



# The Right Fit Pilot Project

*Accessible Housing Roundtable*

**June 2018 | Vancouver**



# Overview

- RFPP Overview & Objectives
- Phase 1 Overview
- We Are Here: What Next?
- Roundtable Objectives
- Discussion Questions
- Next Steps



# The Right Fit Pilot Project

3-year pilot to help wheelchair users, housing & service providers explore systemic changes to better match availability & needs.

Led by Disability Alliance BC in partnership with:

- Individualized Funding Resource Centre
- BC Housing
- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Fraser Health
- City of Vancouver



# Overview: Key Challenges

**Wheelchair Users:** Finding affordable homes with the right accessibility features & supports, where & when needed.

**Affordable Housing Providers:** Finding wheelchair users who meet all criteria + ready to move in immediately.

- No central marketplace for accessible housing/tenants
- No common standard to describe accessibility features
- Limited supply & turnover of accessible subsidized units
- Securing the right equipment & supports at short notice



# RFPP Objectives

Develop/test systemic changes:

- Help providers fill accessible homes: the right tenant
- Help wheelchair users find/access the right home
- Streamline access to home supports & equipment

Share what we learned:

- Foundation to implement, scale RFPP solutions more broadly



# RFPP Approach

- 1) Rolling caseload to place 60 wheelchair users in 3 years
  - Develop & test new case management model
  - Identify systemic barriers & solutions
  - Strengthen collaboration
- 2) Learn more about supply, demand and matching issues
- 3) Develop basis for a case-managed registry that can scale provincially



# RFPP Phase 1

## Phase 1 launched August 2017:

- Metro Vancouver Region
- 32 non-profit housing providers from The Housing Registry
- Wheelchair users on PWD benefit, aged 19-64, in The Housing Registry
  - Incentives: IFRC Navigators, streamlined MSDPR equipment approvals, BC Housing subsidy to hold vacancies, Health Authority liaison.
  - Outreach: Media/social media, presentations, contacts & meetings



# We are here: Results

- Vancouver's Accessibility Checklist - common standard
- Case management model, collaboration protocols
- 112 inquiries, 54 eligible applicants, 5 vacancies, 3 placements
  - Also: 7 drop-outs, 44 still waiting + files for 19 "ineligibles"

**The Main Challenge:** Very low vacancies & turnover of accessible subsidized units!



# RFPP: Some Preliminary Data

## Ministry (SDPR) data on wheelchair users on PWD

BC wheelchairs users on PWD are in urban areas with better transit:

- More than half are in the Lower Mainland
- Half those in the Lower Mainland live in the arc from Downtown Eastside, through Burnaby & New Westminster to Surrey

### Data Notes:

Limited understanding of demographics of accessibility demand:

- Only includes persons on disability assistance (not other wheelchair users, e.g.: minors)
- Only active cases (not individuals who no longer have an open disability assistance case)
- Only approved requests (not individuals denied wheelchair-related requests).



# RFPP: Some Preliminary Data

## **BC Housing data: The Housing Registry**

~450 applicants requesting wheelchair-accessible units:

- Over half were living in Vancouver or Surrey
- Close to 70% were living in an apartment, basement suite, house, or townhouse
- ~ half were seniors
- ~ 65% had household income below \$20,000/year

## **Data Notes**

- “Snapshot data” as of December 31, 2017 (Data subject to change).
- Where applicants were living does not necessarily reflect where they have indicated they want to live (e.g. someone living in Vancouver may indicate they are willing to live in Kelowna).



# RFPP: Some Preliminary Data

## BC Housing data: Housing Connections

- ~430 wheelchair-modified units in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health
- Turnover: Around 30-45 units/year between 2013/14 and 2017/18

### Data Notes

- Projects that use The Housing Registry to fill units (does not include all units in Housing Connections).
- Only active projects with wheelchair-modified units (i.e. BC Housing financial relationship with project).
- Units that don't require "geared to income" rent calculation (shelter units, transition homes, revolving rent supplements) not included.
- Wheelchair-modified units: Units in BC Housing's Housing Connections system where "Wheelchair Modified?" question shows as "Yes."



# Roundtable Objectives

How to focus RFPP's remaining time, resources, partnerships to advance housing security for low-income wheelchair users.

1. How can we help identify and advance needed policy changes and investments?
2. What innovative models, data gaps, investments, partnerships or synergies should we explore?



# Discussion Questions

1. What are short, medium and long-term solutions to the housing gap facing wheelchair users on PWD benefits?



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2. Matching housing providers and wheelchair users – What does a new accessible housing registry look like?
3. What can we do to support municipalities, developers, non-profit providers and wheelchair users?



# Next Steps

- Priorities: Key Tasks and Needs
- Partners & Synergies
- Action Items: Who does what?
- Final Thoughts?



# Thank You!

Web: [TheRightFit.org](http://TheRightFit.org)

Facebook: RightFitPilotProject

Twitter: @RFPPCoordinator

RFPP is generously funded by:

vancouver  
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# Phase 1 Participant Eligibility

- Indoor power/manual wheelchair users (no scooters)
- Aged 19 - 64
- Receiving provincial PWD benefits
- Current application with The Housing Registry
- Meet BC Housing criteria for subsidized housing
- Living in VCH & Fraser Health Regions, seeking home in Metro Vancouver



# Phase 1 Case Management

- Enquiries (IFRC): 112
- RFPP eligible case files opened: 54
- Vacancies: 5 (3 via RFPP Phase 1 providers, 2 via IFRC/co-op contacts)
- Successful housing matches: 3 (4th in progress)
- Drop-outs: 7
- Waitlist: 44 remaining eligible RFPP candidates waiting for housing
- Also: 19 ineligible applicants registered (e.g. seniors, part-time wheelchair users who could potentially fill vacancies if no eligible RFPP candidates)



# Phase 1 Outreach

## Community presentations & meetings:

- CHF-BC, BCNPHA
- Metro Housing, Affordable Housing Society, Brightside Housing
- G.F. Strong
- Lookout Society
- City of Burnaby
- Minister Robinson's Fall 2017 Housing Roundtable
- Inclusion BC/CLBC Housing Forum

## Media/Communications:

- Quarterly newsletter (120 subscribers)
- 150 social media followers
- 75,000 Twitter impressions
- 2 x RFPP Radio interviews
- 8 x Newsletter articles
- Web: DABC, IFRC, BC Housing, City of Vancouver, Province of BC, Vancouver Foundation