

The Right Fit Pilot Project



Working with housing providers to ensure affordable & accessible homes for all

BC's affordable housing crisis has been especially acute for those who use wheelchairs and who often wait many years to find a suitable home. Some face the frightening prospect of homelessness. Others are stuck in care facilities or unsuitable housing, denied basic amenities like bathing. Some also forego job opportunities that require a move because they can't find accessible vacancies.

Community and government partners in [The Right Fit Pilot Project \(RFPP\)](#) are working with both wheelchair users and affordable housing providers to test systemic improvements that will change this.



Low-Income Wheelchair Users Face Critical Gap

Most BC wheelchair users who rely on PWD (Persons With Disabilities) benefits live in urban areas with better transit access. Housing challenges include low income, lack of affordable and accessible housing units, and the length of time to arrange for special equipment and support at a new home.

Despite the urgent need, affordable housing providers sometimes can't find wheelchair users to fill accessible vacancies at short notice. When these scarce accessible units go to non-wheelchair users, they can be lost to the market for decades, worsening the crisis for wheelchair users.

Affordable Housing Providers Hold the Keys

Affordable housing providers hold the key to helping us tackle this crisis. RFPP has been working with some of the region's largest social housing

providers to develop and test systemic changes and supports to facilitate better matching of existing supply and demand for subsidized accessible housing. We are also working to help build the case for more affordable housing with accessible, adaptable and/or universal design principles to maximize the region's ability to respond to changing needs.

Here's how affordable housing providers can help advance solutions:

1. **Alert RFPP to any upcoming accessible vacancies** suitable for wheelchair users. Our team of trained navigators can help housing providers find suitable applicants and work with all parties to facilitate a smooth transition, including access to independent living supports to ensure a successful and sustainable match.

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2. **Complete our [Accessibility Checklist](#)** to fully describe your unit's accessibility features and understand applicants' accessibility needs. This facilitates the matching process for everyone. Email us completed checklists to help build a detailed inventory of accessible housing in the region.

3. **Consider retrofits to expand accessibility** when renovating older properties (e.g. level door sills, ramps, roll-in showers or automatic door openers.) BC Housing has funding available for building retrofits, including accessibility improvements. Contact your BC Housing Non-Profit Portfolio Manager (NPPM) for more information.

4. **Explore opportunities under Canada's National Housing Strategy.** This 10-year, \$40-billion initiative prioritizes public investments in new or existing social housing that advances accessibility for Canadians with mobility challenges.

LEARN MORE: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/nhs>

ABOUT US

The Right Fit Pilot Project is led by Disability Alliance BC in partnership with the Individualized Funding Resource Centre, BC Housing, City of Vancouver, Fraser Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority & the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction. RFPP is generously funded by Vancouver Foundation & BC Rehab Foundation.

Learn more: RightFitProject.org

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