

Supportive and Social Housing for People with Mental Illness and Addictions

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Current Numbers

- About 200 people
- Income assistance Monthly income \$375 for housing; \$250 food, clothing, etc. Any earned income is deducted from Income Assistance amount
- Disability \$375 with up to \$550 for food, clothing, etc. Allowed to earn up to \$500/month

Current Housing Options

- Warmland Transitional Living- 24 units for up to 2 years
- Caulfield Place- 35 units of moderate intensity transitional housing for up to 30 months
- Centennial House- 3 supportive recovery beds
- Two VIHA group homes for people with mental illness
- Market rental housing average cost \$531

Where do people with mental illness and addictions live now?

- Warmland Transitional Living
- Caulfield Place
- Homeless- about 50 tents
- Couch surfing
- Overcrowded housing
- Extended hospital stays

Service Needs

- Advisory and support to landlords
- Peer support
- Subsidy for housing costs, living costs
- Life skills training- budgeting, relationship with landlord, planning
- Referrals to health care, mental health, other
- Advocacy



Benefits to Community

- People who are housed are healthier
- People with stable housing are more employable
- Less contact with the justice system
- Supporting local business
- Less stress on the healthcare system
- Housing costs less than hospitals, jails, and shelters

Current Opportunities

- Rental vacancy rate of 6% in Duncan/ North Cowichan area
- A number of landlords interested in providing housing but in need of support
- Working relationships across agencies
- CMHA and VIHA staff working together