

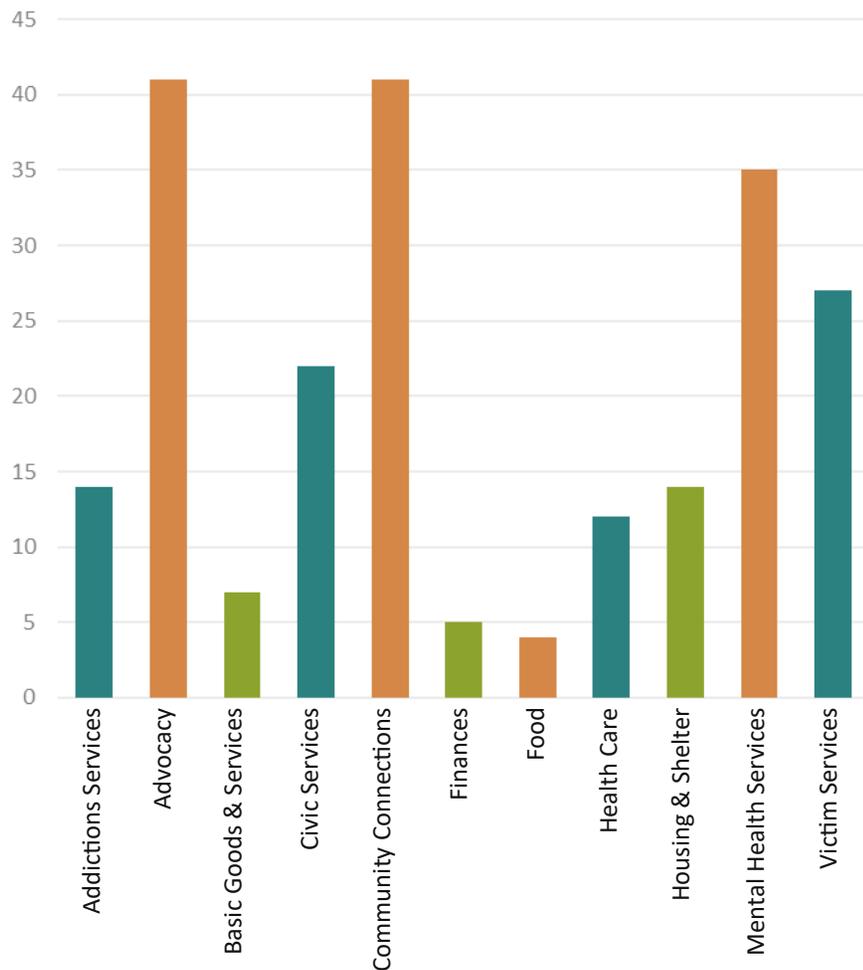


Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

Tri-Cities

(Includes Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore & Belcarra)

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 Tri-Cities.



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 Less Support Compared to Metro Vancouver

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Addiction Services | Food |
| Advocacy | Health Care |
| Community Connection Services | Housing & Shelter |
| Finances | Mental Health Services |

- Feedback from service providers about availability of supports generally aligns with service levels found in the data.
- Levels of service provision may not fully capture improvements that have been identified in building relationships with key community partners, such as the health authority and at the municipal level.

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

Tri-Cities

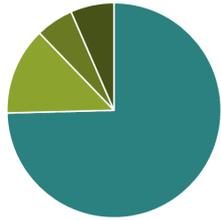
Community Statistics²

Coquitlam

Households: 45,550

Renter Households: 11,575

Rent >30% Income: 5,580

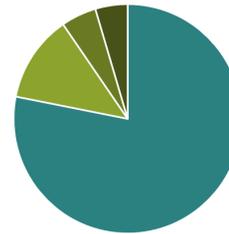


Port Coquitlam

Households: 20,650

Renter Households: 4,520

Rent >30% Income: 1,980

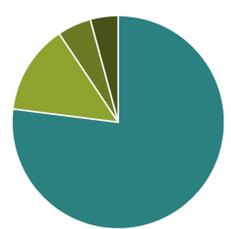


Port Moody

Households: 12,625

Renter Households: 2,905

Rent >30% Income: 1,185



■ 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. Anmore and Belcarra excluded.

Community Overview

The Tri-Cities is comprised of three major municipalities, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody. A permanent, year-round shelter opened in the Tri-Cities at the end of 2015. This has provided opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships that support people experiencing homelessness while also developing new relationships.

Factors for Success

- The Homes for Good Society, a successor to the Mayor's Action Team on Homelessness actively seeks out housing options and coordinates the supports necessary to keep newly housed individuals housed permanently.
- Through the Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group, engagement between homelessness service providers and city staff, social planners and community planners has improved.
- The Community Advisory Group, implemented as the new shelter was developed, provides connections with inter-municipal bylaws staff.
- Successful partnerships have been built with the local health authority, seeing health providers making shelter visits when referrals are in place.
- A number of partnerships with local businesses provide access to financial literacy and banking support and community meals.
- Partnerships with local thrift stores and other community groups provide access to low-cost and free goods needed to establish new homes.

Tri-Cities

Areas of Challenge

- Transportation is currently limited and impacts ability to access services.
- Housing affordability issues result in individuals making choices to share accommodation or accept risky housing situations, compromising their ability to successfully exit homelessness.
- Tri-Cities residents leave the community to access services such as emergency mental health services, some hospital services, addiction treatment services beyond residential treatment services.
- Availability of drop-in meal programs is limited.
- Admissions criteria and program delivery expectations can limit the access to programs and impact staff capacity to tailor service delivery to the needs of their clients.
- There is ongoing need to build relationships with two different police forces in the community to support engagement with people experiencing homelessness.

Potential Action Areas to Support Housing First Implementation

- The situation of homelessness in the Tri-Cities is in a period of transition with the opening of the new shelter as well as the development of the Evergreen Line. There is opportunity to continue to develop new relationships with recognizing that patience is necessary in this time of growth.
- Encourage existing private-sector partners to act as ‘champions’ for homelessness services and assist in building relationships with other needed community partners. Develop an appropriate recognition program to acknowledge community participation.
- Assist communication between service providers by maintaining an email mailing list that allows service providers to easily communicate regarding developments in service delivery.
- Create arrangements with organizations in other communities to mutually assist in accessing services between the communities.
- Build on success of provision of health services at the shelter to deliver services in community where people are housed and/or extend to include mental health services.

What other communities can learn from Tri-Cities: creation of successful Community Advisory Group to build relationship with community around homelessness services delivery

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

