



## WHOLE WAY HOUSE PROGRAM

by AIRP Vancouver Research Team

Founded in 2013, Whole Way House Society (WWH) is a registered charity based in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. It provides on-site community building programs and tenant support services to low-income seniors, including veterans and those with disabilities. The goal is to help seniors "age-in-place" within rental housing so they do not fall between the cracks and risk premature death, hospitalization, or homelessness.



### ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The results indicates that the built environment fosters autonomy and a sense of identity through the accessibility to public transportation and felt sense of safety. However, the buildings are not designed to promote social activity for older adults given the lack of space.

### PROVIDER INTERVIEWS

WWH staff highlighted individualized support, staff training and transition focused programming as mechanisms of success for older adults. Some of the barriers includes the disconnect between frontline organizations and government systems designed for older adults. Staff also mentioned staff burnout and lack of funding as barriers to support AIRP.

### CLIENT INTERVIEWS

Through 20 life course and photovoice interviews, clients expressed their appreciation for the WWH staff's supports with tax prep, social integration and technology. Key aspects that facilitate AIRP includes having easy access to public transportation, nature, spaces for social connection and accessible design features.