



To: General Purposes Committee
From: Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development
Re: **Seniors Homelessness in Richmond**

Date: June 12, 2026
File: 07-3000-01/2025-Vol 01

Staff Recommendations

1. That a letter be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, and local Members of the Legislative Assembly to advocate for sustainable funding to enhance services that support seniors at risk of or experiencing homelessness;
2. That a letter be sent to the President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health; the Vice President, Richmond Community, Vancouver Coastal Health; the Vice President, Richmond Acute Care, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Medical Health Officer to advocate for sustainable funding to enhance services that support seniors at risk of or experiencing homelessness; and
3. That a request to meet with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Health at the 2026 Union of BC Municipalities Conference be submitted.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the work underway in Richmond to support seniors experiencing homelessness and to identify potential temporary shelter or accommodation options for seniors without housing. It highlights the distinct needs of seniors, including increased vulnerability related to health, mobility, personal care and service navigation, and highlights that these needs often require more specialized and coordinated responses than those of younger adults. The report describes the City's ongoing collaboration with community agencies, outreach providers, health partners, and senior levels of government to provide individualized support, improve access to services and strengthen the local response for seniors who are unsheltered or otherwise without stable housing.

The report reviews current information on seniors' homelessness in Richmond, identifies potential temporary shelter models that may be possible subject to funding from senior levels of government. The analysis is informed by community service data, the experience of frontline outreach and shelter providers, coordinated case management practices, focused planning with homelessness and seniors-serving organizations, engagement with BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health, and a preliminary scan of relevant program models in other jurisdictions. Together, this work informs potential program models appropriate to the needs of seniors in Richmond and will guide further development, partnership discussions and funding advocacy.

Staff Report

Origin

Council has requested staff to explore additional options for temporary emergency shelter for seniors experiencing homelessness including potential funding sources. This report responds to this request.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

The purpose of this interim report is to provide a summary regarding the work that the City, in partnership with the community, is currently engaged in and to propose models for temporary shelter for seniors without housing in Richmond. The report outlines these preliminary program models and proposes next steps. The models contained in this report require further analysis and development due to the complexity and multisectoral implications.

Analysis

Seniors who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable than younger adults, experience greater impacts on their health and well-being and may require different forms of shelter, housing or health-related support to meet their individual needs. These seniors often have complex needs related to their age, level of independence and health status. As a result, they often require more complex interventions and supports than younger people experiencing homelessness and often the supports needed involve health care components. Additionally, some seniors experience homelessness for the first time as older adults. It is not uncommon for them to be hesitant, fearful or embarrassed to access services or request support resulting in delays accessing services. Understanding the needs and perspectives of each individual senior is vital in determining the services, shelter and housing that would best support them.

When providing individualized support for seniors experiencing homelessness, there are a range of areas where additional or specialized assistance may be needed. These supports are essential for shelter or housing to be safe, appropriate and sustainable. These include:

- Activities of daily living (e.g. eating, bathing, dressing, toileting and mobility);
- Activities related to living independently (e.g. grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, managing finances, medications and appointments); and
- Access to programs and services such as navigating technology and online activities (e.g. banking, filing taxes, submitting online applications and booking appointments).

Even when the necessary resources and supports are clearly identified, navigating the systems involved and accessing the most appropriate service for optimal outcomes is complex for many of the following reasons:

- Waitlists for health care and housing remain long;
- Many services for seniors support people in their homes and are challenging to undertake in a tent, a vehicle or an emergency shelter;

- Referrals to medical specialists must be made by a primary care physician; and
- If a senior requires care such as assisted living or long-term care, emergency shelters or rental housing is challenging and poses risks.

Responding to homelessness is complex and involves various government and community service partners, faith-based organizations and individuals. Seniors are prioritized by the City's Homelessness Outreach Team and community service providers to receive individualized assistance to access services that are aligned with their unique needs and health or housing related goals. Service providers offer referrals to access the specialized supports and government benefits available to seniors at risk of or experiencing homelessness and respond quickly and collaboratively to prioritize seniors when resources are being allocated in the community.

Senior Government Responsibility for Seniors Health, Housing and Homelessness

There are a number of areas related to seniors homelessness, including ensuring there are appropriate types of shelter and housing to meet their unique needs, where jurisdiction for funding and provision of programs and services rests with the provincial and federal governments. These include emergency shelters, supportive housing, emergency and acute medical care, home health supports, assisted living and long-term care. In addition, income supports such as Old Age Security and other financial supports and benefits are also within the realm of senior levels of government.

While considerable collaborative work is being executed in the community to respond to homelessness, further supports are required in Richmond to respond to the unique and often complex needs of seniors experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including:

- Increased and expedited access to primary care physicians;
- Access to specialized medical practitioners including gerontologists;
- Flexible home health supports that can be delivered for seniors without housing;
- Shelter and supportive housing options appropriate for seniors including accessible beds and units; and
- Increased assisted living and long-term care beds.

While these areas are primarily the responsibility of senior levels of government, the City of Richmond invested \$3,496,660 in its response to homelessness in 2025 and continues to provide significant investment. Advocacy to senior levels of government continues to be needed for additional, sustained funding to expand the range of emergency shelter options in Richmond and to support innovative, locally-driven options specifically for seniors who require immediate shelter and wrap around supports. Should Council approve the recommendations in this report a request will be made to meet with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Health at the Union of BC Municipalities Conference in September 2026 to discuss Richmond's context and the support needed from the Province.

Collaborative Support and Community-Based Approach

The partnerships amongst service providers in Richmond are a unique and successful example of a community-based model of collaboration and shared case management. This is a strength of the Richmond approach to supporting seniors experiencing homelessness and contributes valuable information to inform community-led decision making and advocacy with intersecting partners, including Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Housing. These strong, established relationships have

enabled the community to prioritize, advocate for and in some cases, expedite access to resources for highly vulnerable individuals and complex circumstances such as seniors experiencing homelessness. Staff across organizations are committed to assisting seniors experiencing homelessness to navigate multiple systems and secure support that aligns with their unique needs. The typical system navigation process, common decision points and the range of referrals considered by the Homelessness Outreach Team and other service providers in supporting a senior experiencing homelessness is outlined in Attachment 1.

Coordinated case management is the focal point of Richmond's Integrated Outreach Team. This team is committed to ensuring informed client consent prior to sharing personal information and abides by formal privacy and confidentiality practices. Collaboration within this team is critical and ensures that a range of housing, health and financial supports can be explored simultaneously by staff from various government and community service organizations. This helps to maximize opportunities, leverage resources and increase the range of options being explored while protecting the privacy and confidentiality of individuals receiving support. Not all outreach organizations or individuals in Richmond are part of the Integrated Outreach Team however any member of the Homelessness Outreach Worker Network (the Network) can refer an individual, with their consent, to the team for support and then share information directly with relevant service providers. The membership of the Integrated Outreach Team and the Network is provided in Attachment 2.

Consistent access to information and up-to-date resources is vital to supporting seniors experiencing homelessness. The members of the Network also support seniors at risk of or experiencing homelessness through their individual organizations or mandates. Members of the Network deliver site-based or street outreach services to individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Richmond and include individual volunteers, informal faith-based teams, grant funded programs, non-profit service providers and government entities.

There are also community organizations that offer specialized programs that respond to the unique needs of seniors and provide resources and supports including the Seniors Housing Information Navigation Ease (SHINE) program and Home Health Services. Specific government income supports and financial supplements may also be directed at seniors of various ages depending on their individual circumstances. Familiarizing seniors with these and supporting them with access is another key component of collaboration and community support. These organizations are actively engaged alongside homelessness service providers in supporting seniors without housing in Richmond where appropriate. A list of specialized programs and funding sources are outlined in Attachment 3.

All of the community service organizations noted are providing individualized supports to seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond to fulfill their shelter, housing and health-related goals. Continued provision of high priority, individualized support to seniors experiencing homelessness including access to basic necessities, referrals to emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing for those who are recently homeless is ongoing. Overall, it is estimated that the number of seniors (55+ years) without access to emergency shelter or housing is in the mid-20s with the majority of these being between the ages of 55 and 64 years. Additional information and data regarding seniors homelessness and service utilization in Richmond is outlined in Attachment 4.

Jurisdictional Scan of Program Models to Support Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

In order to identify additional options for temporary emergency shelter for seniors experiencing homelessness that could be applicable to the Richmond context, a preliminary jurisdictional scan has been completed. The scan looked at unique program models in other municipalities to support seniors who are or have experienced homelessness. Funding for these models has typically been provided by a range of senior government entities, including the Federal Reaching Home Program, BC Housing and specific provincial ministries in addition to grants and community fundraising. Details about the most relevant program models can be found in Attachment 5. This information has helped to inform conversations with government and community service providers in order to identify potential programs that would be relevant to the Richmond context.

Strengthening Richmond's Response to Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

Richmond has a strong system of collaborative organizations working with individuals experiencing homelessness. Organizations regularly engage in both individual case planning and broader systems-level work to build on current strengths in Richmond and to identify areas for further development or system level improvements. The Richmond Community Homelessness Table, an Interagency Working Group and a Health Sector working group continue to work together to foster conditions for optimal outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond, including seniors. There have been three recent meetings with a specific focus on the needs and experiences of seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

In addition to these meetings, a recent focused planning session was held with community service providers involved in both homelessness services and seniors services, including the City of Richmond, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, The Progressive Housing Society, Chimo Community Services, The Salvation Army, Turning Point Recovery Society, Refuge Church's After Hours Outreach Program and Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives' SHINE program. This session built on the previous collaborative work outlined above but was specifically focused on additional actions that can be taken related to temporary shelter options for seniors, including for those with additional or complex needs beyond the need for shelter. Various preliminary program models were presented, discussed and refined based on their relevance and applicability to the Richmond context.

Recent meetings have also taken place with BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health regarding the current situation related to seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond and the shortage of temporary shelter appropriate to respond to the complexity of age-related factors and seniors' unique needs. Also discussed were provincially funded resources and supports for seniors at risk of or experiencing homelessness within their mandate such as emergency shelter, long term care and housing. While no new funding is currently available from either entity, it was recommended that staff:

- Explore a model of temporary emergency shelter appropriate to the needs of seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond and the specific context of the Richmond community;
- Develop a proposal for this Richmond-based model to present to BC Housing for consideration should funding become available; and
- Continue collaboration between government and community service organizations to identify and leverage opportunities to enhance system efficiency and capacity.

Relationships with the health sector where the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness intersect with or require access to health-related supports are being strengthened and progress is being made to enhance access to health services in ways that respond to the needs of individuals without housing and this important work will continue. Based on these discussions, preliminary program models are outlined in the following section.

Potential Program Models for Temporary Shelter for Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

In order to identify potential options that may be relevant to temporary shelter specifically for seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond, the following factors, as outlined above in this report, were considered:

- The unique needs of seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond;
- The range of services, community capacity and opportunities that currently exist in Richmond to support seniors;
- The demographic information and service data available on seniors experiencing homelessness, including the age range;
- The program models identified through the jurisdictional scan; and
- Potential funding sources in alignment with senior government responsibilities.

This information has been used to inform potential models for temporary shelter and community-based solutions for seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond. Based on the research and engagement conducted to date, there are three preliminary potential program models that have applicability to Richmond. These program models have various levels of staffing and oversight but each requires an operator for implementation. Descriptions and considerations for the models are outlined in Table 1. These require further analysis and evaluation due to the complexity of multisectoral and intergovernmental program and senior government funding.

Table 1: Potential Program Models

	Description	Considerations
Emergency Shelter Program for Seniors (55+)	A staffed, 10-bed emergency shelter designed specifically for seniors 55+ years who are experiencing homelessness. Accessible single or double occupancy bedrooms, secure storage, along with access to shared amenities and living spaces, nutritious meals, and access to essential resources such as medical care, mental health services and social support specifically tailored for seniors to help them transition to more permanent housing solutions.	• Requires capital and operational funding. • Typically, emergency shelters are funded by BC Housing. No funding is currently available for new programs. • May be accommodated in a single-family home. • Renovations to enhance accessibility and purpose will be required. • Requires an operator to be identified. • The wrap around services to support personal care and seniors health may be accessed through individualized referrals in the absence of broader health-related funding. • Depending on funding source, age requirements could be more specific (e.g. 60+ or 65+).

Table 1: Potential Program Models (Continued)

	Description	Considerations
Seniors Safe House	A multi-bedroom house that can accommodate up to 8 residents 55+ years for short term bridge housing during the process to secure long-term housing. Accessible single or double occupancy bedrooms, secure storage, along with access to shared amenities and living spaces. Residents receive help from onsite staff with securing housing, accessing income assistance, connecting to healthcare and navigating other community services.	- Requires capital and operational funding. - Typically, emergency shelters and transitional housing are funded by BC Housing. No funding is currently available for new programs. - May be accommodated in a single-family home. - Renovations to enhance accessibility and purpose will be required. - Requires an operator to be identified. - May be able to operate with partial staffing depending on needs of residents and enhancements through individualized services. - The wrap around services to support personal care and seniors health may be accessed through individualized referrals in the absence of broader health-related funding. - Depending on funding source, age requirements could be more specific (e.g. 60+ or 65+).
Scattered Site Model	Furnished apartments to provide temporary accommodation for seniors experiencing homelessness for up to three months while they seek permanent housing, Units are allocated by the operator but are unsupervised and unattended. Housing navigation and outreach support are provided by the operator. Individualized supports are provided via existing channels.	- Requires capital and operational funding. - Models identified in other areas are funded by BC Housing and Reaching Home. No funding is currently available for new programs. - Diversified model blends into community context. - Requires an operator to be identified. - Individuals must be able to live independently with home health services and other community supports based on their needs. - Offers additional privacy for those with personal care needs that is not afforded in group accommodation. - Lower operating cost.

These preliminary models require further analysis and evaluation due to the complexity and multisectoral nature of seniors' health and homelessness services. Staff will engage in further discussions with BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health regarding the applicability of these to Richmond, including potential funding. Simultaneously, the work currently in process to strengthen the current system of support for seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond will continue to be advanced.

Next Steps

Should Council approve the recommendations in this report, the following next steps will be undertaken:

- Write and submit the letters outlined to advocate for funding and services for Richmond; and
- Submit requests for Council to meet with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Health at the 2026 Union of BC Municipalities Conference.

In addition analysis and evaluation will be conducted to further develop preliminary program model(s) for temporary emergency shelter or accommodation for seniors in Richmond as outlined including costs and operational considerations; engage the Richmond Community Homelessness Table, government and community service providers and faith-based organizations for input; and discuss Richmond-specific program model(s) to BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health for their input and engagement.

While these activities are underway, staff will continue the work that is ongoing with individual seniors experiencing homelessness, collaborate with government and community service providers on system enhancements and, simultaneously, provide direct services and support to seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

Budgetary Implications

The current next steps and potential program models do not contemplate municipal funding at this time and there are no budgetary implications related to this report.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond has shown strong leadership and continues to work together with community and government partners to meet the complex needs of residents, including seniors, without housing. The development of a program model(s) for temporary shelter and accommodation for seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond will help to respond to a critical gap in the complement of services that are currently available in the community. Further advocacy to senior levels of government, which are primarily responsible for the areas of homelessness, health care and housing, also continues to be critically important to support seniors without homes.

In addition, collaborative work to support individual seniors and to address systemic challenges and gaps in access to appropriate shelter and health services for seniors experiencing homelessness remains an important priority for the City and community. Richmond has many quality programs and committed service providers who work together on a daily basis to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the continuation of this work remains vital to supporting vulnerable seniors in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Somerville, Director, Community Social Development

Report Contributors

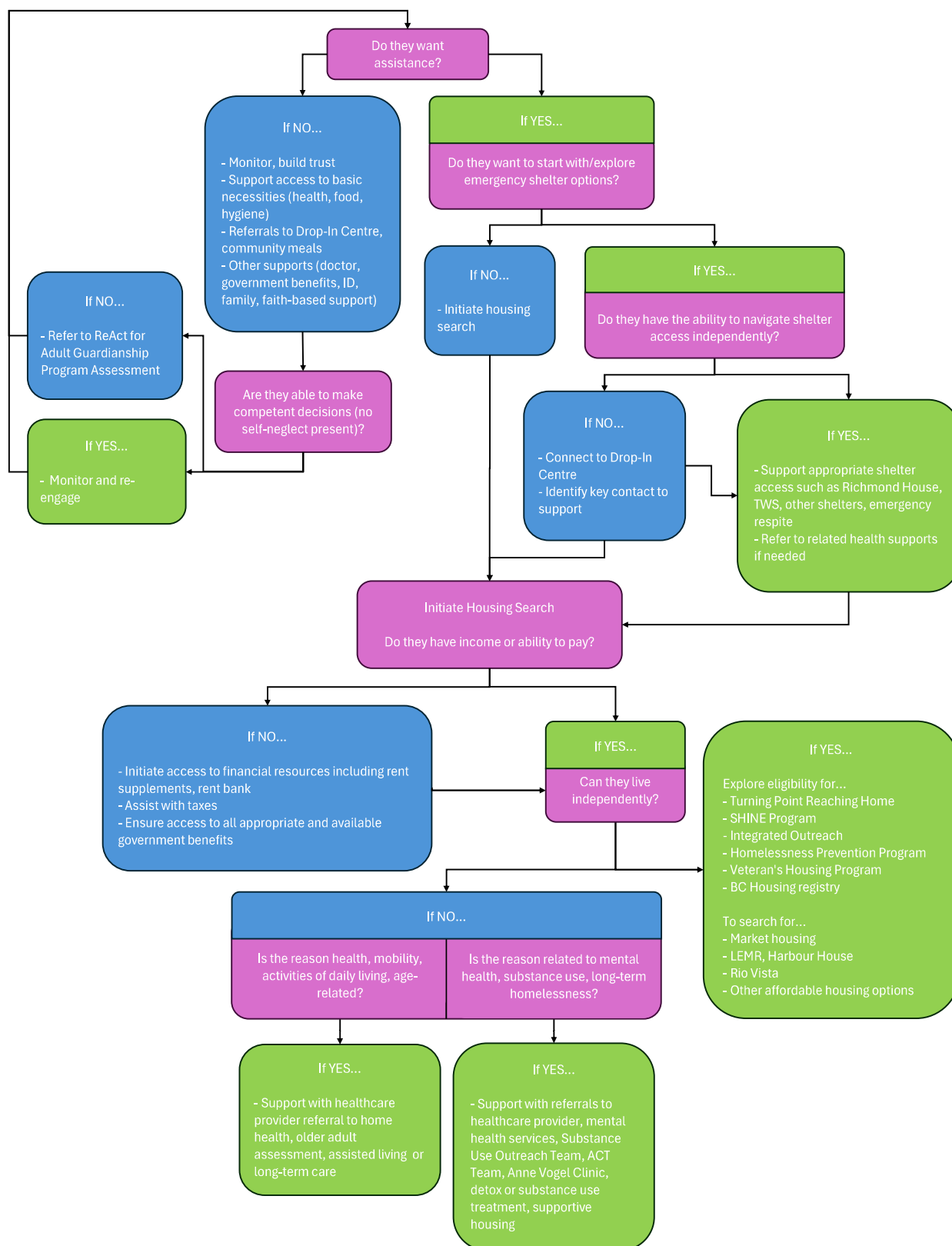
This report was prepared by Chris Duggan, Manager, Community Social Development and reviewed by Community Social Development.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

- Att. 1: Pathways to Supports, Shelter and Housing for Seniors Experiencing Homelessness
- 2: Current Richmond Homelessness-related Tables and Networks
- 3: Senior-Specific Services and Supports
- 4: Seniors Homelessness and Service Utilization in Richmond
- 5: Jurisdictional Scan of Program Models

Pathway to Supports, Shelter and Housing for Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

This flow chart provides an overview of how outreach staff and community service providers support seniors experiencing homelessness to connect with shelter, housing, and appropriate health and community-based services.



Current Richmond Homelessness-related Tables and Networks

Name	Mandate	Members
Richmond Community Homelessness Table	The Table provides strategic advice related to the Homelessness Strategy by identifying emerging issues, best practices, opportunities and policy changes as well as identifying gaps in existing services.	City of Richmond, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, The Progressive Housing Society, Chimo Community Services, Community Builders, RainCity Housing and Support Society, The Salvation Army and Turning Point Recovery Society.
Richmond Integrated Outreach Team	The Team is engaged in interagency case planning regarding clients who have provided informed consent to share information between member agencies and who would benefit from being served by multiple member agencies. The purpose is to reduce duplication, provide consistency and support individuals to secure appropriate shelter, housing and health supports.	Government or government-funded agencies with a mandate to support homelessness, that provide direct case management with clients and have privacy infrastructure and consent practices in place. Current members include City of Richmond, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Vancouver Coastal Health, The Progressive Housing Society, The Salvation Army and Turning Point Recovery Society.
Homelessness Outreach Worker Network	The Network provides a venue for sharing resources, referral options and service information, and supports relationship building, cooperation and communication between individuals engaged in outreach activities in Richmond.	Participation is open to any individual, group, organization or government agency that is directly involved in the delivery of street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond. Current members include City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, The Progressive Housing Society, The Salvation Army (multiple programs), Turning Point Recovery Society, Refuge Church After Hours Outreach, Union Gospel Mission, St. Albans, Pathways Clubhouse, BC Housing, and independent volunteers.

Senior-Specific Services and Supports

Organization	Areas of Responsibility	Funder
Vancouver Coastal Health	• Acute or emergency care through urgent care centres or hospitals. • Assessment for eligibility for home health support, assisted living, long term care. • Provision of home and community care services. • Assisted living and long-term care operations/direct service delivery. • ReAct Adult Protection Program in response to self-neglect or vulnerable adults who cannot seek support and assistance on their own.	Province of BC
BC Housing	• Funding for emergency and temporary shelter operations. • Management of BC Housing waitlist. • Funds and/or operates seniors specific housing sites. • Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program.	Province of BC
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	• Seniors Supplement for eligible low-income seniors. • Disability assistance for people designated as a Person with Disabilities (PWD).	Province of BC
Government of Canada	• Old Age Security (OAS) • Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) allowances • Canada Pension Plan (CPP) • Veterans Homelessness Program	Federal Government
Richmond Cares Richmond Gives	• Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease (SHINE) program designed to assist seniors in housing searches.	Province of BC
Faith based groups	• Distribute food and offer community meals. • Offer companionship and social activities designed to alleviate loneliness and isolation. • Individualized, short-term emergency accommodation.	Funded through grants, donations, independent support

Seniors Homelessness and Service Utilization in Richmond

The 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count (the Count) for Richmond indicated that there were 25 individuals experiencing homelessness who were seniors (55+ years). Twenty-three of the 25 were between the ages of 55 and 64 years and two were over 65 years. This number marks a small reduction compared to the 2023 Point-in-Time Count where 40 individuals identified as seniors. Thirty of those individuals were between 55 and 64 years and 10 were over 65 years. This information is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Point-in-Time Homeless Count Data

Year	55-64 Years	65+ Years	Total
2023	30	10	40
2025	23	2	25

Note: The response rate to demographic questions was much lower in 2025 (57 per cent) than in 2023 (79 per cent) resulting in greater potential of variability and reliability.

At this time, the estimate of seniors experiencing homelessness in Richmond is an approximation because of the different mandates of the organizations providing information, the type of service being provided and the specific demographic group the organization is focused on. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness is a very dynamic number and the housing status of individuals may fluctuate at any given time. Some organizations support both individuals who are at risk of homelessness (precariously housed, staying with friends or family members, or living in less than ideal circumstances) and those who do not have housing while others support only people who are sheltering outdoors, in vehicles or in emergency shelters. The City's Homelessness Outreach Team's mandate is to support people who are unsheltered or sheltering in vehicles in the community.

The information contained in the following tables outlines the community data from individual organizations regarding seniors experiencing homelessness that is currently available. As several organizations may be working with the same person, data sets contain some duplication as it is very common for people to access multiple services simultaneously.

Homelessness Outreach Team

The City's Homelessness Outreach Team provides community-based street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness and are actively working in the community. Outreach services include resources, referrals, case management, housing applications and search, help accessing treatment/detox/shelter and assistance with family reunification or relocation to their home community, support with medical appointments, hospital or urgent care visits, wellness checks, assistance with transportation, support with pet needs, clothing and snacks.

The Homelessness Outreach Team is currently supporting nine individuals over 55 years in Richmond without housing. These include people staying in shelters or vehicles and two who are known to be sheltering outdoors. Since its inception in mid-2024, the Team has assisted 13 individuals over the age of 55 years to access long term care, specialized housing for veterans, supportive housing or housing in the private market. Details related to client age are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Current Homelessness Outreach Team Client Age

	Seniors 55-64 years	Seniors 65+ years	Staying in Shelter, RV or vehicle
Homelessness Outreach Clients	6	3	7

Richmond Drop-in Centre

The Drop-in Centre, operated by The Progressive Housing Society (Progressive), provides site-based support offering resources, referrals, case management, housing applications and search, help accessing treatment/detox/shelter, support with medical appointments, hospital or urgent care visits, showers, laundry, lunch, snacks, haircuts, foot care, clothing, mail delivery, computer and internet access and recreational activities. Data provided by Progressive regarding Drop-in Centre visits for individuals over the age of 55 years between January 2026 and May 2026 is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: 2026 Drop-in Centre Usage

	January	February	March	April	May
Individuals 55+ years	11	15	12	11	6

Richmond House Emergency Shelter

The Salvation Army operates Richmond House Emergency Shelter (Richmond House) which provides emergency shelter 24 hours a day, meals, showers, laundry, resources, referrals, case management, housing applications and search, and help accessing treatment/detox. The Salvation Army provided information regarding seniors staying at Richmond House as of June 12, 2026. Presently, there are nineteen seniors staying at the shelter and nine of these are 65+ years. Although Richmond House has practices in place to limit an individual's stay in the shelter to 30 days, there is some flexibility to continue working with clients to secure alternative housing whenever possible. Currently, there are two senior clients who have stayed over 60 days. The Salvation Army is working with these two clients to arrange appropriate, organized departures rather than discharging them to the street.

Reaching Home Program

Turning Point Recovery Society (Turning Point) is the community entity for Richmond's federally funded Reaching Home Program. Reaching Home Program staff work closely with community service organizations to provide intervention when individuals are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Services may include short-term rental assistance and funding for housing set up, problem solving with landlords to prevent an eviction, housing applications and search, short term financial assistance for rental or utility arrears and clinical and treatment services such as assistance with hoarding. Turning Point is currently supporting 22 seniors through the Reaching Home Program, including seniors aged 55–64 years and 65+ years. In the past five months, 19 of the 22 seniors have been supported to access housing or remain housed through the program (Table 4).

Table 4: 2026 Turning Point Reaching Home Support to Seniors

Month	Seniors 55–64 years	Seniors 65+ years	Total Seniors Referred in 2026	Total Seniors who Accessed Housing
January 2026	1	1	2	2
February 2026	1	1	2	2
March 2026	2	0	2	2
April 2026	4	2	6	5
May 2026	5	2	7	6
Total	13	6	19	17

After Hours Outreach Program

The After Hours Outreach Program through Refuge Church provides evening/after hours outreach, is a member of the Homelessness Outreach Worker Network and facilitates referrals to the City's Homelessness Outreach Team, the Drop-in Centre and other community services. Services provided by the After Hours Outreach Program include hot meal distribution, resources, referrals, case management, housing applications and search, help accessing treatment/detox/shelter and assistance with family reunification or relocation to their home community, support with medical or dental appointments, hospital or urgent care visits, wellness checks, transportation, support with pet needs and other supports, including assessment of needed supplies, judicial, volunteer and employment assistance. During a recent meeting between the City and Refuge Church regarding the program, outreach staff indicated that they are currently involved with 26 individuals (55+ years) who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The majority of these individuals have been referred to or are working with other government or community service organizations in Richmond.

Jurisdictional Scan of Program Models

A preliminary scan has been completed of unique program models being used to support seniors or other vulnerable individuals that have potential applicability for Richmond. These are outlined below.

Program Model or Initiative	Organization	Description
Sparrow Older Adult Shelter	Sparrow Community Services Society, Abbotsford	A 30-bed emergency shelter for individuals 50+ years. The Sparrow Older Adults Shelter is a dedicated space for older adults experiencing homelessness, includes accommodations, nutritious meals, and access to essential resources such as medical care, mental health services, and social support specifically tailored for seniors to help them transition to more permanent housing solutions. Funded by BC Housing.
The Grove Shelter	Ruth and Naomi's Mission, Chilliwack	The Grove is a 42-bed shelter designed specifically for seniors aged 55+ who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Each guest has their own private room with a bed and secure storage, along with access to shared amenities that provide comfort and dignity. Partnership between BC Housing, City of Chilliwack and Ruth and Naomi's Mission.
Morningstar Seniors Safe House	Hollyburn Community Services Society, North and West Vancouver	A 7-bedroom house that can accommodate up to 8 residents aged 55+ years. Morningstar provides short term, home-like accommodations. Residents receive help securing housing, accessing income assistance, connecting to healthcare and navigating other community services. Capital funding through the Province of BC, operational funding of approximately \$60,000 annually is from grants and donations.
Temporary Housing Program	Senior Services Society, New Westminster and Vancouver	The Temporary Housing Program provides furnished apartments to provide temporary accommodation to homeless seniors (60+ years) in Metro Vancouver for up to three months while they seek permanent housing, in conjunction with tailored outreach services. Units are unsupervised and unattended. Funded by BC Housing and Reaching Home.
TOP Program	Vancouver Coastal Health	The TOP Program supports Richmond youth and adults who are involved with mental health services in independent living situations. The support is provided by 'in reach' clinicians who come to the home. This program involves agreements with landlords for market rental housing and wrap around supports provided by Vancouver Coastal Health. Units are unsupervised with visits scheduled on a frequency that aligns with the needs of the individual. Rent is paid by the individual and 'in reach' services are funded by Vancouver Coastal Health.