To provide 49 new safe, secure, studio homes with on-site supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness at 130 McCurdy Road.

What is supportive housing?

Supportive housing is an opportunity for people to transition off the street, out of shelters and into safe and stable housing. Supportive housing is a self-contained studio home with supports provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports include outreach workers, wellness checks, life skills training, employment assistance, connection and referral to community services and support groups.

Residents have access to counselling, as well as health, mental health, and addiction recovery services through Interior Health. All residents will sign a program agreement and will pay rent.

Who will live here?

People who apply to live at the housing will need to meet eligibility requirements around income, homelessness and required supports and programming. Residents will be low-income individuals 19 years or older who live in the community, have a history of homelessness and who need additional support services to maintain housing.

This housing will be prioritized for people who are either already on a path to recovery from drug and/or alcohol use or are ready to make a change in their lives. We anticipate dedicating one floor of the project specifically to supporting youth 19-24 years of age.

Why does Kelowna need supportive housing?

According to the 2018 Homeless Count, there were 286 people experiencing homelessness in Kelowna. The city’s shelters are consistently over capacity and the BC Housing Supportive Housing Registry has more than 500 people currently on the waitlist for units in Kelowna. There is an urgent need to provide homes for people as a safer and more stable option than living on the streets and in shelters. Without this, people will continue to experience homelessness in Kelowna.
Community safety

We are committed to building a safe community both inside and outside the housing with:

Experience: CMHA has been housing the community’s most vulnerable since 1999 and currently operate four supportive housing buildings as well as 70 scattered apartment units in the community.

Staffing: Staff will be onsite 24/7 to support residents, manage building, be available to respond directly to any related concerns that arise in a timely manner.

Resident Mix: Residents will be selected based on ability of staff to provide right level of support to all.

Property Maintenance: Regular sweeps of property and immediate area will ensure cleanliness.

Design Features: Optimized lighting, security cameras, fob access only, staffed reception, contained outdoor space for smoking and dog walking, will be implemented.

Agreements: Residents will sign a program agreement around expectations.

Community Advisory Committee: CMHA will develop a Community Advisory Committee to mitigate and address any related concerns that come forward, with representation from BC Housing, Interior Health, the City of Kelowna, RCMP, CMHA, local businesses, community organizations and community members.

Next steps

The project received rezoning approval in June 2019 and will start construction this Summer. The new homes are anticipated to open in Summer 2021. The Community Advisory Committee will begin meeting prior to opening.

Partners

- Culos Development Group owns the land and is leading the development of the site.
- BC Housing is purchasing 49 new units of supportive housing including additional amenity space in the future building, will provide operational funding and will collaborate on resident selection with CMHA.
- Knights of Columbus previously owned the land and will own a new Hall and two residential units of housing in the new building.
- CMHA will operate the housing and provide support services to residents in collaboration with Interior Health.

How can I learn more?

Email communityrelations@bchousing.org

Visit https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/kelowna-mccurdy

Learn more about the Community Advisory Committee.