

Understanding Metro Vancouver's Shelter System

1. Year-round Shelter Beds	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary accommodation for homeless individuals and families. • Provide support services such as food, clothing, counselling and referrals to other services and longer term housing.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Housing • Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) and Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC). • Others (private funders).
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 900 year-round shelter beds in Metro Vancouver.
2. Cold/Wet Weather Shelter Beds (Seasonal)	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated on a seasonal basis generally from October/November through March. • Support services are provided on a more limited basis than in year-round shelters.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. • BC Housing, City of Vancouver and Streethome Foundation partnership. • Private funders.
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 460 CWW shelter spaces provided in Metro Vancouver – including 55 spaces outside the City of Vancouver.
3. Extreme Weather Response Shelter Spaces	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides extra shelter spaces for homeless people during periods of extreme weather. • Heavily dependent on volunteers with limited support services provided. • A crisis response to extreme weather occurrences, to augment ongoing shelter programs.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Housing • Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. • Others (non-profits, private funders).
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 600 additional shelter spaces. • 8 Extreme Weather Response plans are in place covering 13 municipalities.

Shelter Spaces by Community (Feb. 2009)*	
Vancouver	Year-round 708 CWW 405 Total 1,113
Surrey	Year-round 95 CWW 0 Total 95
Maple Ridge	Year-round 25 CWW 25 Total 50
North Shore	Year-round 45 CWW 0 Total 45
New Westminister	Year-round 57 CWW 0 Total 57
Tri-Cities	Year-round 0 CWW 30 Total 30
Richmond	Year-round 10 CWW 0 Total 10
Regional Total	Year-round 940 CWW 460 Total 1,400

* Excludes transition houses.

