

DID YOU KNOW?

TYPES OF HOUSING TO ASSIST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Confusion about the different types of housing for those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness is common. Here, we'll focus on how different kinds of housing models work.

SHELTERS

Shelters are temporary spaces for people experiencing homelessness. Shelters can be single rooms, shared bedrooms or dorm-type bedrooms. Shelters usually provide food and a variety of other services. Some shelter spaces are only available seasonally or when weather conditions are hazardous.

The [Unitarian Shelter](#) on Townsite Road is an example of a year-round shelter operating in Nanaimo. The total number of shelter spaces in Nanaimo is approximately 150, which is far below the current need.

There are over 433 people currently experiencing homelessness in Nanaimo and lack of shelter beds has led to a high number of people being forced to sleep on the streets.

SUPPORTIVE / TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Supportive housing gives people the help they need to move out of shelters and off the streets. Supportive housing stabilizes lives by providing on-site supports like access to mental and physical health care, life-skills training, education and more. The ultimate goal is to help people reset their lives so they can find stability and eventually live independently.

DID YOU KNOW?

The housing at 6025 Uplands Drive in Nanaimo is a supportive housing unit run by [Pacifica Housing](#), with 33 studio apartments.

TEMPORARY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

This is short-term supportive housing in response to an emergency or crisis situation where a large number of people must be housed. An example of temporary supportive housing in Nanaimo is Newcastle Place at 250 Terminal Ave., operated by [Island Crisis Care Society](#). This project provided 80 homes in response to a homeless encampment.

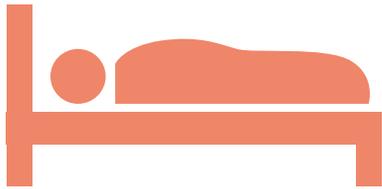
SUBSIDIZED HOUSING / SOCIAL HOUSING

These are housing developments that the government or a non-profit subsidizes to offer “affordable” rental rates (less than 30% of before-tax household income). The government or a non-profit housing partner owns and/or operates social housing. Albion Place at 510 Pine Street is a subsidized housing facility.

Different types of housing models, with different levels of supports, allow social service agencies to meet people where they’re at on their path to stability and independent living.

DID YOU KNOW?

HOUSING THAT HELPS THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



SHELTER

Shelters are temporary spaces for people experiencing homelessness and can be single rooms, shared bedrooms or dorm-type bedrooms. Shelters usually provide food and a variety of other services.



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Supportive housing gives people the help they need to move out of shelters and off the streets. Supportive housing provides on-site supports like access to mental and physical health care, life-skills training, education and more. The ultimate goal is to help people reset their lives so they can find stability and eventually live independently.



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING / SOCIAL HOUSING

Housing developments that the government or a non-profit subsidizes to offer "affordable" rental rates (less than 30% of before-tax income). The government or a non-profit housing partner owns and/or operates social housing.



TEMPORARY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Short-term supportive housing in response to an emergency or crisis situation where a large number of people must be housed.

DID YOU KNOW?

RESOURCES: TYPES OF HOUSING TO ASSIST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

ARTICLES

[Prideaux Place: Emergency Response Centre](#)

[Robarts House: Salvation Army's new transition house](#)

[Samaritan House: Programs for women](#)

[Unitarian Shelter: Overnight respite from the streets](#)

[Young Mothers Transition House](#)

[A Story of Gratitude from Newcastle Place](#)

VIDEOS

[Nanaimo's Affordable Housing](#)

[Orca Place - Parksville Supportive Housing](#)

[Susan's Story - Newcastle Place](#)

WEBSITES

[Nanaimo Homeless Coalition](#)

[Homeless Hub](#)

FACTSHEETS

[Affordable Housing](#)

[Homelessness in Nanaimo](#)

[Housing & Homelessness Glossary](#)