

Special Needs Households and Homes

CityPlan

Riley Park/South Cambie **RPSC**

Some individuals have physical or mental disabilities, injuries, or medical conditions that make independent living difficult and for which they need some form of assistance or care.

Care at Home

Many, including frail seniors and people with severe physical disabilities, are able to live independently, with assistance provided in their homes through community health care services, and perhaps with some modifications to their dwelling. In 2001, 87.6% of the city's population who were 75 years or older lived in private dwellings. The majority of people who have mental illness are also able to live independently.

Extended Care and Hospitals

At the other end of the spectrum of care are those with more severe disabilities who are not independently mobile and who require 24-hour care. This level of care has been provided by extended care facilities and acute care hospitals.

Special Needs Residential Facilities (SNRFs)

Special needs residential facilities (SNRFs) provide housing and support services for people whose needs are not met by either of the situations above, that is, they cannot be looked after in their own homes, but they do not require hospital-level care.

Seniors

For seniors, these facilities include:

- intermediate care facilities providing some nursing assistance; and
- personal care homes with single or shared rooms and meals provided.

Other Needs

Besides the elderly, SNRFs also serve people requiring on-site staff to provide care and supervision. These include:

- children in care (although most of these are in foster homes rather than residential facilities);
- mentally or physically handicapped people;
- people with substance abuse problems;
- people who are homeless or fleeing abusive relationships; and
- terminally ill people.

City Policy on SNRFs

There are three different types of SNRFs described in the Zoning and Development By-law. They fall into two categories:

- those that do not require special City review and approval, and
- those that do require special City review and approval.

Facilities That Do Not Require Special City Review & Approval

Community Care Class A: These are the smallest facilities. They are licensed under the Provincial Community Care Facility Act and have 10 or fewer persons, not more than 6 of whom are in care. A wide range of people in need are served by these facilities, though not generally seniors who are more likely to live in the larger Class B facilities described below.

According to Provincial legislation in 1990, municipalities are required to treat these small facilities as if they were single-family houses, with no special review and approval procedures. This means that throughout most of the city, including

the single-family zones, these facilities are outright uses.

Facilities That Require Special City Review and Approval

The SNRFs described below are allowed as conditional uses in almost all areas of the city. This means they require individual review and approval and notification of neighbours.

To discourage the clustering of facilities in particular areas, the City adopted locational guidelines that require new SNRFs for non-seniors to be at least 200 metres (650 feet) away from any existing SNRF in residential areas.

Distinguishing among these types of SNRFs means that a facility cannot change its operation from one group to another without development review and approval.

Community Care Class B: These are facilities licensed under the Community Care Facility Act and that have seven or more persons in care. Class B includes the larger seniors facilities.

Group Living:

Group Living facilities are for 6 or more persons where staff provide care, supervision, guidance or counselling related to physical or mental disabilities, psychiatric problems, drug or alcohol problems, legal custody, emergency or crisis situations. These are many of the same needs as served by Class A and B facilities, but the people in the Group Living facilities require a less structured program.

SNRFs in RPSC

The map shows the location of SNRF facilities in PSC as of April, 2004. Each facility is shown with one or two letters indicating the type of SNRF. Within RPSC there are ten SNRFs with a total of 343 beds, representing 7.1% of the total SNRF beds in the city. This is higher than the area's share of the city's total population (5.3%).

The facilities in RPSC include community care facilities and group living facilities. Three facilities have over 25 beds, with up to 127 beds in the largest care facility. The remaining six facilities have eight beds or less. The SNRFs are distributed across Riley Park/South Cambie.

Sources

- Vancouver Social Planning Department .Statistics Canada, 2001 Census.

Special Needs Residential Facilities in RPSC

