

Promising Practices for Supporting Homeless-Experienced Older Adults

November 4, 2022

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Aging in the Right Place: A Conceptual Framework of Indicators for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

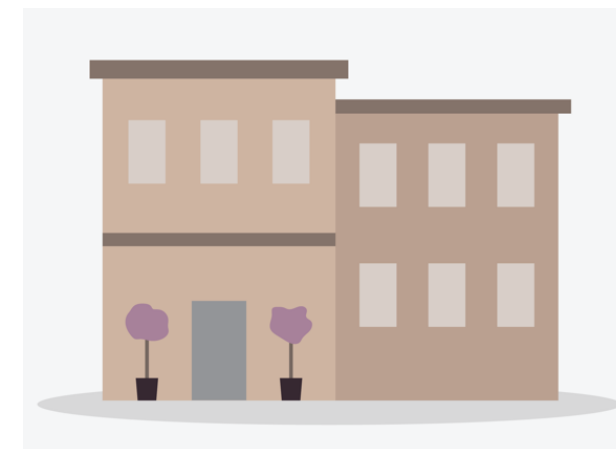
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Background

- Aging in the right place (AIRP) recognizes that secure and optimal housing for older people should support an individual's unique lifestyles and vulnerabilities
(Golant, 2015)
- Minimal research has considered how older people with experiences of homelessness (OPEH) may age in the right place



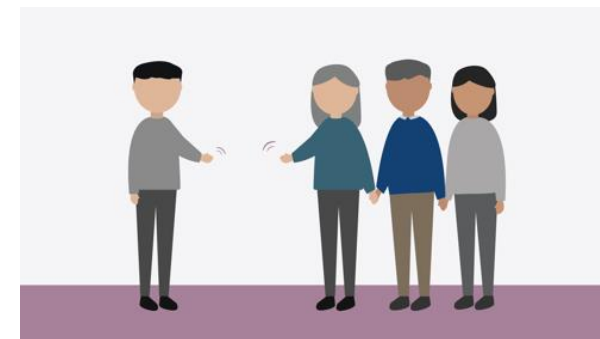
Objective

To develop a framework of aging in the right place indicators unique to older people with experiences of homelessness



Methods

- Literature review of existing research
- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach
- Iterative process of community consultation & model refinement



Indicators of Aging in the Right Place

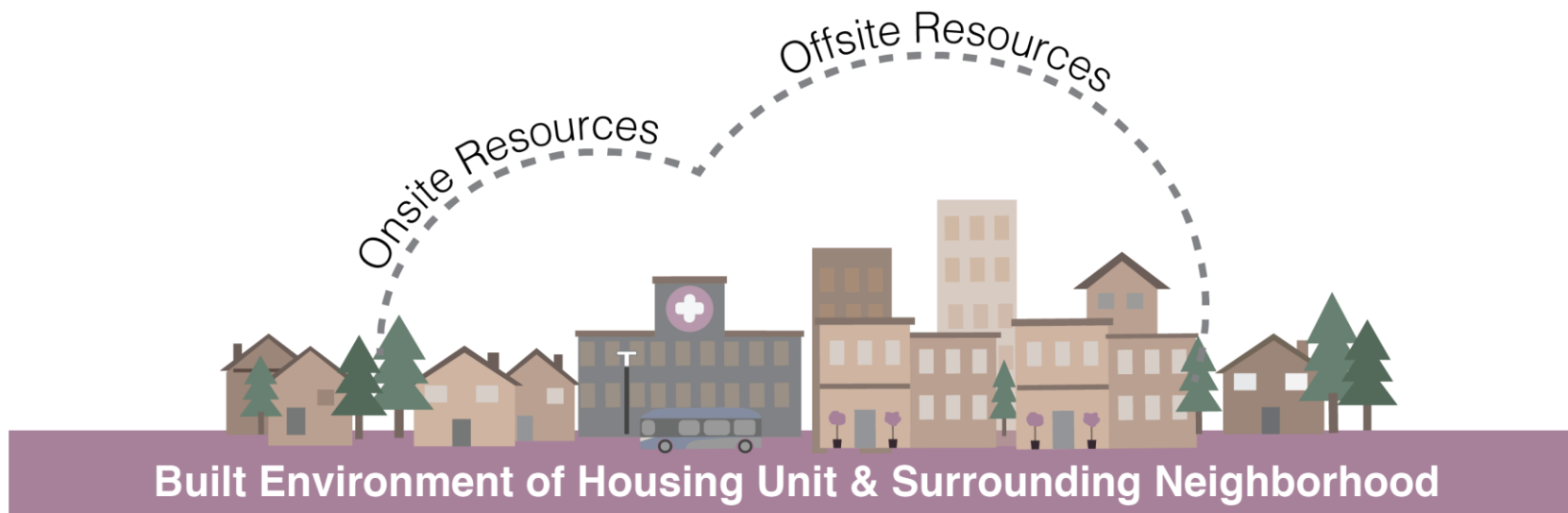
For Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Built Environment of Housing Unit & Surrounding Neighborhood

Indicators of Aging in the Right Place

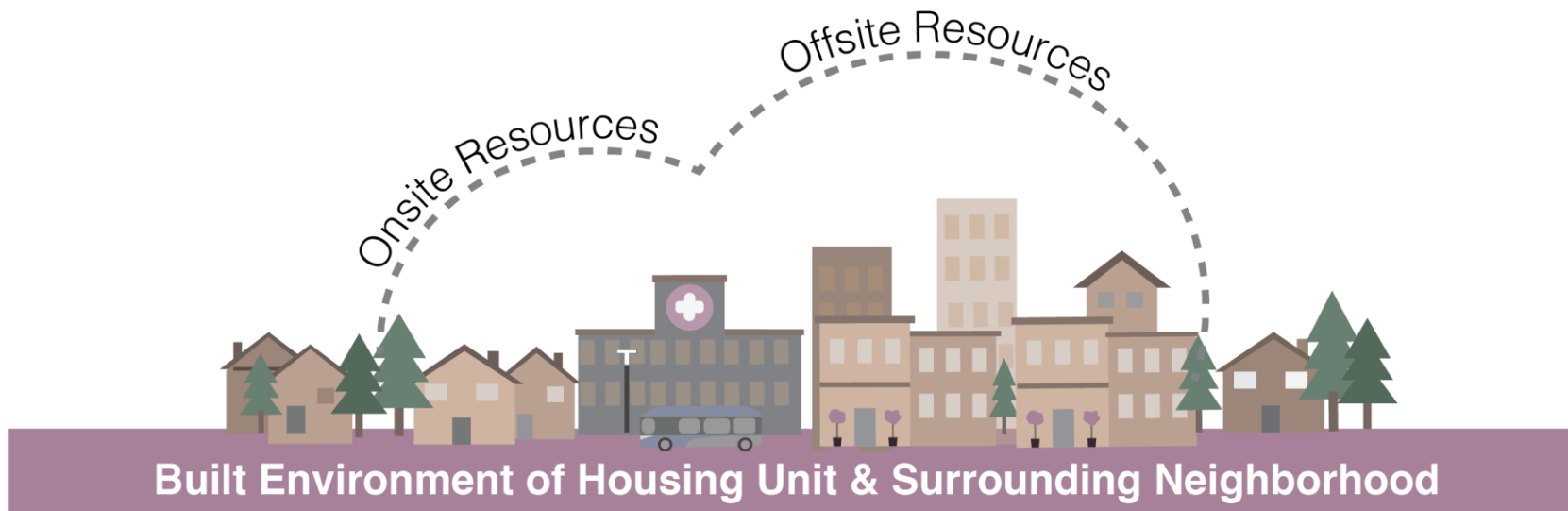
For Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Indicators of Aging in the Right Place

For Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Social Integration



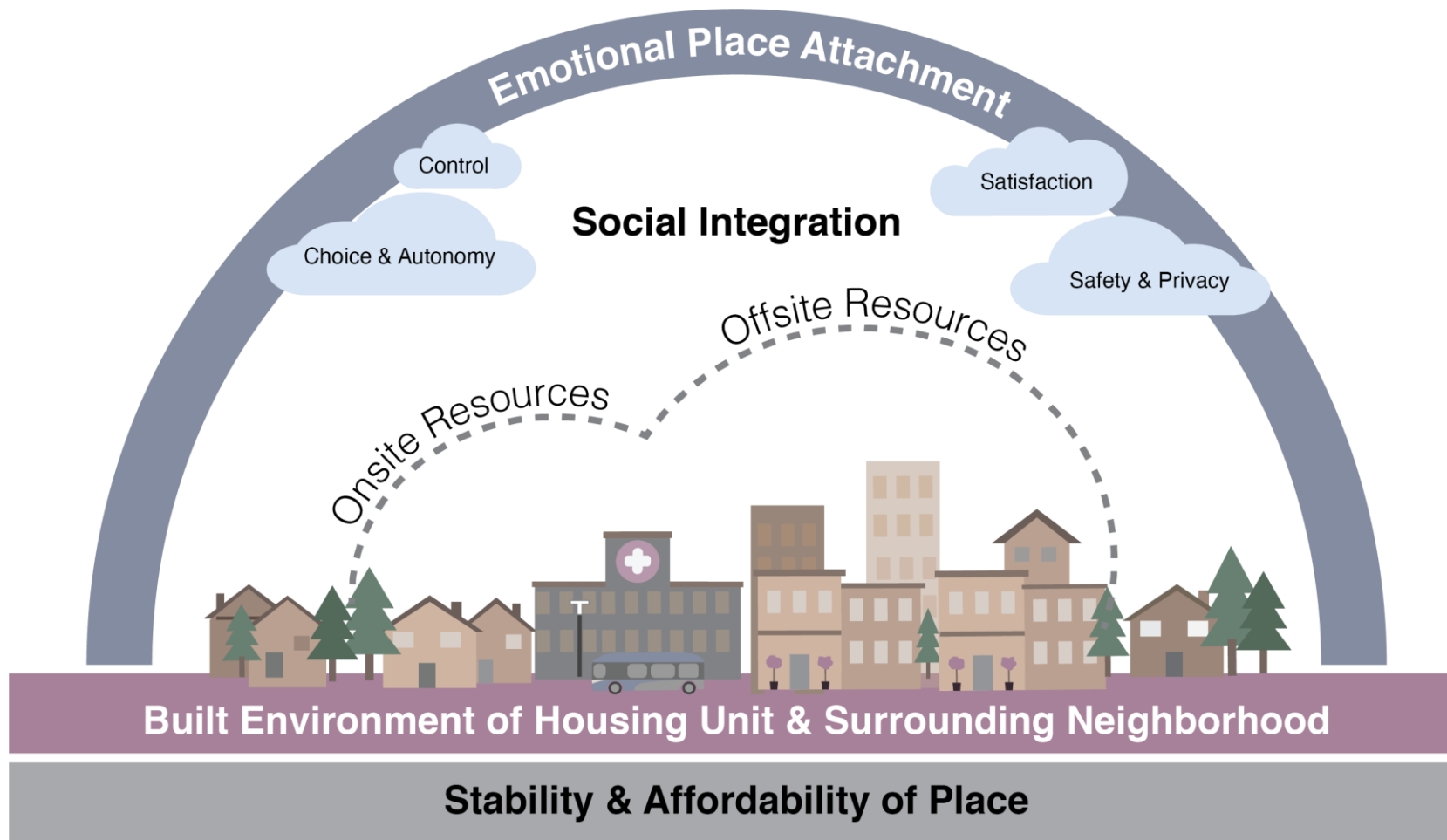
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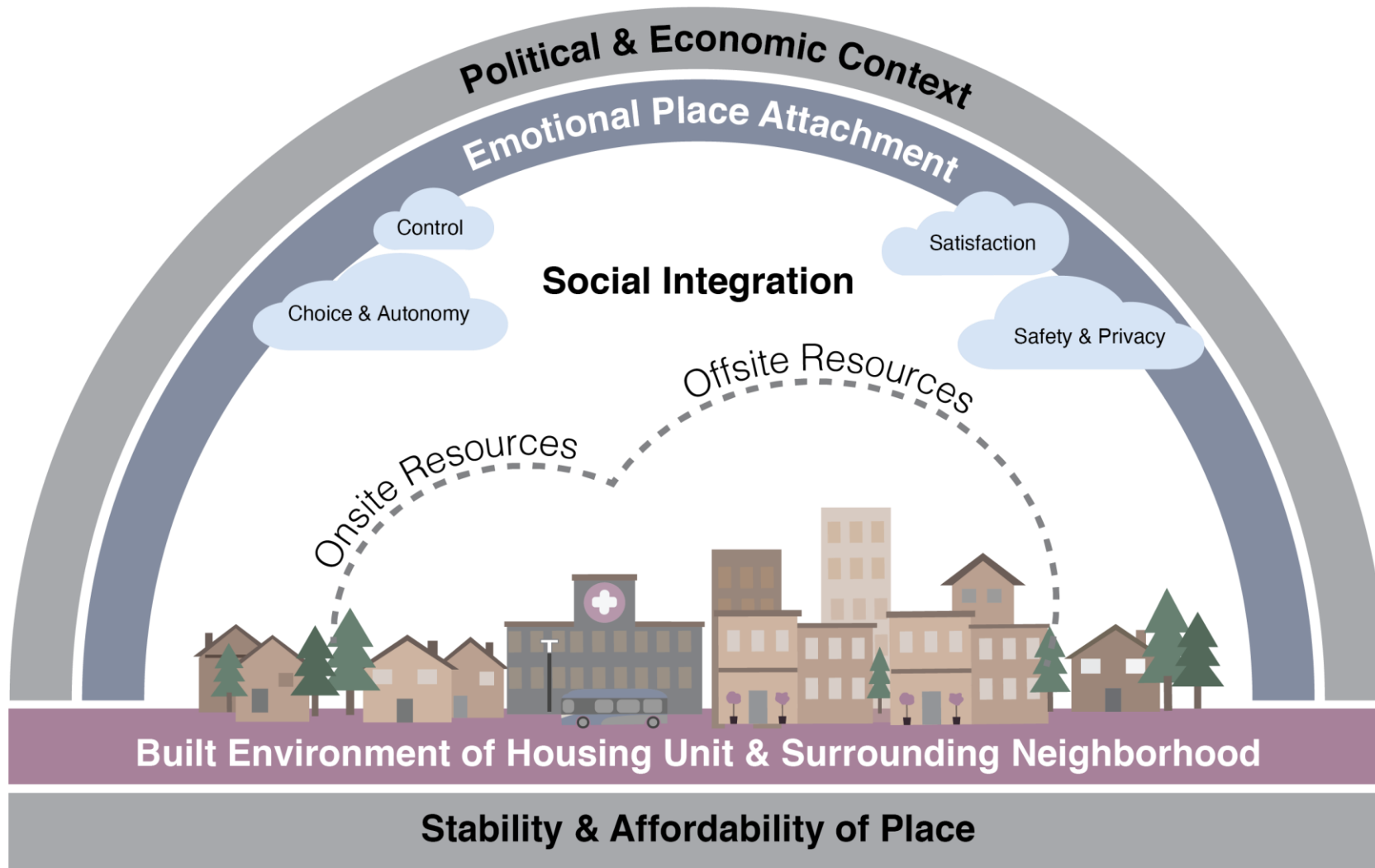
Indicators of Aging in the Right Place

For Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Indicators of Aging in the Right Place

For Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Conclusion



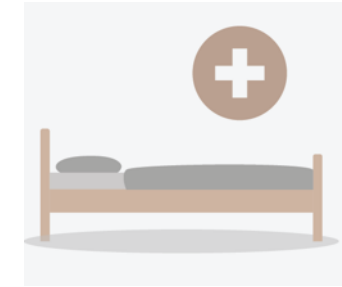
Research

Informing research with older people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity



Practice

Identifying client needs / tailoring support to promote aging in the right place & secure housing



Policy

Advocating for programs & funding that support diverse needs of older people with experiences of homelessness

To learn more or
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AIRP
Aging in the Right Place
PARTNERSHIP

VABE
Vieillir au Bon Endroit
PARTENARIAT



SSHRC  CRSH



Misschrissyd

Empowering and supporting women that have been victims of homelessness, narcissism, the court system, and the services that are there to protect us that didn't!

Find me on Instagram & Tiktok
[@misschrissyd](#)



Be on the lookout for my new app and workshop coming up!



WHOLE WAY HOUSE
RECONNECT. REBUILD. RECENTER

Seniors Supportive Housing Strategy

Downtown Eastside, Vancouver, BC, Canada
GSA, June 2022

-
- Currently, seniors experiencing homelessness are being lumped into shelters and supportive housing sites that are inappropriate and unsafe for their needs.
 - Seniors are the fastest rising demographic in our homeless population who receive the least amount of homelessness support resources or designated funding.
 - Housing operators are extremely concerned for their health and safety.
 - **The COVID-19 Pandemic has only increased their vulnerability and heightened their need for appropriate support services and care**





About

- Whole Way House is a registered Canadian charity founded in 2013 by siblings Jenny and Josh Konkin, while managing the Silver and Avalon Hotels, SRO's owned by their grandparents in the DTES of Vancouver.

Eight Partner Sites (4 in Pilot Project)

Veterans Manor (VMHS)

Low-income housing for senior and veteran men at risk of homelessness in the DTES



In partnership with BC Housing

[LEARN MORE](#)

601 East Hastings (UGM)

Two year transitional, abstinence-based housing for vulnerable residents after recovery in the DTES



In partnership with Union Gospel Mission

[LEARN MORE](#)

Maurice McElrea Place (UGM)

Permanent, affordable, abstinence-based housing for vulnerable residents after recovery and/or with disabilities in the DTES



In partnership with Union Gospel Mission

[LEARN MORE](#)

Alexander House (AHS)

Affordable housing for low-income seniors in the DTES



Affordable Housing Societies

In partnership with BC Housing and Coastal Church

[LEARN MORE](#)

Chelsea Tower (NCS)

Affordable housing for low-income seniors in Mount Pleasant



In partnership with BC Housing

[LEARN MORE](#)

Chelsea Terrace (NCS)

Affordable housing for low-income seniors in Burnaby



In partnership with BC Housing

[LEARN MORE](#)

Granville House (AHS)

Affordable housing for low-income seniors in Vancouver (Granville Bridge)



Affordable Housing Societies

In partnership with BC Housing and Coastal Church

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Orchard (UGM)

Permanent, affordable, townhouses for low-income families and single moms in Surrey



In partnership with Union Gospel Mission

[LEARN MORE](#)

Shiloh House
New Partner Site
In partnership with
Reaching Home

Our Model



- Whole Way House partners with non-profit housing providers who provide independent housing to low-income seniors to provide onsite tenant support services and community building programs, which then transforms independent housing into seniors supportive housing, reducing the risk of seniors becoming homeless.
- The landlord remains the landlord and the partnership allows residents who will not engage with their landlord to build a trusting relationship with Whole Way House as the third-party support provider.
- **When seniors receive the support they need, they are able to age well in place and enjoy successful tenancy and a better quality of life. Those who require higher care do not slip through the cracks and are moved accordingly, with care and dignity.**
- **Provide reliable and safe COVID-19 safety measures, information and resources to assist vulnerable seniors in staying safe throughout the pandemic.**



Metro Vancouver Homeless Count:

Percent of Homeless Population are Seniors (55+)

9% in 2008

16% in 2011

18% in 2014

21% in 2018

24% in 2019

Seniors now makeup 24% of the homeless population, which has more than tripled since 2002.

In 2012, almost one in seven Canadians was a senior; by 2030, that number will jump to nearly one in four!

WHY ARE SENIORS BECOMING HOMELESS?

- Unpaid rent (due to memory loss, accessibility to the bank, budgeting, affordability)
- Home cleanliness & hoarding
- Lack of food security
- Decline in personal hygiene/self care
- Lack of social network/support system
- No access to medical appointments
- Unable to organize their personal affairs, bills, paperwork, forms, etc
- Vulnerable to scams and thieves
- Don't know how or who to ask for help

HOW DOES WHOLE WAY HOUSE HELP SENIORS AGE IN PLACE?

- Money management & budgeting assistance
- Access to food security & groceries
- Coordinating with health authorities and case managers for assessments, appointments, vital services
- Access local resources for medical, mental health and addiction services, safety resources and tools
- House cleaning assistance
- Proactive room checks to set residents up for successful tenancy
- Daily social outings and activities
- Regular exercise programs
- Transportation and/or coordination to special medical appointments
- Organizing personal affairs, bills, paperwork, forms, appointments etc
- Free emergency medical training for all staff and residents onsite
- Assistance with housing goals and needs
- Regular room and wellness check ins



OUR PROGRAMS: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL & FINANCIAL WELLNESS

1-on-1 Tenant Support

Access community resources, health care, groceries, laundry, counsel, bedding, food and other support. Welcome Gift. Monthly home & wellness check ups.

Financial Support

Provide escorted trips to bank , budgeting assistance and coordinate tax returns with volunteer accountants.

Hospital Visits

Physical and emotional support for residents that are hospitalized, afraid and lonely.

Super Smoothies

Promote social interaction and relationship building while serving ultra-nutritious snack

Family Dinner

Building a sense of family and belonging. Sharing a sit down, family-style meal that is served.

Afternoon Outing

Physical activity providing residents with a guided opportunity to explore outdoors.

Clean Team

Help residents, especially those with mobility issues, maintain clean rooms.

Seated Exercise

Physio-designed program to promote increased strength, mobility and fun.

Free Shopping

In lieu of handouts, residents are given free tokens and opportunity to purchase preferred items.

Community Garden

Promote activity outdoors and exposure to natural beauty. Gardening provides hope.

Pet Therapy

Visiting dogs and fish tanks promote peace and create connection, affection & fun.

Crock Pot Cooking Club

Practical skills training and building a sense of pride, worth and belonging.

Open Drop-In

Books, games, movies and conversation with volunteers.

Free Haircuts

Coordinate complimentary haircuts & beard trims with professional barbers.

Games

Build meaningful and supportive friendships while enjoying coffee, board games and conversation.

Holiday Meals

Celebrate Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas with friends & family over a special sit down dinner.

Coffee Club

Offer hot coffee, tea, bagels and other breakfast items to give residents a great start to their day.

Birthday Parties

Monthly event to congregate and celebrate residents birthdays so they know they are valued.

Movie Matinée

Popcorn, communal seating and a great movie to promote social interaction and relaxation.

Special Events / Activities

Annual Family Picnic in the Park, PNE excursions, creating great memories together to promote health.



Vital Tenant Support Services: One on One Support

Coordinating Health Care

Requesting case manager assessments (for home support, OT, higher care, early identification of dementia, stroke, etc.)

Medical appointment reminders

Requesting medical appointments

Providing more insight into baseline behaviour and changes

Requesting a case manager to assess needs for higher care

Coordinating Health Care Continued...

Ensuring tenant is aware/understands their follow up

Coordinating pharmacy deliveries/pick up

Work closely with Home Support team for basic home and care needs (supplying personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, snack for meds, etc.)

Financial Support

Pension/SAFER/OAS/GIS application assistance

Provide safe escorted trips to bank

Budgeting assistance

Coordinating rent payment

Coordinating access to free tax services

Accessing Bloom Group Adult Guardianship Program

Housing Applications & Government Forms

Applying for Government ID

Bank account assistance

Income Assistance/Disability/Pension/SAFER/OAS/GIS application assistance

Assistance with housing applications for appropriate housing along the continuum

Food Security

Assistance with groceries

Coordinating meal replacement purchases from local non-profits (Ensure)

Hospital Care & Coordination

Ensuring rent is paid during extended hospital stays

Coordinating with hospital staff before discharge to ensure after care is in place

Clean Units

Regular home wellness checks to identify any potential issues

Help residents, especially those with mobility issues, maintain clean rooms by providing shared supplies, volunteer groups, light support

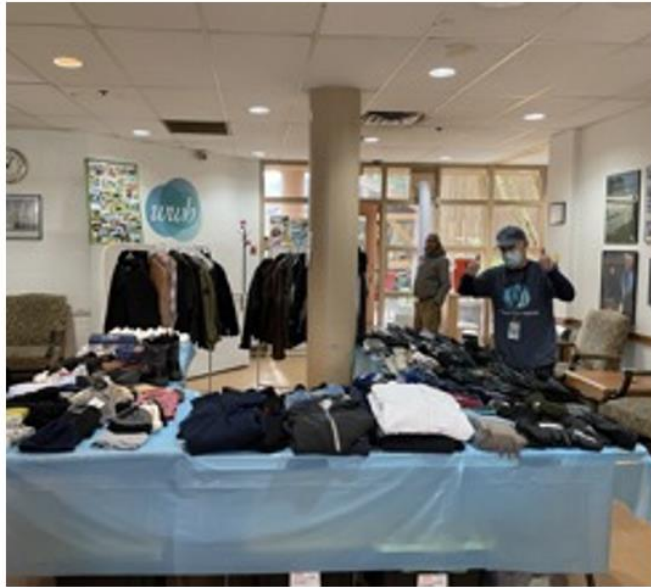
Reduce Vulnerability/ Heighten Safety Measures

Ensure their funds are safe

Identify elder abuse

Community Meetings/Open Forums

24-hour tenant checklist





HOW OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH BC HOUSING & HOUSING NPO IS SUCCESSFUL

As rooms turned over in the past 1.5 years, we have helped house 40 new vulnerable seniors - 39 have remained housed.

97%
RETENTION
RATE

Because these residents are now engaged with support services, they are *healthier physically, mentally and emotionally*, which allows them to stabilize and remain in safe and secure housing.



BC HOUSING



SUCCESS STORIES



I found Tibor walking down Powell in a snowstorm, freezing and sliding on the ice. I pulled over and picked him up for fear he would die out there. He was confused and taken the wrong bus on the way to No Frills and didn't know where he was.

He was living in a dangerous SRO, lost his home support due to aggravated behavior but we brought him into our supportive housing and he has become the most gentle and thankful man, we were even able to get his home-support reinstated.

When Tino went completely blind, he no longer felt safe living in an SRO. With the help of BCH, we were able to move Tino off the SHR from the hotel and help him get settled into the Veterans Manor, where he now feels safe, secure and supported.



At 92 years old, James stays active and engaged by joining us for outings, on site programs and of course our Seated Exercise class. Growing up in an orphanage and later joining the military led to a difficult go for James, but his Scottish charm and sly smile keep us all on our toes. He's a joy to be around and it's our honour to support him.



PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE & A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY





WHOLE WAY HOUSE
RECONNECT. REBUILD. RECENTER

THANK YOU

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ELDER ABUSE

A close-up photograph of an elderly person's hands clasped together, resting their head on them, conveying a sense of despair or distress. The person has short, grey hair and is wearing a maroon-colored shirt. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

Kerby Centre
for the 55 plus

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Elder Abuse Defined
- Elder Abuse Key Facts (WHO, 2018)
- Types of Elder Abuse
- Risk Factors (Theories)
- Elder Abuse and the Law
- Elder Abuse Support (EART)
- Kerby Shelter and How we help

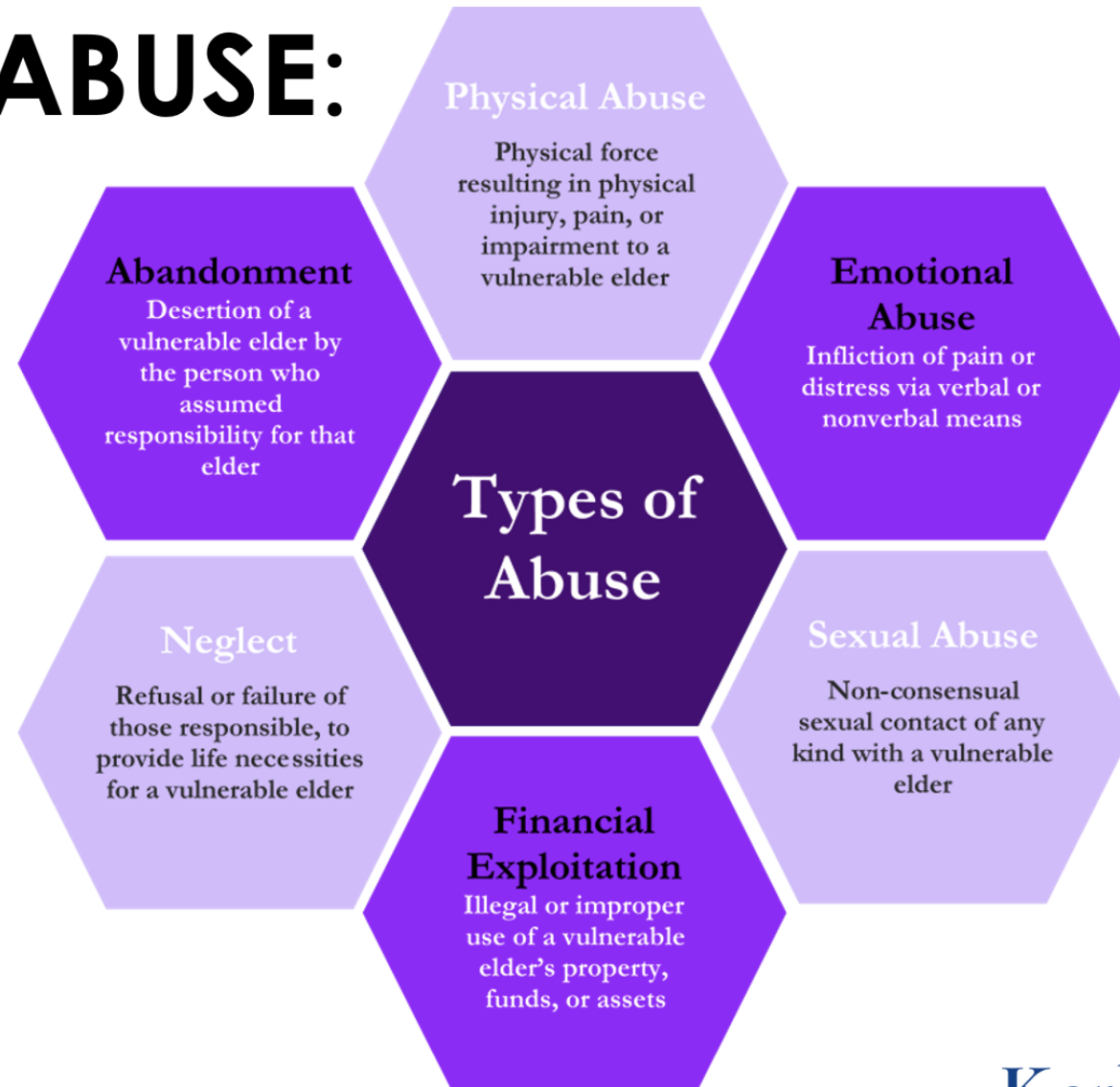
ELDER ABUSE KEY FACTS

- Around **1 in 6** people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.
- Approximately **25%** of crimes against seniors are committed by family members, usually a spouse or adult child.
- Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences including homelessness.
- Elder abuse is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.



TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect
- Abandonment



WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN? RISK FACTORS

For the senior being abused:

- Physical or Mental Health
- History of abuse or Trauma
- Income status – Low or High can both result in a senior being vulnerable
- Social isolation
- Living situation - room-mate or living alone/family
- Support networks non-existent or lacking
- COVID-19 isolation

For the person inflicting the abuse:

- Power and Control Motivated
- Low Socio-Economic Status – abusing seniors can be an economic advantage for people struggling financially.
- Caregiver stress AND/OR burn-out of family members
- Homeless and/or addictions
- Mental Health contributing to abuse of others
- Ageism
- Cycle of Family Violence



Financial abuse involves the misuse of a senior's funds or property through fraud, trickery, theft or force.

ELDER ABUSE AND THE LAW

There is no specific crime of elder abuse under the Canadian Criminal Code, the federal statute that creates criminal offences.

Nor is there any other Canadian statute that criminalizes the mistreatment of elderly people in particular.



Sheltering Programs for Older Adults in Canada



500

There are over 500
emergency and
transitional
shelters in Canada

13

Only 13 of them are
specifically for older
adults

2.5%

5

These 13 shelters
are found in only
5 provinces
(BC, AB, MB, ON, NL)

Elder Abuse Support

Elder Abuse Resource Line (EARL)

- 24/7 help line for seniors experiencing elder abuse, those seeking information about elder abuse and/or people requesting shelter from abuse.
- Housed in Kerby Elder Abuse Shelter.

Elder Abuse Response Team (EART)

- A collaboration between Calgary Police Service, Carya & Kerby Centre
- Addresses suspected criminal and noncriminal cases, such as ongoing verbal abuse .
- For seniors over the age of 65, living in Calgary.
- Priority is to assist clients with safety planning and utilizing supports in agency.



KERBY ELDER ABUSE SHELTER

BY KERBY CENTRE

Kerby Centre
for the 55 plus

Our Vision

A happy, healthy senior population.

Our Mission

To assist older people to live as well as possible, for as long as possible, as residents in the community.

Services

Elder Abuse Resource Line
(EARL)

3 - Month Shelter Stay

Community Caseworker

Elder Abuse Resource Line

- Intakes
- Referrals
- Resources
- Prevention and Intervention





Jeffrey, former resident

Shelter facts + figures

- Our shelter provides temporary transitional housing for up to 3 months.
- In 2021 we provided more than 2,900 safe nights to seniors fleeing abuse.
- The shelter operated at 99% capacity for the last two years.
- 370 seniors were turned away due to capacity.



90 day stay

We offer 24-hour support and assist with daily living, legal, medical and dental referrals, assistance finding permanent housing, financial literacy, counselling, and other social supports



Community Case Worker



Successes



Thank you!