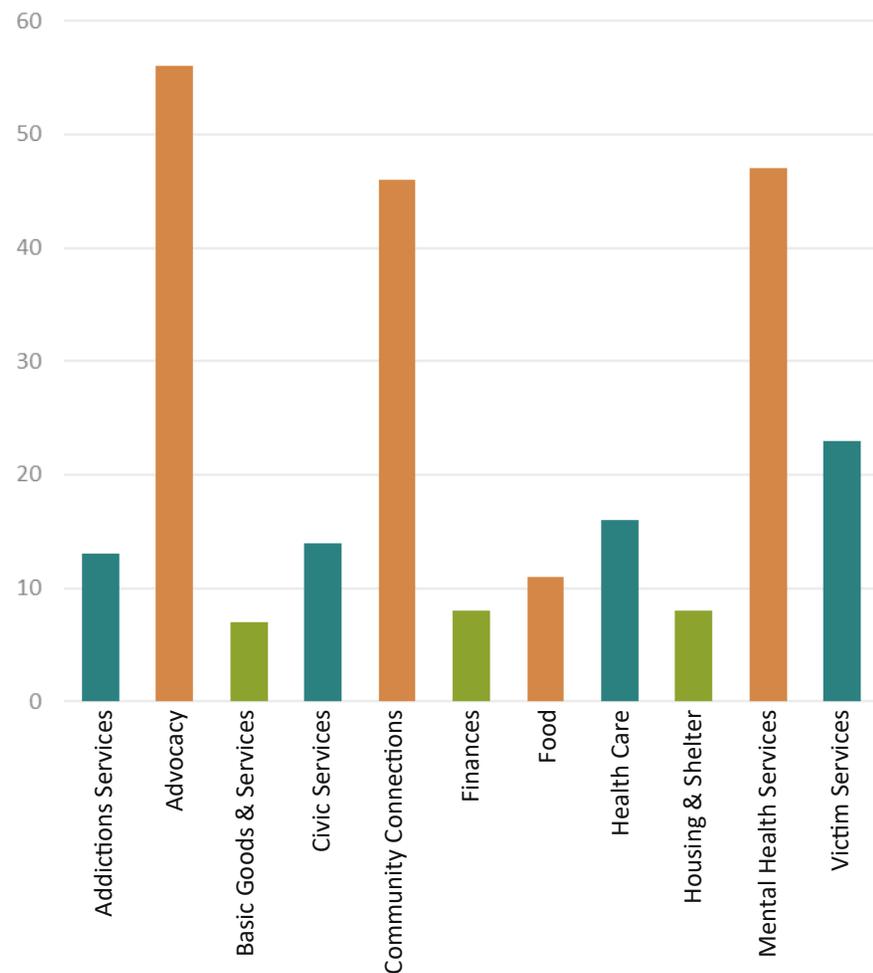




Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

Richmond

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 Richmond.



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

Finances

Areas of Less Support Compared to Metro Vancouver

Addictions Services

Housing & Shelter

- Feedback from service providers aligns with low levels of Addictions Services and Housing & Shelter
- Many of the available Finances resources available are specialized in their purpose or target population.

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.

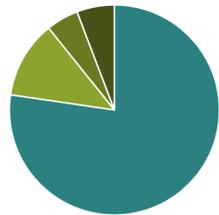
Richmond

Community Statistics²

Households: 67,975

Renter Households: 15,420

Rent >30% Income: 7,320



- 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.

Community Overview

Richmond is engaging in ongoing development of their response to homelessness. Their proximity to Vancouver as resulted in some services being unavailable in Richmond and individuals must travel outside of the community. Service providers regularly connect with each other through the Richmond Homeless Coalition and have been actively examining how they can prepare to implement Housing First in their community.

Factors for Success

- Service providers are actively identifying how to coordinate and partner in service delivery through efforts such as coordinating outreach activities across programs and partnering with drop-in programs to engage with clients.
- Working relationships exist with key community partners such as the City, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation and RCMP.
- Initiatives have been implemented to improve the homelessness system in Richmond such as, more accurately estimating the number of people experiencing homelessness in Richmond, facilitating landlord engagement events and City affordable housing planning.
- Community support of funding and volunteer support is found through organizations such as the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus and Kiwanis.
- There are a number of key engagement locations throughout the City, including experienced volunteers supporting service referrals at the food bank, programming and information provided by the library and a number of service hubs in the community.
- The community has implemented innovative programming around youth engagement and supply of household goods.

Richmond

Areas of Challenge

- Individuals must re-complete intake assessments with each service they access.
- Limited shelter availability results in some individuals accommodated in other communities and commuting to Richmond for community services.
- No current position to support coordinated system navigation and housing procurement and landlord engagement.
- Front-line services can become focused on immediate issues and limits their capacity to develop relationships with community partners and engage in strategic planning.
- Program access barriers include long waitlists and eligibility requirements such as rent supplements only available to target populations.
- Individuals must leave the community to access some addictions services.
- Affordable housing and supportive housing has long waitlists and it is often faster to access housing if individuals choose to secure housing outside of the community.

Potential Action Areas to Support Housing First Implementation

- Leverage organization inter-connectedness by developing a combined case management table. While consent, confidentiality and privacy must be managed, successful models exist within other communities.
- Support the combined case management by developing landlord engagement and community navigator positions whose roles it is to directly support the work of the case management table.
- Identify opportunities for community support of initiatives such as accompaniment, activity planning and other activities that support case management to engage volunteers beyond food service delivery.
- Determine known 'typical' pathways and resources associated with exiting homelessness. Encourage necessary community partners to explore how their role in the pathway contributes to or hinders exiting homelessness and develop plans for adaptation. Implement agreements and partnerships that ensure services are delivered to best assist with this exit. Identify key responsible personnel in each organization that will liaise with others for their organizations area of service delivery.
- Investigate and implement successful municipal strategies for improving access to affordable housing.

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



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