

Glossary of terms

Adequate Housing —Housing that does not require any major repairs. Housing that is inadequate may have excessive mold, poor heating, significant damage, etc.

Affordable Housing — Housing is considered affordable when it costs less than 30% of before-tax household income. Housing is not affordable when it costs so much that individuals and families have trouble paying for other necessities such as food, health, and transportation.

At-Risk of Homelessness – Refers to people whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

Coordinated Access & Assessment (CAA) — CAA creates a streamlined application form and point of access to supportive housing, and to ensure clients are effectively matched with the supports and housing that can best support their social and/or health care needs in a timely and transparent manner.

Community Advisory Committee —The non-profit housing operator of new supportive housing leads the formation of a committee to support the successful integration into the community. The committee includes participation from BC Housing, Island Health, municipalities, RCMP, BIA/Chamber, school district or any other community partners, service providers and community members at large.

Emergency Housing — Housing which permits stays of 30 days or less specifically for individuals in emergency circumstances.

Episodically Homeless — Refers to those who move in and out of homelessness.

Hidden Homelessness — Refers specifically to individuals who live temporarily with others without the guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.

Homelessness — Describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, and ability to acquire it.



Housing First Model — A recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing. It is followed by the provision of additional supports and services as needed.

Point-in-Time Counts — Provide a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a specific date in a community.

Shelter — Temporary spaces for people experiencing homelessness. Shelters provide single or shared bedrooms or dorm-type sleeping arrangements with varying levels of support to individuals. They usually provide food and a variety of other services. Some shelter spaces are only made available seasonally or when weather conditions are hazardous.

- Ex) Warmland House, 2579 Lewis Street, Duncan
- Ex) SOCIETY FOR EQUITY, INCLUSION & ADVOCACY (SEIA), St. Peter's Catholic Church, 301 Machleary St, Nanaimo

Social Housing — A housing development that government subsidizes to offer affordable rental rates and that either government or a non-profit housing partner owns and/or operates.

Subsidized Housing — Any housing for which a level of government or non-profit provides some type of funding or subsidy. Often referred to as *social housing*.

- Ex) Albion Place, 510 Pine Street, Nanaimo

Substance Use — Refers to all types of drug and alcohol use.

Supportive Housing — Supportive housing is subsidized housing with on-site supports. These supports help people find and maintain housing stability. Supportive housing provides a range of on-site, non-clinical supports, such as life-skills training and connections to primary health care, mental health or substance use services.

Temporary Supportive Housing — Short-term supportive housing offered in response to an emergency or crisis situation where a large number of people experiencing homelessness must be housed. All residents receive the same services as permanent supportive housing.

For example, Newcastle Place at 250 Terminal Ave. to provide 80 homes in response to a homeless encampment. Now operated by Island Crisis Care Society.

Unsheltered — Living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation.