



Seniors
Services
Society

Temporary Housing Program

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VISION: A community where seniors live with dignity in a safe, comfortable and healthy home.



MISSION: To connect adults 60+ with individual supports & housing navigation services to enhance their lives.

Our Clients: Seniors 60+

- ✓ Single
- ✓ Multiple physical or mental health struggles
- ✓ Loss of loved ones
- ✓ Low fixed incomes/struggling financially
- ✓ Renters
- ✓ Victims of violence, abuse, and discrimination
- ✓ Limited social networks
- ✓ Experience ageism
- ✓ Inactive and forgetful



Programs

1. Community Education (*Metro Vancouver*)

2. Housing Navigation Services

(*Metro Vancouver*)



3. Support Services (*New Westminister*)

4. Volunteer Opportunities (*New Westminister*)

Why are seniors homeless?

- Eviction
- Physical or mental health problems
- Loss of a loved one
- Depleted finances
- Priced out of home (rent increases)
- Cost of living in Metro Vancouver
- Not knowing what to do when faced with prospect of moving
- Victims of violence, abuse and discrimination
- Isolation



Barriers to housing:

- Addictions, hoarding, mental health, physical health, pets, smoking, financial insecurity

Common Reasons for Evicting Senior Tenants



1. **Non-payment of rent**
2. **Not following building rules**
3. **Hoarding and/or bed bugs**
4. **Dangerous behavior (fires, etc.)**
5. **Conflict with other tenants**
6. **Noise complaints**
7. **Refusing assistance**
8. **Alcohol and/or drug use**

Temporary Housing Program (THP)

16 private, furnished apartments for seniors who are either homeless or at-risk. The client is supported by an Outreach Worker and they pay **35%** of their income. Average stay: **6-12** months.

BC's first and largest
seniors shelter

Funded through BC Housing



Program Steps

Step 1: Intake

Referrals received from community organizations, hospitals and healthcare, family and friends, or self-referral.

Client must be 60+, independent, able to complete ADLs and IADLs, must be able to actively participate in housing search and maintain housing while in the program.

Program Steps

Step 2: Interview

After eligibility determined, face-to-face interview with THP coordinator to:

- Build relationship between client and staff
- Assess which units in the THP are best suited to the clients needs
- Promote collaboration and consensus-making
- Collect important personal identification info (ID, bank statements, tax assessment, etc.)

Program Steps

Step 3: Move-in

Notify BC Housing of client move-in.

Orientation package about the building supplied to the client.

Client given **2 weeks** to get acclimatized to the suite and their surroundings before beginning the housing search.

Program Steps

Step 4: Housing search

After 2 weeks, THP coordinator works with client to co-create an action plan for the housing search.

Client can **veto up to 2 options** during the search.

The housing search is a partnership with the client to find the most suitable location to ensure the selected housing is a permanent solution.

Program Steps

Step 5: Securing permanent housing and ongoing support

THP coordinator conducts monthly inspections of units. Support and assistance is offered as needed/requested.

Clients are offered assistance with moving, damage deposit, etc. **Three-month deadline** may be extended if no suitable housing found.

Temporary Housing Program Attributes & Highlights:



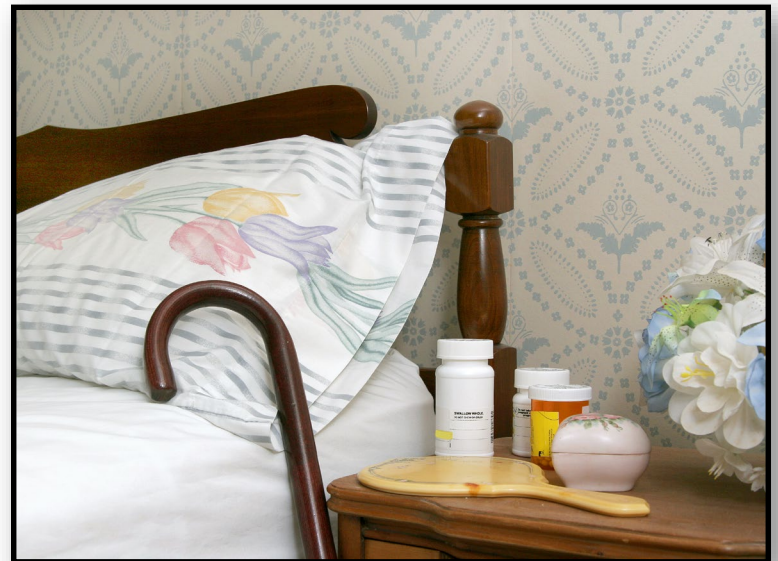
- Proven cost effectiveness: Average cost per senior is **\$50**/day vs **\$100**/day in a traditional shelter
- Of the seniors who have moved on from the program, **50%** were housed in non-profit subsidized housing; **23%** were housed in private market rental housing; and **9%** into BC Housing units

Successes and Challenges

~**285** seniors have used this program as a step to permanent housing
(since 2008)

90% success rate

Annually we turn away over **200** seniors as we are at capacity



Questions?

Thank you.

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