

# Social Housing for Seniors: An Environmental Scan

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## BACKGROUND & APPROACH

- The City of Toronto adopted a recommendation to develop a standalone seniors housing corporation to focus on the needs of low-income seniors living in social housing.
- We conducted an **environmental scan (E-SCAN)** of service delivery models that connect low income seniors in social housing with health & support services in order to better understand how to optimize senior tenants' abilities to maintain their tenancy & age in place.
- The E-scan identified **34 housing models** run by public, private & non-profit agencies across Canada, the United States & Europe that integrate health & support services.
- **Five housing models** were selected for an in-depth review through key informant interviews.

### MODEL #1

#### Housing with Services – Oregon, USA

- *Partnership* between housing, primary care, mental health & community services.
- *Centralized care navigation team* support tenants with health assessments, health education & referrals.
- *Tenant Services Coordinators* were primary referral source for the care navigation team.
- *Partner agencies* provide on-site services to tenants.

### MODEL #2

#### Independent Living (IL) – BC, Canada

- For-profit & non-profit housing providers.
- Services include meals, laundry, housekeeping & personal care.
- Tenants pay 70% of after-tax income for rent & services.
- *Tenant Support Workers* assist tenants with financial literacy, information & referrals
- *Health Nurse* provides on-site health services directly to tenants.

### MODEL #3

#### Seniors Supportive Housing – BC, Canada

- Units are fully accessible.
- Tenants pay 50% of income: 30% for rent, 20% for services.
- Services include laundry, meals, light housekeeping, emergency support & recreation.
- Tenants must be independent to qualify; housing providers assess tenant *eligibility* for the program & have exit criteria for those who need a higher level of care.

### MODEL #4

#### Social Housing Assisted Living – MB, Canada

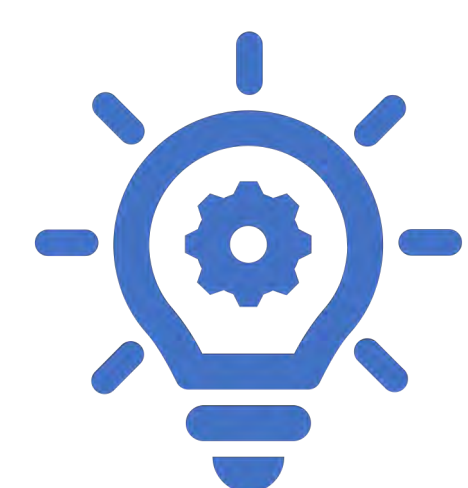
- Affordable, modified housing for low-income seniors.
- Tenants pay 30% of income for rent + \$700 for services
- Services include two meals/day, recreation, light housekeeping, move-in assistance & security.
- *Tenant Service Coordinators* are social workers who provide information & connect tenants to health services.

### MODEL #5

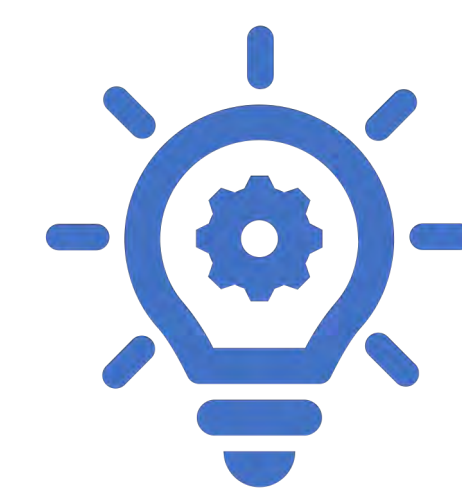
#### OASIS Aging (Independent Non-Profit) – ON, Canada

- Housing for low- & moderate-income seniors.
- *On-Site Coordinator* who helps tenants organize formal & informal social events to reduce isolation, including physical activity, communal dining & social connections.
- *Provincial Care Coordinators* provide referrals to services.
- Building owners do not have a significant role in the delivery of services.

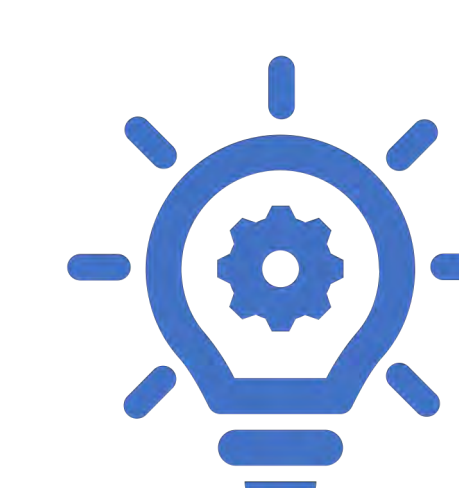
## KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR NOVEL SENIORS' SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM IN TORONTO



Successful housing models were created with ongoing tenant involvement to understand needs.



Collaborative partnerships between housing & health/social service providers were needed to create flexible place-based programs



On-site, tenant-facing staff were critical for building trust & community among tenants and played a role in identifying tenants that needed additional supports to age in place.