

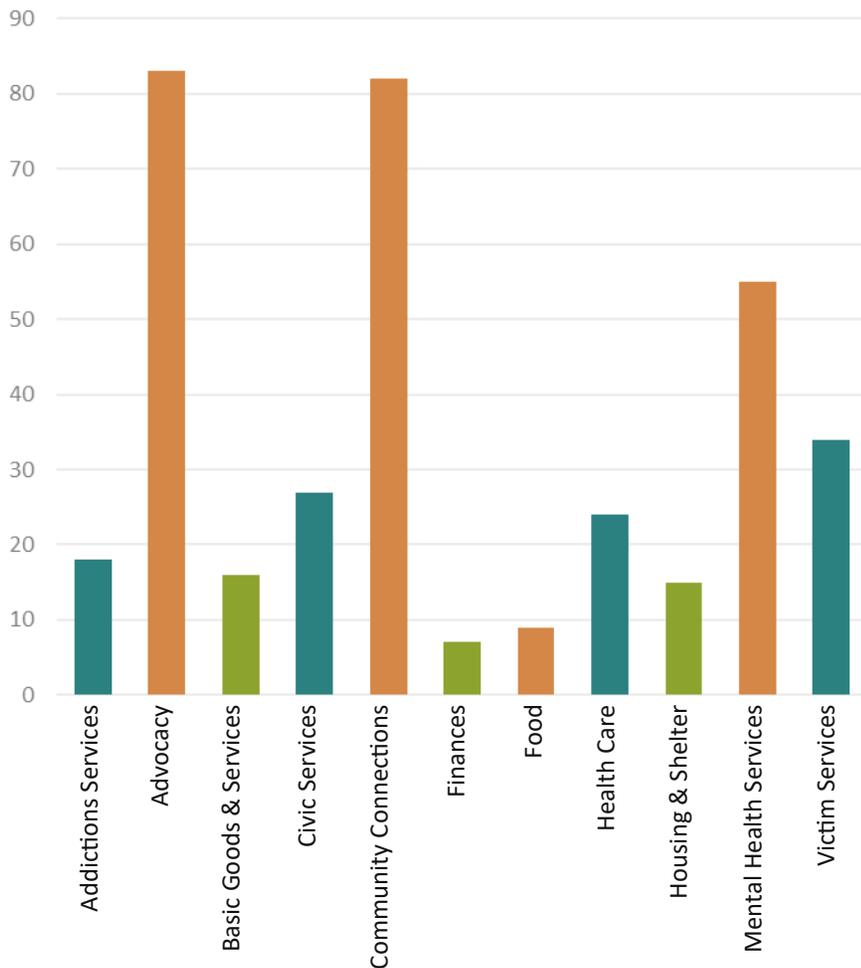


Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

North Shore

(Includes City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, City of West Vancouver, Lions Bay, Bowen Island and Gambier Island)

In 2016, homelessness service providers across Metro Vancouver met to discuss the availability and operation of the system of community resources necessary to support Housing First implementation. This resource provides a summary of the findings of each of the discussions in the North Shore.



Analysis compared the number of resources in each category to the number of households in the community that pay more than 30% of their income in rent.¹

Areas of More Support Compared to Metro Vancouver

Basic Goods & Services

Community Connection Services

Civic Services

Health Services

Areas of Less Support Compared to Metro Vancouver

Housing & Shelter

- Finances and Food resource categories were near the threshold of low service levels.
- Less supports for Housing & Shelter align with service provider concerns.
- Areas of support highlight support within the community from a variety of sources.

¹Explanation of the definitions of the resource categories and discussion on the analysis methodology may be found at housingfirstsupport.ca.

Resource information based on available bc211 data as of October 2016. Resources may fall into more than one category and are reported in each category.

North Shore

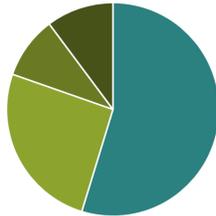
Community Statistics²

City of North Vancouver

Households: 22,790

Renter Households: 10,315

Rent >30% Income: 4,480

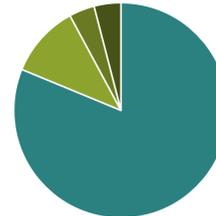


District of North Vancouver

Households: 30,550

Renter Households: 5,740

Rent >30% Income: 2,410

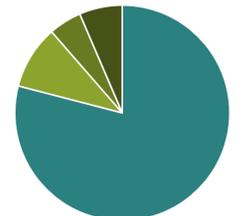


City of West Vancouver

Households: 17,075

Renter Households: 3,580

Rent >30% Income: 1,950



■ Non-Renter Households

■ Renter Households Paying Less than 30% Income

■ Renter Households Paying Between 30% to 50% Income

■ Renter Households Paying More than 50% Income

²Data obtained from the Rental Housing Index, October 2016: rentalhousingindex.ca. Lions Bay, Bowen Island and Gambier Island excluded.

Community Overview

The North Shore is comprised of three major municipalities– the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and the City of West Vancouver. The community has developed a highly effective Homelessness Task Force that provides up-to-date communication on available services, facilitates coordination and partnerships in funding grants and supports community action and is attended by the three municipalities. The North Shore continues to face challenges in housing affordability.

Factors for Success

- Quarterly Homelessness Task Force meetings see high levels of member attendance and are supported by working sub-committees on initiatives.
- Service providers coordinate to reduce duplication of service for clients, including coordination around landlord engagement, and staff have working relationships between organizations.
- Service providers are knowledgeable of the population of people experiencing homelessness including the ability to find and re-connect with people with whom they have lost contact.
- Municipal support includes training in mental health first aid for frontline city staff and ability to check renovation permits to investigate 'renovictions'.
- Strong relationships and partnerships with community addictions, mental health and health services and policing have increased tailored support for people experiencing homelessness.

North Shore

Areas of Challenge

- Challenges in accessing affordable housing include being priced out of your municipality of choice, lack of transitional housing due to lack of housing to which to transition, challenges accessing social housing with past evictions and long waiting lists.
- Concentration of services in one municipality (City of North Vancouver) provides benefits in accessing services but can cause concern about over-concentration of services when trying to implement additional or new services.
- Service providers are maintaining case loads over 100% of originally intended capacity.
- While some can access sufficient services to maintain housing, others can 'get caught in a loop' and struggle to access needed services.
- Travelling outside of North Vancouver for services can be unaffordable for people experiencing homelessness. Services requiring travel include filling methadone prescriptions, addictions treatment beyond outpatient day treatment, low-cost dentistry, opening a bank account without ID and when North Shore services are at capacity.

Potential Action Areas to Support Housing First Implementation

- Identify opportunities to share learnings and success in the North Shore with other municipalities that may result in increased coordination of services in the region.
- Investigate options to apply learnings from the Interagency Case Assessment Teams to more generalized coordinated case management in the community.
- Identify gaps in programming that support maintaining housing, such as financial literacy, life skills, etc, and support community partner application for funding.
- Apply learnings from other Metro Vancouver communities to implement food security network and improving relationships with the business community increase access to funding support for initiatives.

What other communities can learn from North Shore: highly homelessness taskforce that supports service provider communication and implementation of effective initiatives; management of privacy and confidentiality to support Interagency Case Assessment Teams; coordination of landlord engagement

This project was a partnership between the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy, Simon Fraser University's Gerontology Research Centre and bc211.

