

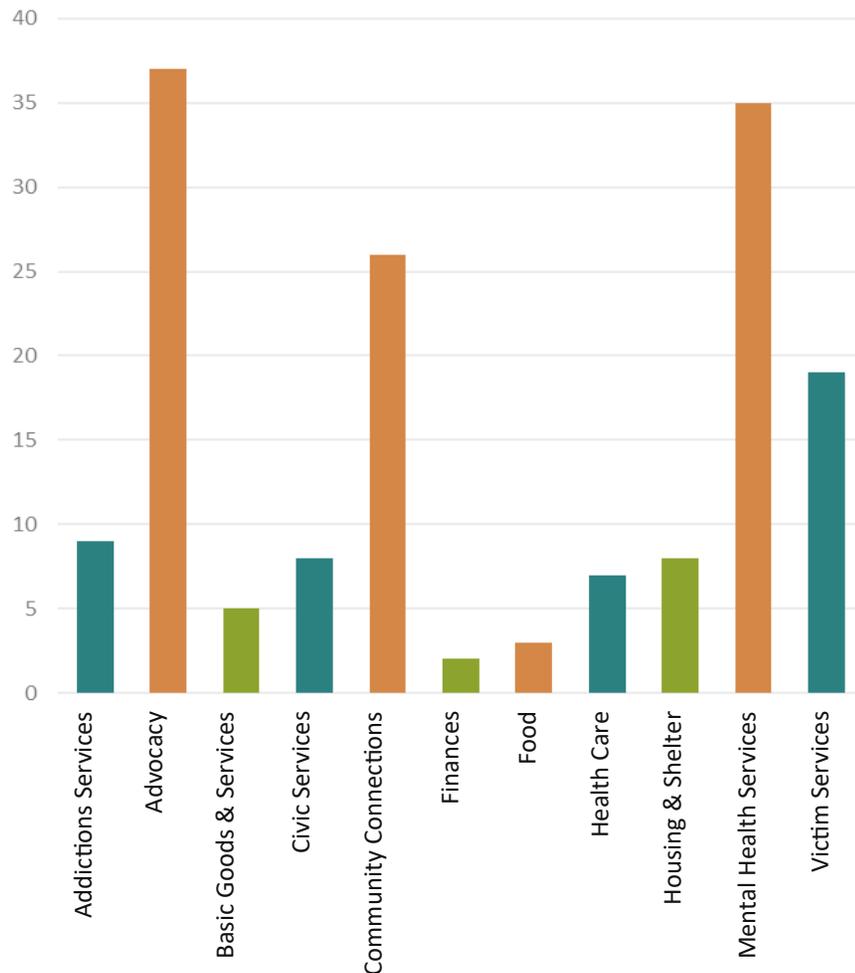


Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

Ridge-Meadows

(Includes City of Langley and Township of Langley)

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 Langley.



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

- Advocacy
- Basic Goods & Services
- Mental Health Services
- Victim Services

Areas of Less Support Compared to Metro Vancouver

Finances

- Availability of services aligns with service provider feedback that resource availability is sufficient but case loads are overburdened.
- Advocacy, Basic Goods & Services and Mental Health Services all include services for the general population as well as those exclusive to specific sub-populations.
- Employment services found within the Finances category are viewed as effective in service delivery.

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

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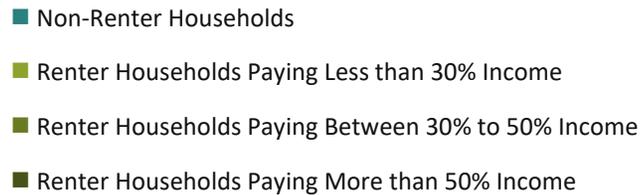
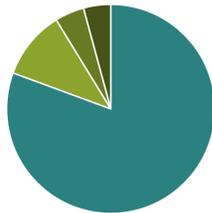
Community Statistics²

Maple Ridge

Households: 28,045

Renter Households: 5,440

Rent >30% Income: 2,460

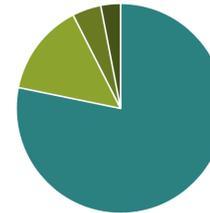


Pitt Meadows

Households: 6,720

Renter Households: 1,465

Rent >30% Income: 505



²Data obtained from the Rental Housing Index, October 2016: rentalhousingindex.ca.

Community Overview

Ridge-Meadows is supported by an active Community Network that is supported by the municipalities which includes a Housing Planning Table. A hub of services is found in and around Haney Place, where City Hall is housed. The community has been navigating a changing homelessness landscape and adapting service provision to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness. The homelessness landscape is also influenced by the presence of correctional facilities that house individuals from across the province.

Factors for Success

- Increases in funding for outreach workers and rent supplements has contributed to success in finding housing.
- Service providers value the collaboration provided through the Housing Planning Table.
- The involvement of multiple organizations participating in providing community meals indicates willingness for involvement.
- There are a number of organizations that provide multiple services from one location creating mini-service hubs.
- Mapping of community resources for newcomers exists through www.ridgemeanowsnewcomers.com

Ridge-Meadows

Areas of Challenge

- Service availability is limited during evenings and weekends which results in reduced support at these times and can increase perceptions of concentrations of homelessness.
- Some services are limited in their availability— operation can be one or two days a week, creating perception of greater service availability than is found by those attempting to access services.
- Provincial correctional, addictions and other services creates transience in the population of people experience homelessness. Service providers may need to invest periods of intense support to assist people when transitioning through the community.
- Transportation is limited when services are not located on major thoroughfares.
- The amount of households renting in Ridge-Meadows is lower than in many Metro Vancouver communities, which service providers experience as fewer options for renting.
- Service providers express the need for ongoing community education and relationship building to increase the ability for people experiencing homelessness to access housing and participated meaningfully with their neighbours.

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.
- Develop alternate transportation programs. Examples include shuttles with case management staff to provide an alternate connection point with individuals or supporting bicycle transport by combining case management with bicycle access and maintenance programs.
- Utilize delivery of community meals as an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of homelessness in the community.
- Determine known ‘typical’ pathways and resources associated with exiting homelessness. Engage with necessary community partners to 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.
- Consider the possibility of organizations coordinating to increase the availability of outreach services in the evenings and weekends.

What other communities can learn from Ridge-Meadows: implementation of food security programming

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The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

