

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) was established in March 2000 to bring together a range of people and organizations operating and funding facilities, services or programs targeted to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in the region. The Committee arose from the recognition that homelessness is an issue in every Metropolitan Vancouver community. As a result, the Committee identified the need for a regional response to the growing problem of homelessness.

The RSCH now includes over 40 members representing service providers, community-based organizations, business and labour, and all levels of government. The Committee has grown to become the regional voice on homelessness in Metropolitan Vancouver. Metro Vancouver, in partnership with the United Way of the Lower Mainland, provides administrative and policy support to the Committee.

The Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness performs three key tasks:

1) Developing a regional understanding of homelessness and solutions

- Sponsoring and participating in homelessness research
- Organizing community development events
- Engaging youth in developing and implementing solutions to youth homelessness
- Collaborating with the Aboriginal community to work towards solutions to Aboriginal homelessness
- Working with municipal governments throughout the region to develop local solutions to homelessness
- Communications initiatives including efforts to engage the private sector

2) Recommending projects for federal homelessness funding

- Federal homelessness funding has been delivered under two programs; Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (2000 to March 2007) and the current Homelessness Partnering Strategy (April 1 2007 to March 31, 2009) administered by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).
- The RSCH makes funding recommendations to HRSDC and the final decisions, made by the Minister of HRSDC, are guided by these recommendations. Metropolitan Vancouver has received approximately \$64 million in federal homelessness funding since 2000.
- This funding has contributed to the development of shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing and homeless services in every community in the region.

3) Fostering a coordinated regional approach to addressing homelessness

- Developing and overseeing the implementation of the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver
- Encouraging senior levels of government to implement recommendations in the Regional Plan
- Promoting endorsement of the Regional Plan by municipal governments and community organisations
- Supporting projects that advance the priorities in the Regional Plan

For more information on homeless in Metropolitan Vancouver, visit the Metro Vancouver homelessness site at:

gvr.bc.ca/homelessness