

HOUSING VANCOUVER

Vancouver Housing & Homelessness Strategy Reset– Emerging Directions
Follow-up Responses to Questions
March 29, 2017



**HOUSING
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Housing for Low-Income Single and Family Households, Including People Who Are Homeless

1

Housing Crisis Has Intensified

- ✓ Housing is a System: Pressures on market rental supply impacts lower-income households, intensifies pressure in competitive market

2

Vancouver is not alone

- ✓ Homelessness across the region, loss of affordable rental

3

Need to Act Quickly

- ✓ Regional Partners Working Together (Municipalities Across Region, Metro Vancouver)
- ✓ More supply is needed, municipalities need to improve approval times for affordable housing

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1



\$0-\$30,000



\$30,000-\$50,000

3 Key Affordability Gaps for Households earning less than \$50,000/year

Includes:

1. People Who Are Homeless
2. SRO Tenants
3. Low-Income Seniors (e.g. SAFER)
4. People on Income Assistance
5. Students
6. Working Poor



- Estimated 30,800 renter households to earn less than \$15,000
- Estimated 33,800 renter households to earn \$15,000 - \$30,000
- In 2011, there were 27,800 households earning under \$30,000/year paying more than 30% of income on housing, with 15,285 paying more than 50%.

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To intensify housing efforts for these households, the Council Report outlines four areas for the City to explore:

1. Affordability targets based on income, including targeting deeply subsidized units through VAHA and City lease renewal projects
2. Expanding rental options close to transit
3. New policies and financial incentives to deepen and preserve affordability in existing and new supply (including preserving affordability through Rate of Change)
4. Smart actions to support recommendations Regional Mayors Task Force on Homelessness, the SRO Task Force and the City's New Homelessness Services Team.

Advocating for increases in Income Assistance rates a key focus in the report for Extremely Low Income

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Housing Vancouver - Support for People Who Are Homeless

- City key partner in Metro Vancouver proposed action plan (February 2017) to address homelessness, including a focus on preventing homelessness, homelessness services, and fostering pathways out of homelessness ('rare, brief, one time')
- Shared goals, targets, resources, accountability are important in this approach
- Links to Healthy City Strategy actions including poverty reduction strategies, CED strategy, etc.
- Report back in April on Homelessness & SRO Task Force

