

HOUSING MATTERS BC

Families and Women in Need

The B.C. government provides support to **nearly 30,450 low-income families** through a range of affordable housing options.

Since 2001, the B.C. government has created **close to 3,000** new affordable housing units for families across the province. More than 1,440 additional units are currently in development or under construction.

Last year, the Province provided support to close to 30,450 low-income families, including:

- Provincially subsidized housing for more than 20,120 low-income families.
- Rental assistance to approximately 10,330 low-income working families.

Rental Assistance Program

The [Rental Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#) provides working families with rent assistance to keep the cost of private market rental housing affordable. Since its inception in 2006, more than 34,800 low-income, working families have received assistance.

- Introduced in 2006, the program provides working families earning up to \$35,000 a year with rental supplements ranging from \$50 to \$765 per month.
- As a result of program enhancements in April 2014, the average monthly payment increased from approximately \$370 to \$400.
- Seventy per cent of the families receiving a RAP subsidy are single mothers supporting their children.

Women in Need

Last year, more than 12,300 women and children fleeing violence were assisted by provincially funded transition houses, second stage housing and safe homes.

- The B.C. government provides approximately \$32 million annually to support more than 830 spaces in transition and safe houses as well as second stage housing. Provincial funding ensures 24/7 staffing at all transition houses.
- There are approximately 250 provincially funded emergency shelter spaces for women or women with children across B.C.
- In addition, there are eight women-only developments providing more than 380 housing units in Vancouver.

Women-only, permanent shelters provide a safe and supportive environment where women can receive the care and support to help them towards a better life.

Highlights

- 2015: Powell Place Women's Shelter** (Vancouver) 56 shelter beds for women who are homeless.
- 2014: Apartment complex** (Invermere) Purchase of affordable rental housing complex for low-income families.
- 2013: Dave Pranteau Aboriginal Children's Village** (Vancouver) Affordable homes for foster families, children coming out of foster care and low-income individuals.
- 2013: Victoria Towers** (Prince George) Purchase of affordable rental housing complex for low-income families.
- 2013: The Empress** (Vancouver, 2013) Interim housing for women who are homeless or at risk in the DTES.
- 2013: Rose Harbour** (Campbell River) Second-stage transitional housing for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- 2013: Eagles Landing** (Prince Rupert) Transitional and supportive housing for women and their children fleeing domestic violence.
- 2013: Imouto** (Vancouver) Canada's first modified shipping container social housing development for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- 2013: The Cedars** (Salt Spring Island) Transitional housing and emergency shelter for women fleeing abuse on Salt Spring Island.
- 2012: Alder Gardens** (Surrey) Supportive housing for single mothers and their children who are at risk of homelessness.
- 2012: Hannah House** (Maple Ridge) Recovery beds for women who are recovering from addiction.
- 2012: Loreen Place** (Victoria) Affordable rental homes for small families with low to moderate incomes.
- 2012: Elspeth Alley Housing** (Burnaby) Affordable apartments for elderly women.
- 2012: Como Lake Gardens** (Coquitlam) Affordable apartments for single mothers and their children.
- 2012: Christine Lamb** (Abbotsford) Supportive housing for single mothers and their children who were at risk of homelessness.