



Dec 7th, 2020

Update on Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) for the Capital Region

Dear Community Partners,

In 2019, BC Housing (BCH), Capital Regional District (CRD) and Island Health (VIHA) partnered to develop a **Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) process for supportive and supported housing** within the capital region. ***Supportive Housing is subsidized housing with on-site staff supports. Depending on site, services may include health support, clinical support, guest management support and meals.***

Coordinated Access and Assessment is a system that streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to access many of the programs and services in the homelessness system of care. It also uses a single application for individuals experiencing homelessness in order to have a comprehensive understanding of community needs. CAA is essentially best practices for working together in a coordinated way so that people experiencing chronic homelessness can be offered housing and supports to meet their needs.

There are about 1600 total supportive housing units in more than 46 buildings managed within this current Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) system in our region. **This Coordinated access system includes managing access into permanent and temporary motel/ supportive housing sites.** There are two "streams" of buildings within the CAA spectrum of Supportive Housing. The BCH stream and the Island Health (transitional and treatment) provide a range of housing and supports; and the two streams of units are tenanted differently. In all cases, individuals considered for supportive housing must have a demonstrated need for supportive housing and must meet site and program criteria.

BC Housing Supportive Housing Stream

To apply for supportive housing, please complete the BC Housing supportive housing registry application (SHR app) <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/housing-with-support/supportive-housing> and send to victoriashr@bchousing.org

To update information on an existing supportive housing application or to provide new information, call BC Housing at 1-877-257-7756 or send an email including client's name, and any new information to victoriashr@bchousing.org. Please update contact information, and location (shelter, camp, hospital, precariously housed)

In addition to the supportive housing application (above), we are asking for an assessment. BC Housing's preferred supportive housing assessment is the VAT (Vulnerability Assessment Tool). When a VAT is not available, please complete the Supportive Housing Alternate Assessment. Please contact victoriashr@bchousing.org for details and template.

There are very limited vacancies across all sites. However, we anticipate between 30 and 40 vacancies between December 2020 and March 2021. As vacancies become available, we will be prioritizing applications **where we have an application and a Supportive Housing Alternate Assessment on file**, and as per the priorities below:

- Indigenous persons who are chronically homeless and experiencing street or shelter homelessness
- People experiencing long term street and shelter homeless – and currently street or shelter homeless
- persons aged 55 +, chronically homeless and currently experiencing street or shelter homelessness

Island Health Supportive Housing Stream

Complimentary to this process, Island Health will select clients for direct placement into Island Health supportive housing and treatment programs. These clients will be known to the health care system and be homeless/at-risk for homelessness and have clinical needs requiring health and medical housing supports.

MHSU Community Clinical Teams (eg ACT, VMHC, ICMT) may call 250-519-3595 or email MHSUResidentialAccessSI@viha.ca to access the referral forms and fax them back to 250-519-3481.

Positive Transfer – Rent Supplements and CRD Units in Langford

Through the CAA process, we are administering applications for a limited number of CRD RHFP units in Langford (at shelter rate or reduced rate for those who qualify). We are also administering CHB rent supplements (depending on income and eligibility) up to \$450 per month.

Priority for “positive transfer” programs is for people experiencing chronic homelessness, and/or people ready to move out of supportive housing, treatment, detox, transitional housing or out of shelters.

For information about Island Health Rent supplement programs, MHSU Community Clinical Teams (eg ACT, VMHC, ICMT) may call 250-519-3595 or email MHSUResidentialAccessSI@viha.ca

For information about CRD RHFP units as well as BCH Rent supplement programs, support workers can email victoriashr@bchousing.org for more information and application forms.

Other BC Housing: Subsidized Housing (independent, Affordable Housing Units)

For the application form including eligibility criteria for subsidized housing, please see the following link <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-housing/subsidized-housing>

This application makes sense for people who require mainly financial support, who can safely live independently, and with positive landlord references. To qualify, people must be on **Disability Income Assistance**, be a senior or have children under 19 years. Enrollment in this Housing Registry allows access to BC Housing’s directly-managed subsidized housing stock, and also refers individuals to a number of Non Profit Housing partners in the community.

These applications are generally prioritized according to date of application. However, please complete a Schedule A – Supplemental Form <https://www.bchousing.org/publications/Housing-Registry-Supplemental-Application-Form.pdf> for priority request related to 1) fleeing violence 2) serious health condition(s) or 3) homelessness.

For more information about this process, or if you aren’t sure if the person already has completed an application, please call **1-800-257-7756**.