones ONLY
- Smoke detector, light and Fire alarm in each pod
- Heat source, fresh air intake and exhaust in each pod.
- Matt, garbage can and needle depository container.
- Accessible via unique access codes that are changed externally every day
- Accessible to outdoor heated portable toilet.

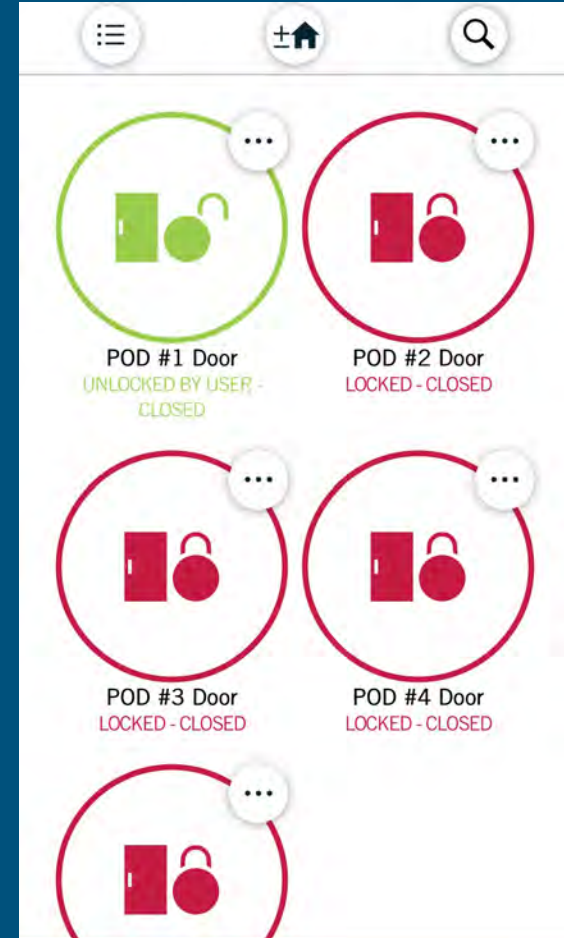
Process:

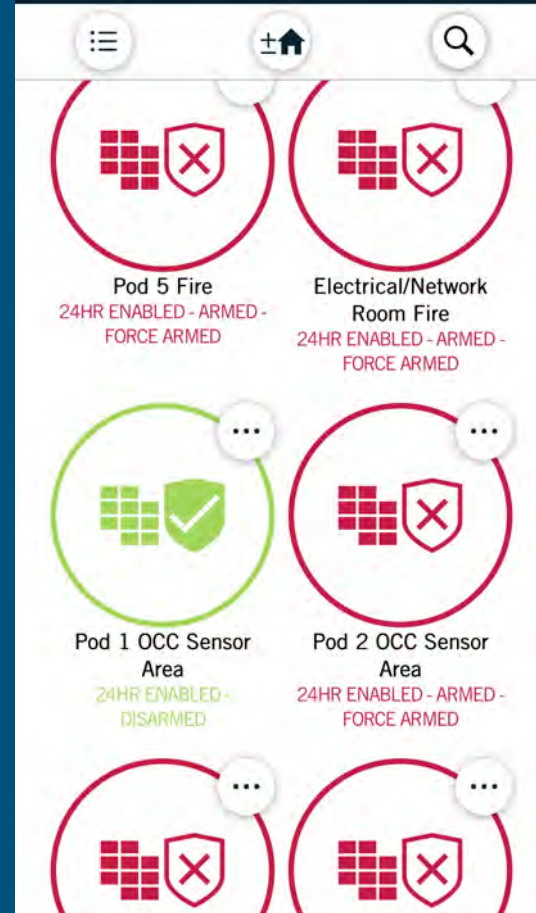
- Is this doable?
- Talk to builder, architect, IT /Security specialists and electricians
- Yes, but never done before in Alberta
- Sell to the Edson and District Recycling Society
- Present to local homeless coalition social worker, yes but let's bring in more resources.
- Form collaborative working group with the Edson Friendship Centre Housing Plus+ Program ,Edson & District Recycling Society, Edson RCMP and Alberta Health Services.
- Develop architectural plans, apply for and receive development and building permits.
- Present to local municipal Councils.
- Fundraise, community buy in and community sponsorship (funds plus donated services and materials)

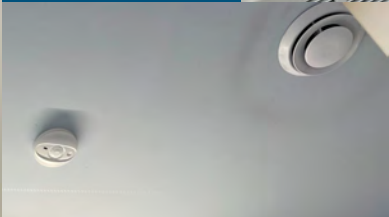
How does it work:

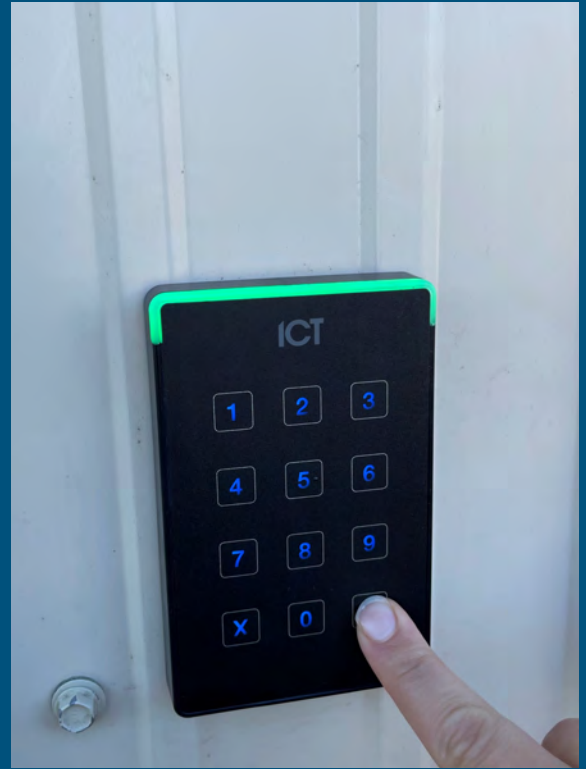
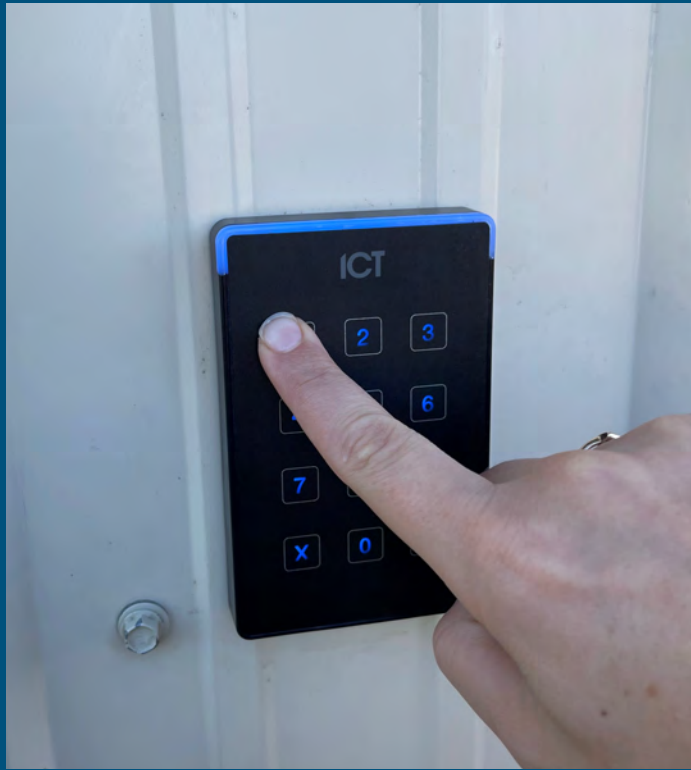














Outcome

- In the first 2.5 months (78 days)of operation:
 - Total stays 331, Well received by the homeless population
 - 85% occupancy
 - 40 unique users
 - 16 volunteers have signed on to answer the on-call phone
 - Initial group of 4 recently expanded to 6. Addition of victim services coordinator and another social worker.
 - Compiling stats to record usage and provide data for future planning .

Encouraging community to start working on intermediate housing