



Supports within Housing: Building the Community



Increase and stabilize funding for support within community housing, with tenant support coordinators at a minimum ratio of 1/100 units, and supportive housing for seniors and people at-risk of homelessness.

Why Support Matters

Community housing is more than a door and four walls, it delivers home, community, and stability. Serving people facing challenges, including life transitions such as aging, exiting systems like health care institutions and Child and Family Services, moving to a new country, or leaving experiences of family violence; this human side of community housing must be resourced.



60%

of households accessing Manitoba Housing are moving directly from homelessness



The second most common reason for people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg is

conflict with a partner, friend, family, or CFS (25%)

or

conflict with a roommate or landlord (17%)

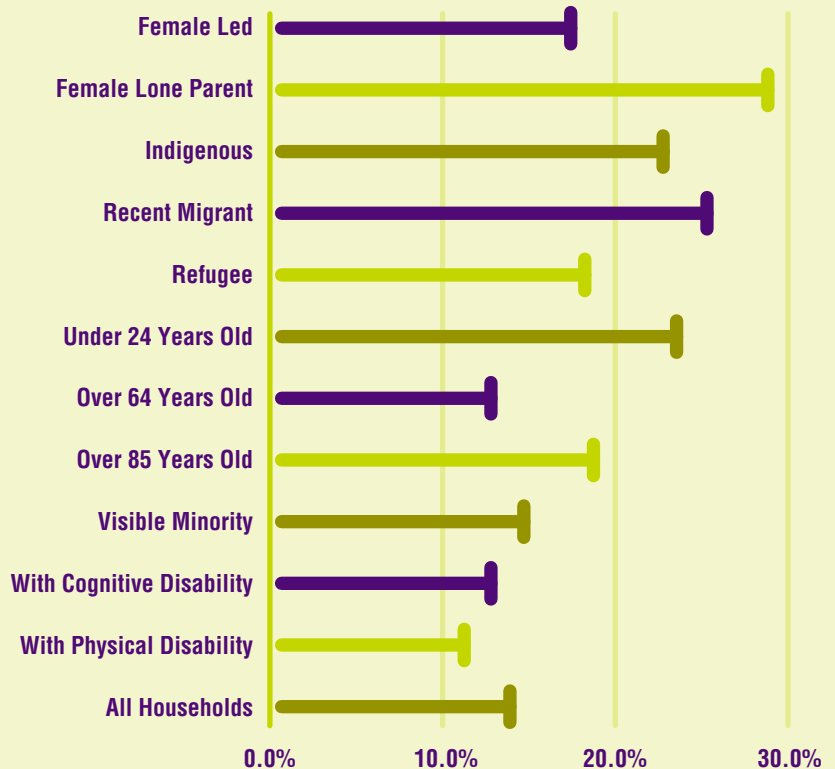


Preventing eviction saves, on average,

\$5000-8,500

per tenancy protected

Proportion of Priority Population in Core Housing Need, Winnipeg 2016



Source: Housing Research Collaborative, *Housing Assessment Resource Tools (HART)*, (2016)



Housing With Supports *and* Supportive Housing

There is no silver bullet to meeting the housing and supports needs of individuals, especially those who are at risk of homelessness. Evidence-based solutions are required to offer choice and meet varied needs. Transitional, permanent supportive, and independent housing with mobile supports all have demonstrated outcomes.



Transitional Housing

is provided on a temporary basis, and aims to assist many individuals with the goal of developing the life-related skills and knowledge necessary to live independently.

Families fleeing domestic violence, newcomers to Canada or to urban areas, people dealing with mental health or substance use challenges, and those transitioning out of Child and Family Services care are among those who commonly need transitional housing services. The major need in Manitoba is for youth aging out of care and housing for people with substance use challenges at risk of homelessness.



Supportive Housing

incorporates on-site personalized support services such as housekeeping, meals, social and recreational activities, assistance with medical care, and access

to 24-hour support and supervision depending upon individual need. Supportive housing provides permanent supports across diverse populations including senior citizens, and those with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities.

There is an increasing need for permanent supportive housing for people at risk of and experiencing long-term homelessness, in particular individuals who struggle with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and experiences of trauma. Existing transitional housing programs for this population have struggled with the lack of place to “transition to”. This deficit is being exacerbated with the expansion of transitional housing through the Rapid Housing Initiative.



Supports within Community Housing

Manitoba Housing and larger non-profit housing organizations may have tenant support workers or tenant resource coordinators charged with supporting successful tenancies. Support ranges from community development activities such as coordinating community gardens and tenant associations, to resource connections like vaccine clinics and parenting classes, up-to case management or direct referrals to social supports for individual households at risk of eviction. Many seniors housing

buildings have resource coordinators as part of their staff complement, funded by their regional health authority. The availability of these supports is inconsistent, and caseloads are high.

The Housing Supports Initiative, originally a two-year pilot project that was extended for two more years, provides funding for tenant support workers as well as housing resource coordination across Manitoba. These positions have decreased evictions, reduced arrears and vacancy loss, and helped people with barriers access housing. Over the two years of the Initiative, about 450 individuals were supported to improve their housing circumstances, and eviction prevention services were provided to 900 individuals. Prevention of homelessness or eviction resulted in a return of \$27 in savings for every dollar invested. This program can be expanded and maintained to meet the target of one tenant support coordinator per 100 housing units.



The Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association represents over 100 community housing providers who collectively own and manage more than 25,000 affordable homes across 25 communities in Manitoba. The dedicated volunteers and employees of the non-profit housing sector strive to ensure non-profit housing in Manitoba is secure, sustainable, and affordable for all who need it.