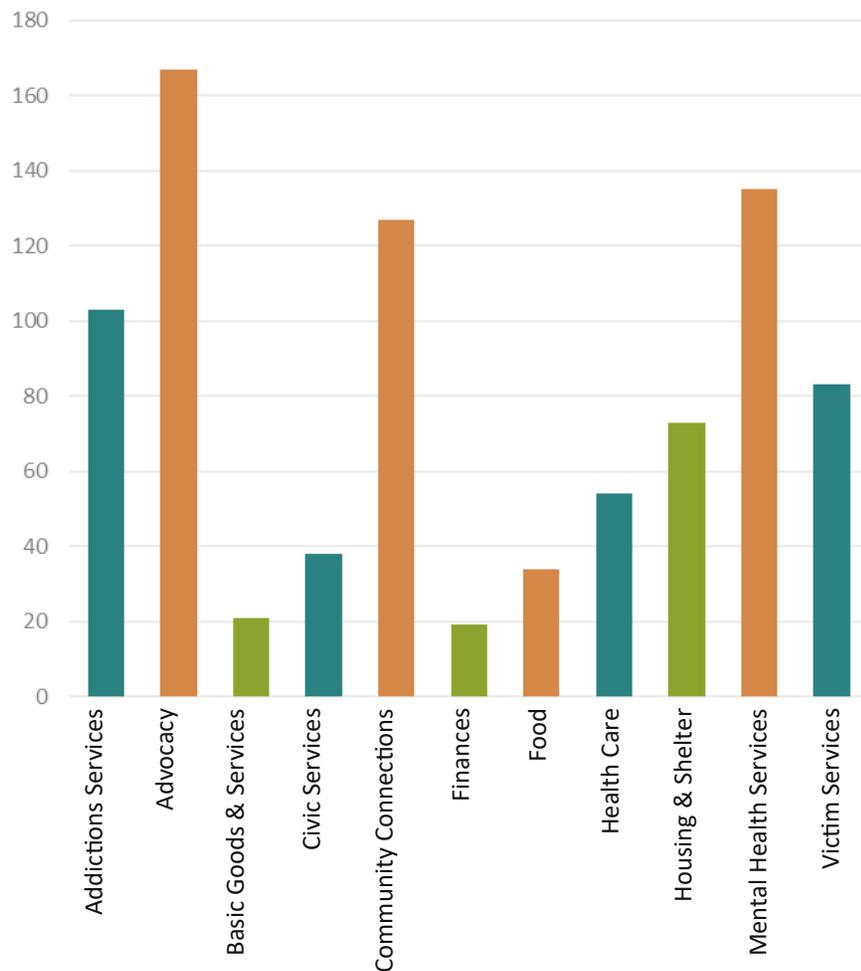




Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

Surrey, White Rock & Delta

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 Surrey, White Rock & Delta.



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

- Addictions
- Health Care
- Food
- Housing & Shelter

- No resources categories were found to have substantially less support when compared to Metro Vancouver.
- The majority of resources found within Housing & Shelter are temporary accommodation.
- Providers note that a lack of regulation surrounding recovery homes increases the number of addictions resources available but may not improve access to addictions support for people experiencing homelessness.
- Service providers express challenges obtaining health supports needed for individuals exiting homelessness. This may suggest a lack of alignment between delivery of health supports and needs for this population.
- Service providers comments aligned with strong Food resource support.

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

Surrey, White Rock & Delta

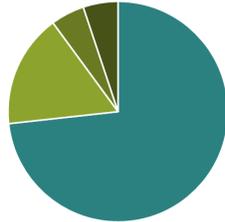
Community Statistics²

Surrey

Households: 152,845

Renter Households: 40,865

Rent >30% Income: 15,410

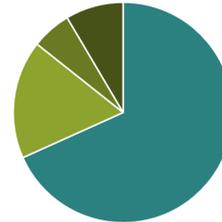


White Rock

Households: 9,870

Renter Households: 3,130

Rent >30% Income: 1,415

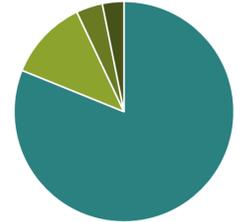


Delta

Households: 34,755

Renter Households: 6,565

Rent >30% Income: 2,450



■ 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

Surrey covers a large area of land and is experiencing consistent growth in its population creating much competition for housing. Many service providers within Metro Vancouver indicate that that Surrey is their alternate community if they are struggling to locate housing in their own community. Service providers in Surrey are experiencing increases in potentially fatal substance use, placing higher burdens on support staff. Homelessness interventions in Surrey are also supported by the Surrey Homelessness & Housing Society who make strategic financial investments in programs, projects and initiatives.

Factors for Success

- A number of formalized initiatives involving key community partners such as Fraser Health (Healthier Community Partnerships) and the RCMP (Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table) have been implemented in Surrey.
- The Surrey Homelessness & Housing Society engages the community to financially support homelessness initiatives in Surrey.
- Service providers meet monthly as part of the Homelessness Task Force.
- Libraries act as an information and resource hub in the community.
- The City of Surrey maintains a number of online resource lists identifying community resources that can assist people existing homelessness.
- Surrey has a partnership of providers currently delivering Housing First programming.

Surrey, White Rock & Delta

Areas of Challenge

- Surrey providers great challenge in identifying suitable, affordable housing for people exiting homelessness. Competition for market housing is felt by all renters within the community. Additional pressure for homelessness service providers comes from multiple organizations from other communities accessing Surrey as a source of housing for their clients.
- Surrey's housing situation highlights the need for coordinated approaches across municipalities and communities.
- Demands on staff are high while supporting a population experiencing increasingly volatile addictions and mental health issues.
- Experiences of stigmatization impact the reliability receiving support from needed services.
- Unregulated recovery houses create volatility in housing options for individuals seeking to exit homelessness attempting to identify supportive, affordable housing options.
- Service providers identify a lack of 'wrap-around supports' necessary to support individuals to sustain housing including case management services, landlord engagement and mental health support.
- Surrey providers seek support outside of the community for basic goods in establishing a home.
- Access to efficient transportation can limit an individual's ability to access services.

Potential Action Areas to Support Housing First Implementation

- Partner with other municipalities to coordinate support of providing housing, health and mental health support to people exiting homelessness.
- Assist communication between service providers by maintaining an email mailing list that allows service providers to easily communicate regarding developments in service delivery.
- 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 implementation of coordinated landlord engagement based on learnings from other Metro Vancouver and Canadian communities.
- Create arrangements with organizations in other communities where required resources are found to mutually assist each other in accessing services.

What other communities can learn from Surrey: successful collaboration with the City around homelessness

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

