

HOUSING MATTERS BC

Housing Investments in Vancouver

In 2015/16, the B.C. government provided over \$207 million to support affordable housing for approximately 27,700 low-income individuals, seniors and families in Vancouver.

New Affordable Housing

- Since 2001, close to 8,000 units of affordable housing have been developed or preserved in Vancouver.
- More than 1,140 units are in development or under construction.

Homeless Supports Overview

Last year, nearly \$110 million was provided to support more than 6,900 housing units for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness across Vancouver, including:

- More than 950 permanent year-round homeless shelter spaces, over 840 of which are provided through the [Emergency Shelter Program](#) (more than 130 of these are for women only).
- In 2015/16, the three temporary H.E.A.T homeless shelters were converted into permanent year-round shelter sites, resulting in an increase of more than 210 homeless shelter spaces within the city.
- More than 5,200 subsidized or supportive units for homeless or at risk individuals.
- And approximately 750 homeless rent supplements.

Additional temporary shelter spaces are available during [extreme weather](#).

[Homeless outreach](#) and shelter workers across Vancouver connected people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to housing, income assistance and a range of support services.

The B.C. government has invested approximately \$265 million in a partnership with the City of Vancouver to build [nearly 1,400 new supportive housing units](#) for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (*see sidebar – New Homeless Supportive Housing*).

New Affordable Housing Highlights

Since 2006

- **Former Remand Centre** (2015) – Affordable housing for low-income adults and at-risk Aboriginal youth.
- **Kitsilano Neighbourhood House** (2015) – Affordable housing for seniors.
- **Little Mountain** (2015) – Affordable housing for seniors and people with disabilities.
- **Powell Place Women’s Shelter** (2015) – 56 shelter beds for women who are homeless.
- **The Biltmore** (2014) – Interim housing for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **The Empress** (2013) – Interim housing for women who are homeless or at risk in the DTES.
- **Dave Pranteau Aboriginal Children’s Village** (2013) – Affordable housing for Aboriginal foster families, youth transitioning out of foster care and low-income families.
- **Imouto House** (2013) – Modified container housing for women who are homeless or at risk in the DTES.
- **St. John Hospice** (2013) – For individuals in need of end-of-life care.
- **Linden Tree Place** (2013) – Assisted living for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- **Skwachàys Healing Lodge** (2012) – Affordable housing apartments for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and healing lodge apartments for Aboriginal individuals and their immediate family who need to travel to Vancouver from rural and remote communities.
- **Aboriginal Mother Centre** (2011) – Affordable housing for Aboriginal mothers and children at risk of homelessness.
- **Hasting House** (2011) – Shelter and housing for men and women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Covenant House** (2010) – Transitional housing beds with support services for homeless and at-risk youth.
- **Woodwards** (2010) - Affordable rental units for low-income singles, families and persons with disabilities.
- **Kindred Place** (2009) – Supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and those recovering from alcohol and drug dependencies.

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels

- In 2007, the B.C. government acquired [24 SRO hotels](#) in Vancouver, 20 of which are in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) – protecting more than 1,300 affordable housing units in Vancouver.
- The Province is investing \$143.3 million into the [SRO Renewal Initiative](#) to renovate 13 SROs under a public-private partnership. This includes \$29.1 million from the Government of Canada through the P3 Canada Fund. Lifecycle and facilities maintenance services will also be provided for these 13 SRO's for 15 years.

Since 2001, the B.C. government has developed or preserved more than 4,400 units for those who are homeless or at risk of homeless in Vancouver.

Support for People with Disabilities and Seniors

The B.C. government provides support to **nearly 12,000** seniors' households in Vancouver through a range of housing options, including:

- More than 3,000 households receive [Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters \(SAFER\)](#) benefits. The program was expanded in 2006 and enhanced in 2014 to better meet the needs of low-income seniors. With the new enhanced benefit, the average monthly payment is expected to increase from approximately \$150 to \$175.
- Close to 2,500 seniors live in supportive and assisted living units in Vancouver.
- There are more than 6,400 affordable homes for independent seniors in Vancouver.
- The [Home Adaptations for Independence](#) program offers financial assistance for home adaptations to help eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities improve accessibility and safety in their home.

More than 2,660 new units of housing for seniors and people with special needs have been created in Vancouver since 2001.

Families

The B.C. government provides support to approximately **6,670** low-income families in Vancouver through:

- More than 1,160 low-income working families receive rent assistance to keep the cost of private market rental housing affordable (the majority receive monthly benefits from the [Rental Assistance Program](#)).
- Over 5,450 low-income families live in subsidized housing.
- There are 75 provincially funded spaces available for women and [women with children who are at risk of violence](#).
- There are **more than 1,360** units of designated Aboriginal housing in Vancouver.

Approximately 900 units for families have been created in Vancouver since 2001.

New Homeless Supportive Housing Since 2006

- **Kettle on Burrard** (2014) – 141 units of supportive housing for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Marguerite Ford** (2013) – 147 supportive apartments for people who are homeless or at risk.
- **1249 Howe Street** (2013) – 110 supportive housing units for homeless or at risk individuals.
- **Sanford Apartments** (2012) – 62 supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Pacific Coast Apartments** (2012) – 96 supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Coast Dunbar Apartments** (2012) – 51 supportive housing developments for adults living with mental health challenges who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **First Place** (2012) – 129 supportive housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Karis Place** (2012) – 90 supportive housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and for seniors or people with disabilities.
- **1005 Station Street** (2012) – 80 supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Sorella** (2012) – 108 supportive housing for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For more information, please go to www.bchousing.org/Initiatives/Creating/MOU/Sites