

Policy Number SE4.350	Policy Section Supports and Services	Effective: December 15, 2017
Title: Funding for Housing Costs Policy		Executive Sponsor: Vice President, Regional Operations

1. PURPOSE

CLBC's vision is one in which people with developmental disabilities have lives filled with possibilities in welcoming communities. Inclusive housing is a key part of that vision. CLBC funds a variety of residential supports in communities across the province to support and promote inclusion.

CLBC generally provides funding only for the supports and services for individuals' disability-related needs. In limited circumstances, CLBC works with BC Housing and the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (PRHC) to secure residential homes where CLBC funds a portion of the mortgage and home operating costs.

This policy outlines how CLBC makes decisions about funding housing costs for residential homes so that any future change will benefit the individuals that CLBC serves. Funding decisions outlined in this policy will increase sustainability and stability of housing and will reduce the likelihood that people may be required to move when there is a need to change service providers or when property that is owned by others is sold. This policy also outlines how pre-existing arrangements that include funding for housing costs such as rent, lease, mortgage and operating costs will be managed.

2. DEFINITIONS

Residential Home: A place where support for disability-related needs for daily living is provided to an individual or group of individuals by a team of staff based on an established schedule that includes overnight hours.

3. POLICY

3.1 This policy for funding housing costs applies whenever CLBC is making a contribution toward mortgages, lease or rent for housing through a contract. **This policy does not apply when CLBC is not being asked to fund mortgages, lease or rent.**

3.2 CLBC provides funding for housing costs only in limited circumstances where support needs require the use of a residential home.

- 3.3 CLBC provides funding for mortgages for new properties only when PRHC owns the property and it is administered by BC Housing. CLBC does not provide funding for rent, lease or mortgages for new housing through contracts.
- 3.4 Funding for existing residential homes, where contracts include payments for housing costs (in place prior to February 28, 2017) which may include rent, lease, and mortgage payments and related home operating costs, will continue under this policy and ownership is not required to change as a result.
- 3.5 Exceptions to the policy that new residential homes will be arranged with BC Housing and PRHC can only be approved by the Vice President, Regional Operations.
- 3.6 When there is an immediate need and insufficient time to secure a house through BC Housing, short-term, time-limited rental agreements may be made for 6-12 months, depending on the rental market requirements and expected timeframes for acquiring a property through BC Housing. CLBC staff must initiate the process for acquiring property through BC Housing as soon as the need for housing is identified. The Director, Regional Operations must approve these interim arrangements. If arrangements need to exceed 12 months Vice President, Regional Operations approval is required.
- 3.7 When CLBC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency, determines that a shared residential service is the best option for a transitioning youth, the Director, Regional Operations may approve a short-term exception. If arrangements need to exceed 24 months, Vice President, Regional Operations approval is required.
- 3.8 CLBC will work with service providers delivering services in residential homes that are not owned by PRHC to identify ways to address any needed renovations, repairs or modifications. Where the service provider owns the home, arrangements may be made under the *Human Resources Facilities Act* to fund renovations that cost more than \$25,000 with the approval of the Director, Regional Operations.

4. REFERENCES

BC Housing [Group Home Guide for Sponsors](#)

BC Housing [Group Home Guide for Operators](#)

[Inclusive Housing: Advancing Good Lives in Welcoming Communities](#)

[Human Resources Facilities Act](#)