



The Right Fit Pilot Project

Presentation: Housing Central

November 2018



Overview

- RFPP Overview
- Case Management - navigator support model
- Testing systems change
- Understanding/addressing the affordable accessible housing gap



Overview: The Right Fit Pilot Project

3-year pilot exploring systemic changes to better match wheelchair users with the right accessible housing & supports.

- Learning through testing & partnerships



Overview: The Right Fit Pilot Project

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 Authorities
- City of Vancouver

Funded by Vancouver Foundation & BC Rehab Foundation



Overview: Housing 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 to access all accessible vacancies
- No common standard to describe accessibility features
- Limited supply & turnover of accessible subsidized units
- Getting the right equipment & supports to move at short notice



Case Management

IFRC-led navigator team:

- Outreach to engage providers of affordable, accessible housing.
 - Weekly vacancies - follow us on social media!
- Intake to ID needs of wheelchair users who need housing.
- Helping participants find & access the right housing & supports.
- Partnerships to learn about systemic barriers and solutions.



Case Management - 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



Case Management Outcomes

Case management numbers (August 2017 - October 2018):

- Enquiries (IFRC only): 160
- RFPP eligible case files opened: 67
- Vacancies: 21 (8 via Housing Registry providers, 13 via IFRC/co-op contacts)
- Successful RFPP housing matches: 5 (+ 3 more in progress)
- Drop-outs: 10
- Waitlist: 56 remaining eligible RFPP candidates waiting for housing
- + 25 ineligible applicants registered (for vacancies if no suitable RFPP candidates)



Testing Systems Change

- **Accessibility Checklist:** A common standard for accessibility
- **Incentives:**
 - Navigator support
 - Streamlined MSDPR approval process
 - BC Housing vacancy subsidy
 - Health Authority liaison



Understanding Needs & Gaps

Documenting Housing Needs:

- Ministry (SDPR) data for wheelchair users on PWD:
 - BC wheelchair users on PWD are mainly in urban areas with better transit.

Documenting Supply/Turnover:

- One social housing provider that manages 3,700 Metro Vancouver units had only 2 accessible vacancies/year
- City of Vancouver Open Data Project
- DABC student project to map inventory using Accessibility Checklist.



Accessible Housing Roundtable

Partners' advice on where to focus:

- Focus on affordability as a key barrier
- Better utilization of existing accessible supply
- Address the supply gap



Thank You!

Web: TheRightFit.org

Facebook: RightFitPilotProject

Twitter: @RFPPCoordinator

RFPP is generously funded by:





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."



RFPP: Some Preliminary Data

Ministry (SDPR) data on wheelchair users on PWD

BC wheelchair 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).