Summary Bulletin

CMHC Research and Program Outputs: What We Have Learned About Successful Socially Inclusive Housing

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Highlighting objectives

Our panelists will examine the key tenets when designing inclusive, low-barrier housing. We will highlight the obstacles faced when providing a low-barrier entry model to different populations with multiple intersecting needs and challenges. Using a gender-based analysis plus lens, we will illuminate the barriers and solutions involved in scattered site pathways to Housing First, as well as congregate models of housing for key priority populations.

Research or practice-based evidence

We showcase three organizations and case studies involving the Canadian Association for Community Living (My Home, My Community demonstration), the Immigrant and Refugee Community of Manitoba (Responding to the Housing Needs of Refugee Families), and Woodgreen (New Housing Models for Youth Transitioning out of Care), highlighting the needs of three priority populations.

Implications for practice

The evidence indicates that a range of choices of inclusive features and support services across housing types has successfully promoted low barriers to entry, as well as socially inclusive spaces and designs for people with developmental disabilities, newcomers to Canada, and youth. Supports services that are integrated into housing provision provide various levels of autonomy depending on the needs of the household.

Areas of needed policy change

Our research division and Innovation Labs have found that strategic investments responding to a spectrum of choice will help individuals have autonomy in their choice of housing and wrap-around services.

Related resources

My Home My Community; Addressing the Housing Needs of Refugee Communities; Modelling Transitional Housing for Vulnerable Youth; Expert Community on Housing (ECOH)

The conference is hosted by the Ontario Housing First Regional Network Community of Interest (OHRFN-CoI). The OHFRN-CoI is supported by Evidence Exchange Network (EENet) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The OHFRN-CoI assists communities across Ontario to develop, evaluate, and improve Housing First programs based on the Pathways model tested, adapted, and shown to be effective in the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project. For more information, visit www.eenet.ca/housing-first.