



# From Streets to Stability: The Role of Supportive Housing in Sustainable Solutions

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# Agenda

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**Rationale for  
Supporting  
Housing**

**02**

**Supportive  
Housing Models  
and Approaches**

**03**

**Challenges Faced  
by Municipalities  
and Potential  
Solutions**

**04**

**Q&A**

# 01

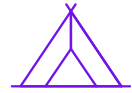
# Rationale for Supportive Housing

# Local Housing Challenges

Communities across Canada are grappling with rising pressures related to housing and homelessness



Housing instability and homelessness have increased since the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic



Encampments are popping up more and more, with many communities having to confront the issue for the first time



Safety and social disorder are frequent concerns



Municipalities have limited tools to address homelessness and the encampment issue alone



Addressing unsheltered homelessness is complex, and enforcement responses tend to shift rather than solve the problem

**Supportive housing** is an important tool to address some of the most visible and challenging local homelessness issues.

# Sustainability Challenges in Municipal and Provincial Systems

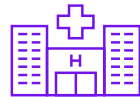
**Municipalities and the Province are challenged with fiscal sustainability and providing access to various health and social services.**



Individuals **stay in hospitals beyond their need** because lower cost options may not be available.



Lack of supports may lead to **increased first responder contacts (EMS and police) and emergency room visits.**



Individuals **without adequate supports** are more likely to reach crisis situations resulting in hospital admittance.



**Repeated contact with the justice system** following release.

**Supportive housing** can help address the sustainability challenges of other higher cost systems.

# About Supportive Housing

What is “supportive housing?”

**“Supportive housing is an innovative and proven solution that helps people facing complex barriers to housing thrive and break the cycle of homelessness. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with support services that help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy, and dignity.”**

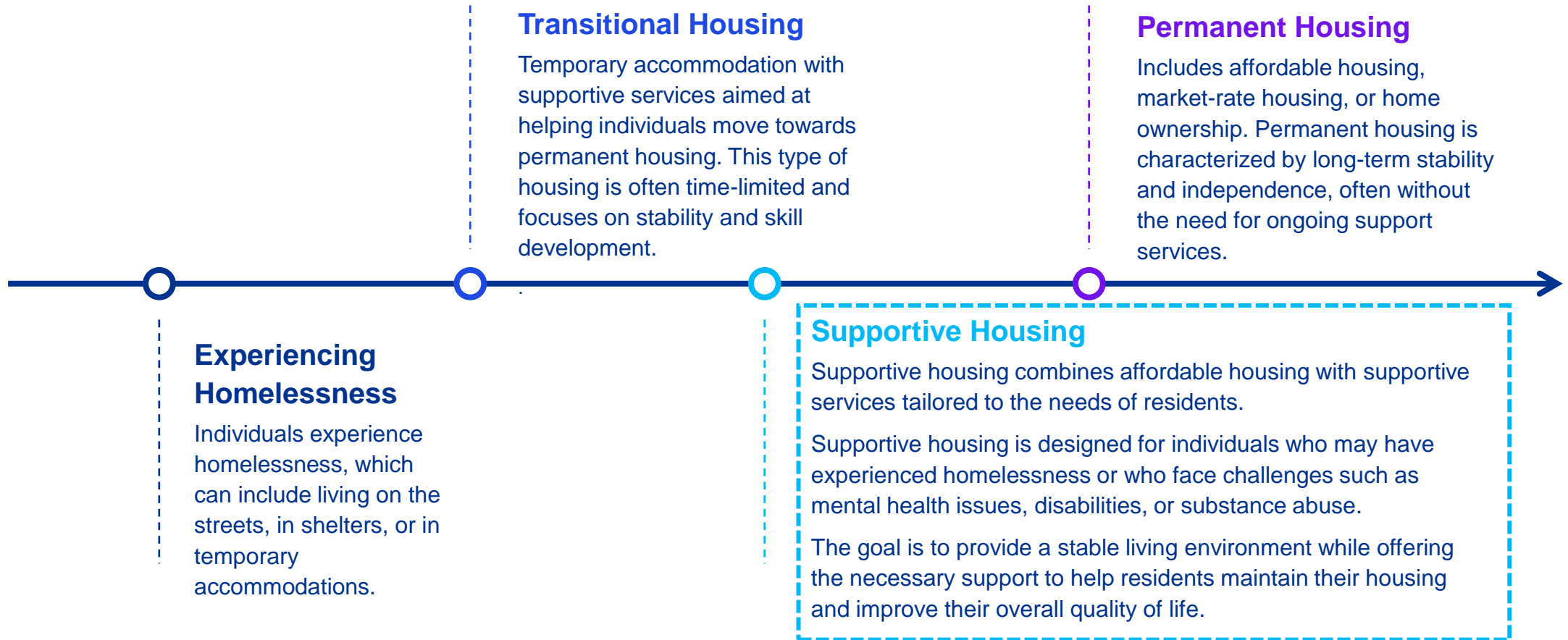
**Support  
Services**

**Housing  
Assistance**



# The Housing Continuum

Supportive housing provides long-term stable housing to move individuals away from homelessness and temporary housing.



# Supportive Housing Can Serve Clients with a Variety of Needs

Supportive housing clients have a variety of needs and require tailored supports.

## Homeless Individuals & Families

- Individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless
- Individual and child/dependent experiencing gender-based violence

## Individuals with Mental Health and/or Addiction (MHA) Issues

- Individuals living with mental health challenges and/or addictions that may impede their ability to secure and maintain housing
- Individual with dual diagnosis (developmental and MHA)

## Individuals Living with Disabilities

- Individuals living with physical or developmental disabilities may require specific accommodations
- Supportive housing may include necessary accessibility needs of individuals



## Individuals released from the Adult Criminal Justice System

- Individuals may face difficulties in securing housing/affording housing
- Life skills development

## Vulnerable Youth

- Young adults who have aged out of foster care
- Child/dependent experiencing violence
- Urban Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness

## Seniors with Support Needs

- Seniors with low-income or who have health issues that require assistance
- Safe environment and access to healthcare services

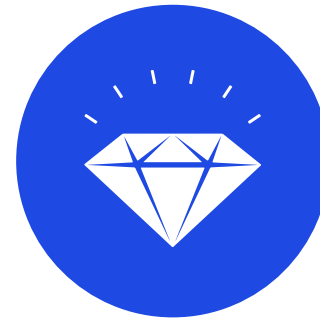
## Individuals living with HIV/AIDS

- Access to healthcare services
- Stable and supportive living environment

# Benefits of Supportive Housing to Vulnerable Individuals

## Housing Stability for Vulnerable Individuals

- Provides safe, permanent housing
- Reduces chronic homelessness and housing insecurity.
- Reduced use of emergency shelters, and other higher cost/temporary housing



## Improved Physical / Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Reduces hospital visits, emergency room use, and other healthcare costs.
- Supports recovery and self-sufficiency.
- Stable chronic illness management
- Improves medication adherence

## Improved Navigation / Access to Other Services

- Connection of individuals to other health, employment, and social supports.



## Stronger Community Connections

- Promotes social inclusion
- Encourages integration into the community
- Encourages use of broader community supports

# Benefits of Supportive Housing to Municipalities and Regions

01

## Reduces Use of Higher Cost Systems

- Reduced reliance on higher cost healthcare, ALC, and LTC beds
- Lower use of emergency services
- Fewer ER visits
- Fewer interactions with justice system
- Reduced use of shelters and group homes

02

## Encourages Partnerships Between Providers

- Streamlined coordination of housing, health, and social services.

03

## Positive Impacts on the Economy

- Jobs created by the supportive housing programs

04

## Community Impact

- Reduced homelessness and visible poverty.
- Improved neighborhood safety
- Reduction in violent crimes and property crimes in neighbourhoods with supportive housing.

# 02

## Supportive Housing Models and Approaches

# Supportive Housing Models

Supportive housing models demonstrate **incredible variety** – some have even suggested that every model is unique.

## Built Form

Size, configuration, unit types, food service, shared spaces

- Scattered site / Individual units
- Small, Site-based
- Mixed use / Mixed market
- Leased or purpose-built sites
- Large projects (e.g., 40+ units)

Examples include:

- Autism, FASD
- Cultural models
- Youth, LGBTQ2S+
- Managed alcohol

## Specialization

Focusing on specific target populations and tailoring supports

## Intensity of Supports

Types and levels of support, on-site and in-reached

- “Supportive landlord”
- Mobile supports
- Site-based supports
- Specialized staffing
- Clinical services

- Bridge Housing / Transitional
- Short-term Supportive Housing
- Youth models
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Palliative care

## Duration

Intended duration of residency / support

# Innovative Approaches

## Development

### Tiny Home Community – Halifax

In the spring, Halifax chose to sanction encampment sites

They did so knowing there were more temporary and longer-term housing options coming online



## Delivery

### Ambrose Place – Edmonton

42 units of high-intensity Permanent Supportive Housing



Indigenous cultural program

## Partnership

### Community Mental Health Step Up/Down Services – Western Australia

Direct partnerships with health system

Reduce pressure on hospitals



# Supportive Housing Models: Considerations for Local Government

## Priorities

Demand > Supply  
What needs are most important?

## Tailored

Matching delivery model to needs  
Cultural programming

## Location

Resident needs  
NIMBY and community fit

## Funding

Capital  
Ongoing operations and subsidizing affordability

## Partnership

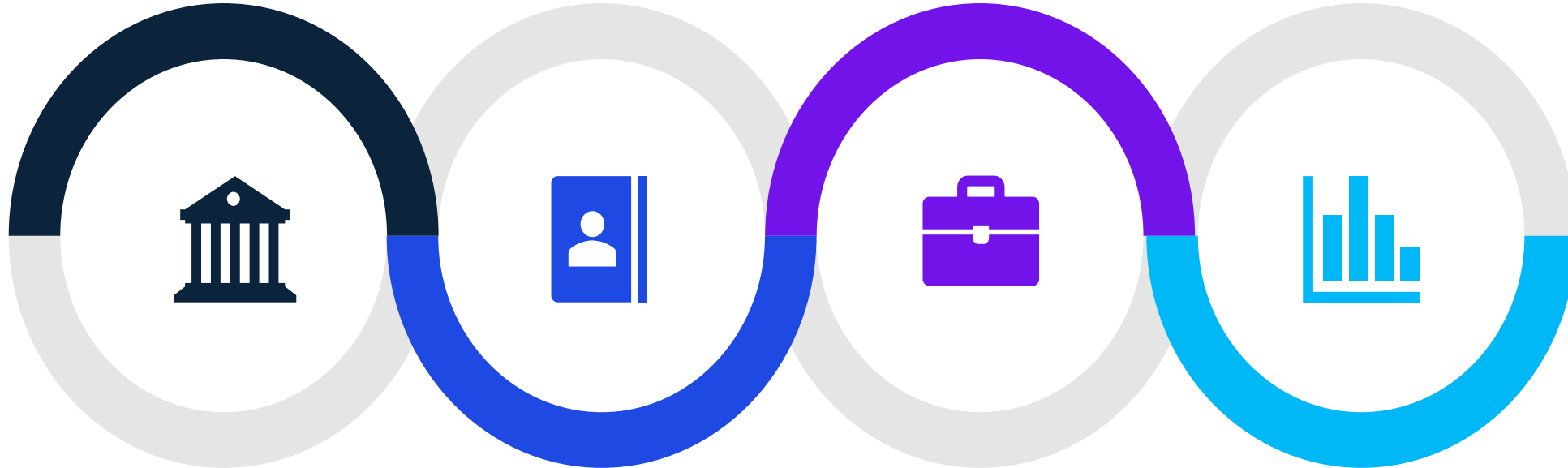
Delivery and funding typically require partners



# 03

## Challenges Faced by Municipalities and Potential Solutions

# Challenges Faced by Municipalities related to Supportive Housing



## Development

- Speed and cost of development process
- Prioritizing supportive housing
- Best mix of built form and community fit

## Mandate

- Provincial and federal leadership experience
- Neighborhood and political opposition

## Operational

- Limited expertise
- Access and integration
- Engagement with system partners
- Partnership and program development resources

## Financial

- Limited capital funding
- Complexity of partnering for funding
- Cost of getting projects “shovel ready”
- Funding operating and programming costs

# Example of a Local Solution

North House works to prevent homelessness and support the community in many ways:

North House was created in 2004 in response to the community in need

Mission: to provide a spectrum of housing supports for those who are at risk or in crisis within the communities of north Durham



Accessing Affordable Housing



Harm Reduction



Housing First Program



Housing Stability Program



ID Replacement



Income Tax Filing Support



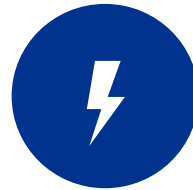
Landlord & Tenant Board Support



Low-Income Energy Assistance



North Toy Box



Ontario Electricity Support Program



RentSmart Certificate Program



Shower, Laundry and Kitchen Access

# 04

# Question and Answer

# Question and Answer / Contacts



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