



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN VANCOUVER

West 8th Avenue at Arbutus Street

2086 and 2098 West 7th Avenue, 2091 West 8th Avenue

March 2021





Overview

- Understanding homelessness
- The need for supportive housing in Vancouver
- How this housing will help people in need
- The proposal for homes with supports on W 8th Ave at Arbutus St
- Creating welcoming and inclusive communities
- Process and next steps



Understanding homelessness

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**It takes a
community to
address
homelessness**

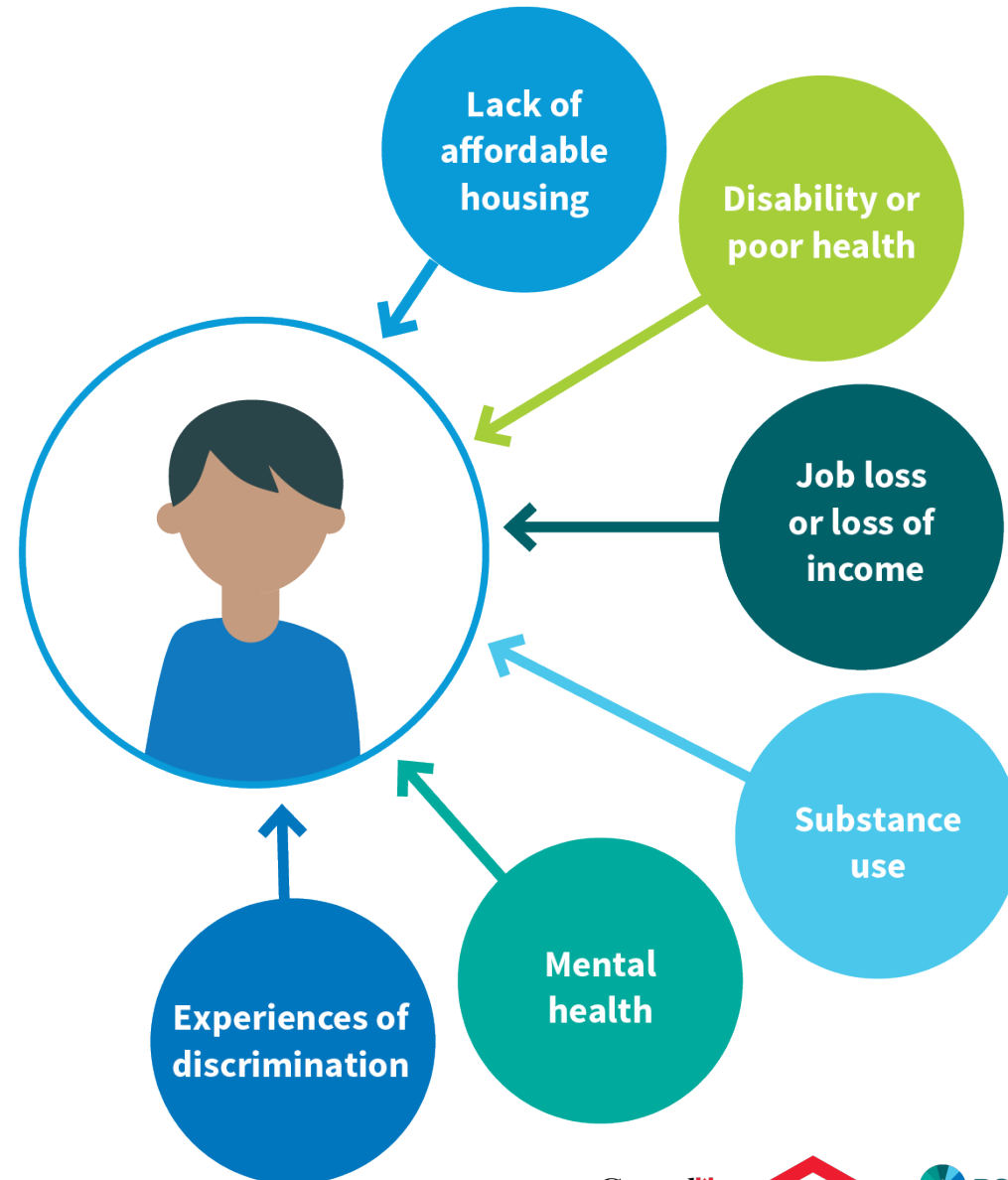


Helping people in need

People who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness are not all the same.

They can be young people, seniors, people with disabilities, and anyone who has experienced trauma, poverty, or struggled with the high cost of housing.

Each person requires a unique combination of services and programs to support their health and wellbeing.





Homes with supports help create safe, inclusive communities for everyone

Bringing people inside means there are fewer people outside struggling to survive. When a person chooses to live in supportive housing, they:

- have a warm, safe place to call home
- can access the necessities of life such as food, washrooms, and laundry
- can begin to heal from the damage caused by living outside
- strengthen community connections



Orca Place

Watch how a community welcomed a new supportive housing building in Parksville, BC.

Orca Place

Parksville Supportive Housing





The need for supportive housing in Vancouver

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Vancouver needs supportive housing

Vancouver is in a housing crisis and more than 2,000 people across the city are experiencing homelessness.

Creating warm, safe homes with supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in our communities continues to be a top priority for BC Housing and the City of Vancouver.



Cliff's story of homelessness

Cliff suffered an injury and was unable to work. Without an income, Cliff lost his home and ended up living on the streets for seven months.

“It’s hard to go to work when you’re homeless. You don’t know where you’re going to be the next day. It’s no fun having no home and having to carry everything you own on your back.”

This situation that took someone to homelessness could happen to anyone.

Since moving into supportive housing, Cliff can make it through the whole month with the amount of money he has. He has access to support staff, meals and has received help with his resume. Cliff started looking for work and spends a few days a week volunteering at the shelter he was staying at when he was homeless to give back to the community.





“The need for housing with supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver has never been greater. For someone who has been living outside, or in unstable housing, having a warm, safe space to call home is life-saving. Supportive housing offers the added benefit of being able to connect people directly to the help they need.”

– *Carnegie Homelessness Outreach Team Member*



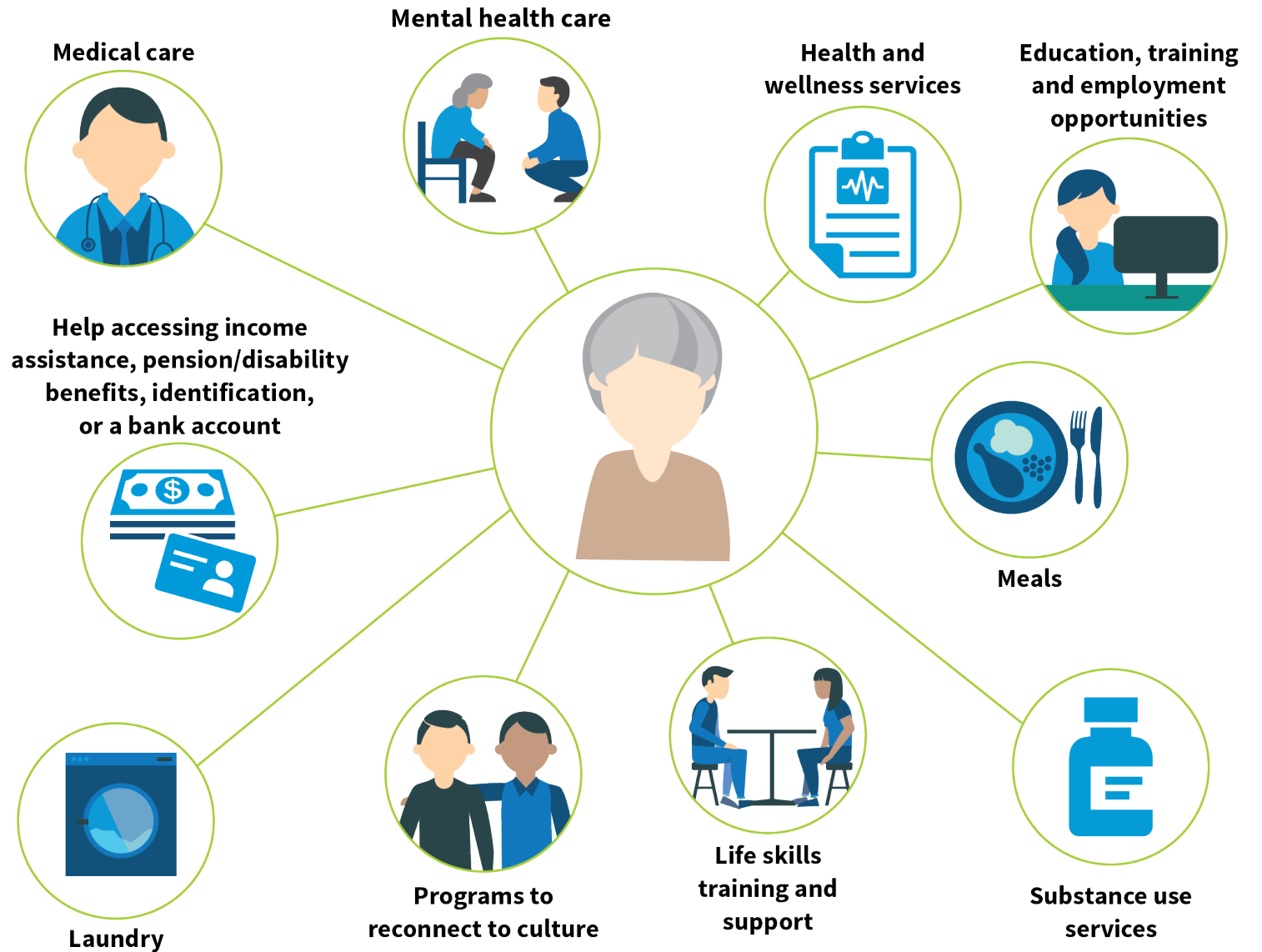
How this housing will help people in need

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Supportive housing:

A vital connection to programs and services





How supportive housing programs are managed

All supportive housing programs are managed by non-profit housing operators that bring professional building management experience and expertise providing customized supports tailored to meet the unique needs of each resident.

All residents in supportive housing have made a choice to live there, pay rent, and are able to access the supports provided by non-profit housing operators, health care professionals and other community-based programs.



Tamara's story

Watch the story of how supportive housing changed Tamara's life.





The proposal for homes with supports on W 8th Ave at Arbutus St

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New warm, safe homes with supports on West 8th Avenue at Arbutus Street

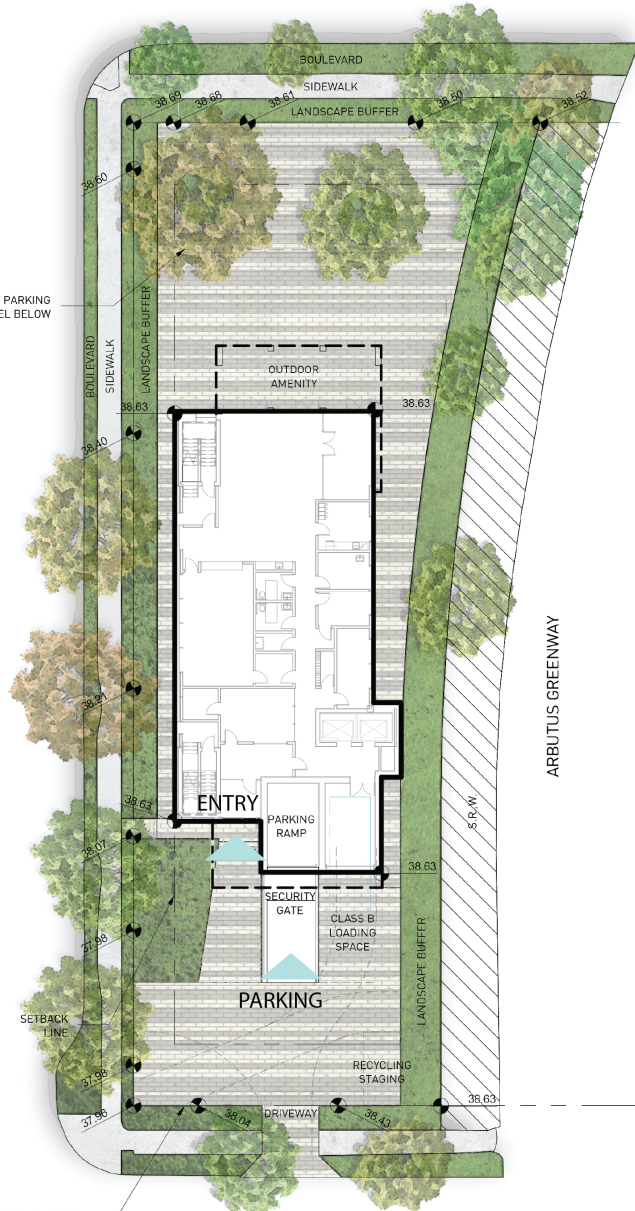
- The new building proposed at 2086 and 2098 West 7th Avenue, 2091 West 8th Avenue would be 12 storeys and offer approximately 140 studio homes with supports for single adults, seniors and people with disabilities who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness in the local community.
- All units would be studio apartments with a private bathroom and kitchen
- At least 5% of the homes would be fully accessible
- The building would also include amenities such as laundry, a dining area, program space, and an underground parkade



West 8th Avenue and Arbutus Street project location



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a modern residential building. The building features a mix of colors including red, orange, yellow, and blue. It has multiple stories with large windows and balconies. In the foreground, a street scene is depicted with a person riding a bicycle, a person walking, and a group of people standing near a set of stairs leading to the building. The background includes green trees and a clear blue sky. The overall style is clean and modern, with a focus on community and urban living.





Example of a supportive housing studio home in Vancouver





Creating welcoming and inclusive communities

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Supporting the success of the proposed building

“We’ve been part of opening multiple buildings of supportive housing in Vancouver and are always impressed by the way the community comes together to welcome their new neighbours. We’ve seen many different ideas: welcome baskets, food deliveries and free passes to the local community centre for the new residents. Every action, big or small, goes a long way in making the new resident feel at home.”

– Julie Roberts, Community Builders Group





Supporting the success of the proposed building

Baaad Anna's—a knitting shop in Vancouver—had a goal of getting a warm handmade item to each new resident in supportive housing opened by the City of Vancouver over the past two years.

That's nearly 400 handmade items to make new residents feel welcome in their homes.



Process and next steps

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Opportunities for community input

Through the City of Vancouver's development process, we invite community feedback on aspects of the development proposal, including:

- Building and site design elements, such as lighting and landscaping
- Local representation for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Should these new homes be approved, a CAC would be established with members from the community and project partners to maintain and facilitate information sharing once the project is complete
- Ideas for how to support the success of the proposed building

As with any other development in Vancouver, information about a building's future residents such as their race, gender, level of income, private healthcare needs, or sexual orientation does not factor into City Council's decision to approve a site.

Moving forward at West 8th Avenue at Arbutus Street



Dates in the timeline are approximate and subject to change.



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN VANCOUVER

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Questions or comments

Visit **Let's Talk Housing BC** website:
letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-west-8

Submit inquiries through:

- Email at communityliaison@bchousing.org
- By calling the Community Liaison at 604-829-9321, Monday to Friday 9a.m. to 4 p.m.

