

Understanding Metro Vancouver's Homeless Shelter System

1. Year-round Shelter Spaces	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary accommodation for people with no fixed address (beds and mats). - Provide support services such as food, clothing, counselling and referrals to other services and longer term housing.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Housing. - Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) and Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC). - Others (private funders).
Regional total	- 1,295 year-round shelter beds in Metro Vancouver (including Vancouver's 3 temporary shelters that are slated to close when transitional housing is completed).
2. Seasonal Shelter Spaces	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formerly known as 'cold/wet weather' services, these beds and mats typically from November through March. - Also includes 5 seasonal shelters which opened in December 2012. - Support services are typically on a more limited basis than in year-round services.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. - BC Housing - Private funders.
Regional total	- A total of 304 seasonal shelter spaces provided in Metro Vancouver.
3. Extreme Weather Response Shelter Spaces	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides extra overnight shelter spaces for people with no fixed address during periods of extreme weather. - Heavily dependent on volunteers with limited support services provided. - A crisis response to extreme weather occurrences, to augment ongoing shelter programs.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Housing - Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. - Others (non-profits, private funders).
Regional total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately 650 additional sheltering spaces. - 9 Extreme Weather Response plans are in place covering 14 municipalities.

Shelter Spaces by Community Dec. 2013)*	
Vancouver	Year-round 977 Seasonal 144 Total 1,121
Surrey	Year-round 117 Seasonal 40 Total 157
Maple Ridge	Year-round 30 Seasonal 15 Total 45
North Shore	Year-round 53 Seasonal 0 Total 53
New Westminster	Year-round 56 Seasonal 0 Total 56
Tri-Cities	Year-round 0 Seasonal 30 Total 30
Langley	Year-round 32 Seasonal 0 Total 32
Richmond	Year-round 10 Seasonal 6 Total 16
Regional (for seniors)	Year-round 20 Seasonal 0 Total 20
Regional Total	Year-round 1,295 Seasonal 245 Total 1,540

* Not including transition houses.

