

HOUSING MATTERS BC

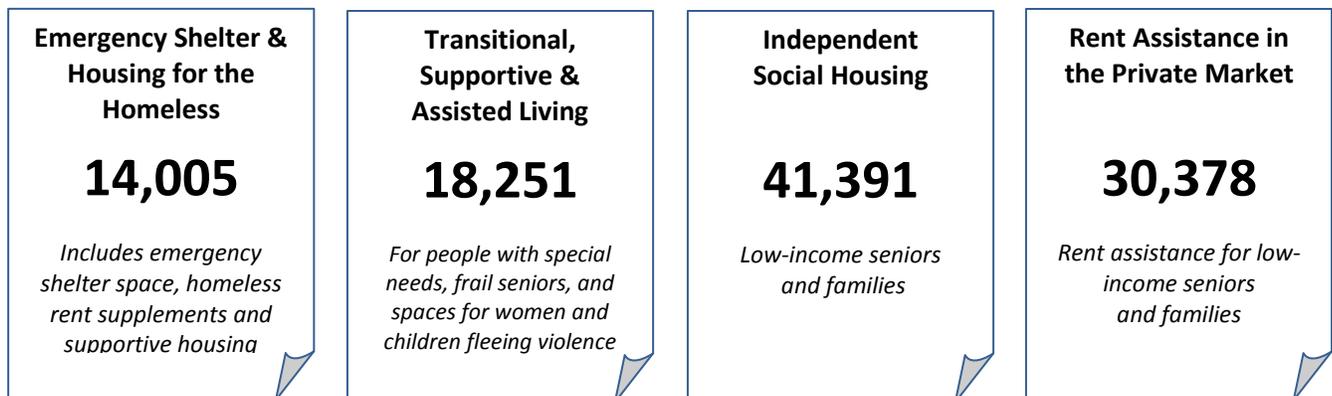
Affordable Housing in B.C.

The B.C. government has invested **\$4.8 billion** since 2001 to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families in communities across the province. More than **104,000 B.C. households benefit** from a range of provincial housing services.

What is Affordable Housing?

Housing is considered affordable when costs are within 30 per cent of the household's gross income. Many individuals and families can face barriers in accessing housing in the private market, either as a direct result of financial challenges or in combination with a disability, health issue, mental illness, addiction or other serious circumstances, such as domestic violence. The B.C. government helps individuals and families in need to access safe, affordable and appropriate housing.

Households Served by Provincially Funded Affordable Housing Options (2015/16)



Developing and Preserving Affordable Housing

Since 2001, the B.C. government has added close to **26,500 new units of affordable housing**. Nearly 24,000 are complete. The remainder are in development or under construction.

Rent Assistance in the Private Market

Introduced in 2006, the [Rental Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#) provides eligible low-income, working families with a household income of less than \$35,000 a year, with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments in the private market. The average monthly payment is approximately \$400. As of March 2016, close to 10,200 low-income, working families receive direct monthly cash assistance.

[Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters \(SAFER\)](#) helps make rent more affordable for B.C. seniors with low-to-moderate-incomes. SAFER provides cash assistance to eligible B.C. residents who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their home. The average monthly payment is approximately \$175. Close to 19,900 seniors' households in B.C. receive SAFER benefits.

Who We Serve

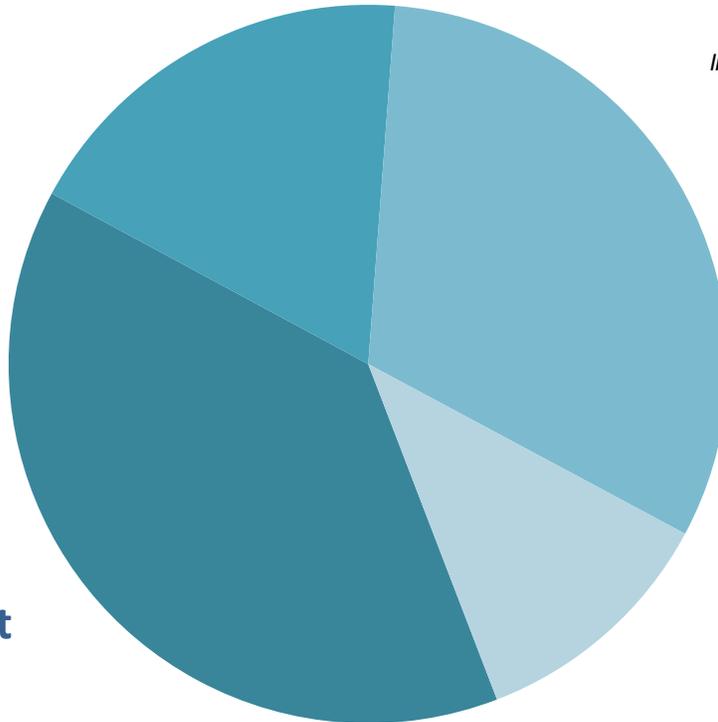
Government assisted housing accounts for about **six per cent** of the province's total housing stock. This year, **more than 104,000 B.C. households** will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.

**Frail Seniors,
People with
Disabilities &
Women
fleeing
violence**
18%

*Assisted Living, Seniors
Supportive Housing,
and other housing
options for individuals
requiring support services*

Families
29%

*Rental Assistance,
Independent Subsidized
Housing, Transition
Housing and Safe
Housing for Women*



**Independent
Seniors**
40%

*Rental Assistance and
Independent Subsidized
Housing*

Homeless
13%

*Emergency Shelters,
Housing with Support
Services,
Rent Supplements*