

Transitional housing services

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Kenora Branch and the Kenora District Services Board is supporting justice-involved individuals with transitional housing as they reintegrate into the community following incarceration.

A first-of-its-kind program for the Kenora area, the initiative includes a designated transitional housing unit that can accommodate one individual. A client will receive up to eight months of rent-supplemented housing, mental health and addictions supports, and case management to help them find employment and longer-term housing.

By enrolling in this program, the individual coming out of the justice system with transitional supports can build upon their rehabilitation to help maintain wellness and reduce crisis, hospitalizations and lower the chances of reoffending.

Who we are

CMHA Kenora Branch is dedicated to providing responsive, recovery-oriented mental health services through treatment, rehabilitation, support and the involvement of consumers, family members and stakeholders in a community-based setting. CMHA Kenora offers mental health and addiction programs and services to the Kenora Rainy River District to support our mission for mentally healthy people living with dignity in a caring and inclusive society. For more information, visit cmhak.on.ca.

Funded by the:



CMHA Kenora Rent Supplement Programs

227 Second St. South (Second Floor),
Kenora, Ontario P9N 1G1

CMHA Kenora Transitional Rent Supplement Program



Service recipient benefits

As part of the transitional rent supplement program, the individual receives:

- Affordable and supportive rental accommodation for a period of up to eight months as they transition from the justice system back into the community
- Short term support activities involving one-on-one planning (personal care plans)
- Supports to enhance daily living skills, advocacy with landlords, peer support and an opportunity to access community resources and supports

Research shows that investing in supportive housing creates savings across the health care, social services and justice systems. Evidenced by the At Home/Chez Soi national housing study led by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, every \$10 invested in supportive housing results in an average savings of \$21.72. Participants in the At Home/Chez Soi group saw reductions in their use of services, such as those provided by family physicians, medical specialists including psychiatrists, mental health workers and case managers, and other service providers and outpatient visits to hospitals.

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At Home/Chez Soi national housing study, Mental Health Commission of Canada

Transitional housing benefits

Transitional housing gives a justice-involved individual in need of supports the best possible opportunity to move forward in their lives post-incarceration. CMHA Kenora and Kenora District Services Board are helping to create better outcomes for individuals, which will reduce burden on the criminal justice system and create safer communities in Kenora.

The individual is expected to work collaboratively with a housing case manager and develop recovery goals. Armed with these supports, the expectation is that within eight-months, they will be independent and living away from the supportive housing unit.

To be eligible, an individual needs to abide by the rules and regulations set out by the Transitional Rent Supplement Agreement Program. This includes the right to live independently and not sublet to others; meet with the case manager daily; be respectful of themselves, the residents, support workers and premises; and more.

This transitional housing unit builds upon other CMHA community-based supports in the region, such as Rapid Intervention Service Kenora (RISK), mental health court diversion and housing supports.