

Bissell Centre's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program

Permanent Supportive Housing program at the PSH program provides a safe environment for men and women who require significant permanent supports to maintain their housing. The PSH program will operate within a Harm Reduction paradigm and under the philosophy of Housing First. Those moving into the PSH program will agree to assertive engagement by staff.

Integrated case management services will be provided by a team of Support Workers to enhance individual's self-reliance while enrolled in the PSH program. Residents will have access to services based on their individual needs including a cultural advisor. Interventions will be dependent on each individual's program plan, diagnosis if applicable, and abilities. Interventions may include addictions and mental health counselling, harm reduction supplies, financial literacy, community integration and daily living skills.

A typical program participant will be 18 years of age or older, have a diagnosis of an FASD or suspected of an FASD** based on the life history screen. Additionally, history of homelessness or multiple attempts in other housing environments will be considered.

The referral process for Housing First Programs will involve submitting an initial Permanent Supportive Housing form to Coordinated Access at Homeward Trust Edmonton. Applicants appropriate for the PSH will be provided to the PSH Case Management Team. All other referrals will submit a Permanent Supportive Housing form to the Manager of the FASD PSH program Ashley Baxter abaxter@bissellcentre.org. The information will then be reviewed by a team coordinated by the PSH Program to determine:

- If the applicant requires further assessment to be completed in order to determine level of need
- If the participant's needs match the services offered
- If the program and building has the space/ability to accommodate the referral

Residents will also have been or be assessed as being able to gain basic independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, operating household appliance, landlord relations and basic financial management in addition to living in non-barrier free dwelling.

Once a decision has been made, the Case Management Team will communicate necessary information to the applicant, referral source and HTE Coordinated access. The Program will not maintain a waiting list but, will communicate availability with referring partners.

The building that houses the PSH program has 5 single room suites and 9 double room suites with some stairs. This building is located in the Common Wealth Area. Ashtrays will be placed on all balconies and by exterior doors; smoking is not tolerated in the building. Drinking and drug use in common spaces and exterior of the building will not be tolerated. Individuals will agree to third party rent payments, and rent will be as follows:

1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom
\$879	\$1,003

**participant will undergo an FASD diagnostic assessment; if a diagnosis of an FASD is not confirmed PSH program staff will work with coordinated intake to re-house participant in more appropriate housing.