

Last fiscal year, more than \$170 million in provincial funding was provided to support subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 34,900 low-income individuals, seniors and families in the Vancouver Coastal Region.

Rent Supplements

The Rental Assistance Program helps low-income working families with the cost of private market rental housing. Introduced in 2006, the program was expanded in 2008 to help even more families by: increasing the income ceiling; raising the amount of assistance; and improving access for families with older children living at home in post-secondary school and families who care for adult children with disabilities. Working families earning up to \$35,000 a year can receive direct rent subsidies ranging from \$50 up to \$765 per month. The average monthly payment is approximately \$405. **Over 2,200 low-income working families in the Fraser Region receive assistance through this program.**

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) was expanded in 2006 to better meet the housing needs of low-income seniors by: increasing benefit levels and eligibility, including seniors who pay pad rentals for manufactured homes, increasing heat allowance to offset rising utility costs, and the removal of the 10-year Canadian residency requirement. The average monthly payment is approximately \$158. **More than 4,000 seniors' households in the region receive SAFER benefits.**

Supportive Housing

The province has a partnership with the City of Vancouver to build more than 1,500 new supportive units on 14 sites for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Half the new developments are open. The province is investing more than \$300 million and the city contributed the 14 parcels of land that are valued at \$64 million. In May 2010, Streethome Foundation became a partner in 8 of the new developments (1006 units) and committed to fundraise \$20 million.

Emergency Shelters and Homeless Outreach

- There are over 5,350 year-round emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements available throughout the region for those who are homeless that receive more than \$107 million in annual funding.
- Last year, more than 900 homeless individuals were provided with stable housing through the Homeless Outreach Program and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program that operates in Vancouver, North Shore and Squamish.

Support for Seniors & People with Disabilities

The province provides a range of housing options for seniors and people with disabilities in B.C.:

- **Seniors Rental Housing** provides apartments for those who are able to live independently with an affordable option for staying in the communities they love. Since 2009, 290 units have been completed in the region. Another 60 units are under development.
- **Assisted Living** gives seniors the help they need to continue living independently in their home communities near family and friends. Nearly 905 units have been completed in the region.
- **Seniors Supportive Housing** provides specially modified rental housing to seniors and people with disabilities. There are around 765 existing seniors' units being converted under the program across the Province – approximately 160 are in the Vancouver Coastal Region.

Aboriginal Housing

The province supports 1,100 units of dedicated Aboriginal Housing in the region.

Women's Transition Housing and Supports Services

In the Vancouver Coastal region, there are approximately 105 transition housing beds, 60 second stage housing units and one safe home program to support women (with or without dependent children) who have experienced domestic violence or are at risk of experiencing abuse.

New Affordable Housing Developments Since 2006

- **Sanford Apartments** (Vancouver, 2012) Supportive housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Pacific Coast Apartments** (Vancouver, 2012) - Supportive housing development for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Skwachàys Healing Lodge** (Vancouver, 2012) - Affordable housing apartments for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and healing lodge apartments for Aboriginal individuals and their immediate family who need to travel to Vancouver for medical services
- **Dunbar Apartments** (Vancouver, 2012) - Supportive housing development for adults living with mental health challenges who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Aboriginal Mother Centre** (Vancouver, 2011) - Aboriginal mothers and children at risk of homelessness now have access to transformational homes that are linked to cultural traditions.
- **601 East Hastings** (Vancouver, 2011) – Shelter and housing development for men and women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **The Lux** (Vancouver, 2009) Supportive housing for people dealing with addictions, mental health and at risk of homelessness.
- **Dany Guincher House** (Vancouver 2008) - Housing for those at risk of homelessness, families fleeing abusive relationships, and independent disabled people.
- **5616 Fraser** (Vancouver, 2007) - Supportive housing for adults with mental health and addiction.
- **Grace Mansion** (Vancouver, 2007) - Transition housing in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside with for people who are at risk of homelessness,
- **The Vivian** (Vancouver, 2007) – Housing for homeless women and women at risk of homelessness.
- **Covenant House** (Vancouver, 2010) Transitional housing beds with support services for homeless and at-risk youth.