

Housing and health in British Columbia

BC Housing partners with private and non-profit housing providers, other levels of government, community agencies and health authorities to provide affordable housing and support services for seniors, people at risk of homelessness, people with mental illnesses and physical disabilities, those with drug and alcohol addictions, Aboriginal peoples, and youth and families, including women with their children fleeing abusive relationships.

BC Housing administers several housing and health programs:

Health Services Program

This program helps individuals who exhibit signs and symptoms of mental illness, behavioural problems and other health issues find appropriate housing and support. Referrals to the program are accepted from mental health services, homeless outreach programs, designated non-profit housing providers that offer supported and/or transitional housing, and BC Housing staff. The goal of the program is to ensure that residents have the appropriate support services in place to help them maintain their tenancies.

Addiction Recovery Program

Offered in the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser health regions, the Addiction Recovery Program provides transitional housing, counselling and support services to people in recovery from problematic substance use once they have completed a support recovery program. The program is a partnership between BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health.

Independent Living BC (ILBC)

ILBC creates assisted living homes that meet the needs of low-income seniors and people with disabilities in need of affordable

BC Housing is the provincial agency that develops, manages and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options for those most in need across the province.

We are working in partnership with public and private housing providers, local government and community agencies to create the best system of housing support for those in greatest need.

HOUSING MATTERS

housing and care. Assisted living is a middle option between living at home with home support and living in residential care.

Assisted living homes are self-contained apartments where residents receive hospitality and personal care services such as meals, housekeeping and laundry services, recreational opportunities, assistance with medications, mobility, and a 24-hour response system.

Examples of innovative housing and health partnerships

Dr. Peter Centre

BC Housing partnered with the Dr. Peter Centre to open the Day Health Program and a 24-hour Assisted Living Residence in Vancouver. The centre is the first HIV/AIDS health care centre of its kind in Canada and currently offers 22 assisted living units for people with HIV/AIDS.

Smith-Yuen Apartments

A partnership between BC Housing, the Katherine Sanford Housing Society, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Vancouver Coastal Health, the Smith-Yuen Apartments offer 52 units of permanent housing for seniors with serious, persistent mental illnesses in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The development provides residents with easy access to home care, meal services, and the other supports they need to stay healthy and be active members of their community.

Hillside Terrace

This Victoria development is part of a housing and health complex that offers 45 units of supportive housing to seniors at risk of homelessness who also require hospitality services and assistance with personal care. Partners include BC Housing, the Victoria Cool Aid Society, VIHA and CMHC. Tenants have access to the services provided by the Health Point Care Centre located downstairs.

The Salvation Army Southview Heights

Residents of this 57-unit assisted living development receive personal care services such as meals, assistance with medications, housekeeping and laundry services, as well as recreational opportunities. Vancouver Coastal Health funds the support services and also operates an ambulatory care clinic on site. The clinic provides ongoing nursing care to neighbourhood residents as well as education and self-management support groups for seniors living with chronic diseases.



Southview Heights assisted living development in Vancouver

www.bchousing.org

September 2007