

My Home - My Community



Vision

Communities where every person lives with dignity and enjoys a full life.

Mission

Supporting people to live as full citizens.

Values

Respect

Community

Integrity

Accountability





The Community Living Society was founded in the 1970's by a group of family advocates who wanted individualized, community-based services that would allow their children to have the opportunity and the right to fully participate in, and contribute to, their communities.

CLS works with people with an Intellectual Disability or an Acquired Brain Injury and their family members to design the type and amount of support needed to help increase independence and realize dreams.

CLS provides services throughout the Lower Mainland of Vancouver and the Upper Fraser Valley.



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Entrance Criteria

Community Living Society receives all referrals for service from either Community Living British Columbia or the Ministry of Health, Acquired Brain Injury Program who determine eligibility. Once eligibility has been established, CLS will then meet with the qualified person to review the applicable program(s) and determine if it will be a good fit for both parties.

Person Centered Active Support

CLS is fully committed to helping people realize their full potential and to empower people to actively pursue full and meaningful lives. One significant way we do this is through Person Centred Active Support (PCAS) as developed by Julie Beadle Brown. It is the foundational approach we teach and employ when we support people.

What is Person-Centered Active Support?

It is purposeful/meaningful engagement between the person and their support staff members. It is doing things **with** a person and **not to or for them** without their consent and involvement.

PCAS is a foundational organizational commitment that ensures our services and supports empower people to have more choice and control over their lives.



Hours of Service

Staffed Homes	24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year	
Supported Living	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Accommodations for different hours as necessary
Independent Living	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Accommodations for different hours as necessary
Home Share	24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year	
Community Inclusion	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Accommodations for different hours as necessary
Individualized Supports	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Accommodations for different hours as necessary
L.I.F.E. Services	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Accommodations for different hours as necessary
Employment Services	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm	Customized based on the Job Seeker and Employers needs
Art Studios	Monday to Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm	Artists may attend art shows, exhibits, special events or classes in the evenings or weekends



My Home

Community Living Society (CLS) believes it is important for everyone to have a home they can make their own, where they feel safe and secure and can enjoy themselves with family and friends.

CLS provides a range of home-based services to suit the unique needs of each person we support. We know that some people may need only a few hours of support in their home while others will require support 24-hours a day.

CLS home-based service options include:

- Staffed Homes
- Supported Living
- Independent Living
- Home Share

Staffed Homes

A staffed home is designed to provide the person with a home to live in where they receive support 24 hours per day from CLS employees.

A full range of support is provided in the home including assistance with cooking, personal care, maintaining the home, seeking and receiving medical attention, etc. People are supported to access and engage in their community including recreational and leisure pursuits.

The goal is to help the person to gain the skills needed to be in control of their own life to the greatest degree possible. CLS also understands that families and friends are important, so we support people to develop and maintain these positive relationships.

Living in a staffed home may mean sharing the home with up to 3 others who also require support. Every person has their own room and shares the rest of the home as roommates.



Supported Living

Supported Livings services are designed for people who want to live in a home that CLS manages but would need ongoing support to do so. The amount and type of support varies as people have different wants and needs. Some people may need minimal (10) hours of support each week while others may need up to 30 hours. Supported Living employees work with each person and their personal support network to learn about the things that matter to the person so that support can be tailored to meet their unique needs.

Support focuses on key areas such as:

- Learning how to cook;
- Learning how to grocery shop;
- Learning how to maintain a clean home;
- Making the home safe and planning for and practicing handling emergencies;
- Assistance with budgeting;
- Finding a volunteer position;
- Attending medical appointments;
- Finding resources for emotional support;
- Making decisions;
- Developing and maintaining friendships and relationships.

As the person lives in their own home, our focus is also on helping to establish good practices so that they are safe and healthy in their home and community when CLS employees and personal support network members are not present.

Service hours are typically scheduled during the day on weekdays. If needed, support can be provided on the weekend or in the evening. Hours are scheduled to match a person's needs and other activities.



Independent Living

Independent Living is a service option that provides support to people living independently in the community and requires minimal assistance (up to 10 hours a week) in daily living. This service is available to people who own, lease, or rent their own homes. The Independent Living program provides targeted support through one-on-one sessions which can be in person or virtual.

The Independent Living Program focuses on providing just the right amount of assistance for a person to optimize their independence so they can enjoy good health and wellbeing within their home and community. The Program is intended to be supportive, not intrusive. It is not intended to provide 24/7 support, but rather to be specifically targeted as a complement to the ways a person can successfully manage on their own and/or with other resources and natural supports. People must be able to manage their basic living skills on their own or through other supports.

Support focuses on key areas such as:

- Learning to budget and pay bills;
- Improving cooking skills;
- Learning how to maintain a home;
- Creating a safe home and developing a plan for emergencies;
- Finding and accessing medical and other healthcare supports;
- Learning to use public transportation.

This service does not include medication administration, meal preparation, house cleaning, transportation, or pet management.



Home Share

Home Share is a service option for people who want to share a life and home with a family or another person. The Home Share Provider supports the person in the home that they share together. Support may include assistance with self-care, relationship building, life skills, meal preparation, personal care and use of community resources and services.

The person and Home Share Provider live together, and the person is supported to become fully integrated into their home, the family and community.

CLS recruits, screens and monitors the Home Share Providers. Home Share Providers are contracted to provide care and support to the person. The person is involved in planning for their supports and the section of the Home Share Provider.



My Community

CLS believes it is important that everyone has the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their community.

CLS provides a range of community-based services to support people to access their community, develop relationships, learn new skills, and contribute as full citizens.

CLS community service options include:

- Community Inclusion
- Individualized Supports
- L.I.F.E Services
- Employment Services
- Art Studios

Community Inclusion

This service is designed for people who require ongoing support to participate in community. People are supported to have a meaningful and purposeful day, based on their goals and preferences of activities. Activities may include volunteering, social or recreational opportunities or learning a new skill.

Community Inclusion services are often provided in small groups. People that attend are paired each day with another person and share support staff. They will meet at a small location intended to just be a meeting place or may be provided directly from the person's home (home based Community Inclusion). Locations are “community imbedded” meaning they are near a transit hub or Skytrain station and have easy access to community centres, libraries, opportunities for employment, socializing and volunteering. All activities and goals will take place in the community.



Individualized Supports

Individualized Supports are provided on a one-on-one basis (not group) and can occur in a person's home or in the community. The type of support provided can focus on skill development, community inclusion or outreach. This service is highly individualized. The person (and sometimes their personal support network) is involved in determining the type of support and where and when the support is provided. Supports respond to the person's strengths, individuality and changing needs.

L.I.F.E. Services

The L.I.F.E. program is designed for those who wish to be employed, to grow, develop independence, expand their personal networks, and develop friendships and relationships. L.I.F.E services is a community employment and inclusion service with the focus on supporting the person in four key areas:

- Lifelong Learning;
- Inclusion and Involvement in their communities;
- Developing Friendships and Relationships;
- Paid Employment.

L.I.F.E. services are provided on a one-to-one basis. L.I.F.E. services are flexible and responsive, and ebb and flow with the changing needs and choices of the person. The person directs and is involved in all aspects of planning and organizing their schedules including where, when and what type of support is required to meet their goals.

L.I.F.E based services employees support the person to increase their network of unpaid supports. Unpaid or "Natural" supports are people who are not paid to be in their life. Friends, family and co-workers are examples of "natural" supports.

L.I.F.E. is also an employment service. To be in L.I.F.E. services a person must want to work and develop independence.





Employment Services

Employment Services support people to obtain meaningful, community-based employment, earning competitive wages and benefits like other members of the community. The CLS supports job seekers to develop their skills so they can obtain “real work for real pay”.



Employment Services assist the job seeker to develop a personalized employment plan that reflects their strengths, interests, skills, and abilities.

Employment supports include:

- Job readiness skills – resume writing, interviewing and discovering new skills;
- Building relationships with local potential employers;
- Meeting with employers to negotiate or customize job positions;
- Identification of possible supports at the workplace to increase independence and decrease the need for paid supports;
- On-site job training;
- Ongoing assistance to the job seeker, and the employer;
- Additional job coaching when needed to ensure that everyone's needs continue to be met.



Art Studios

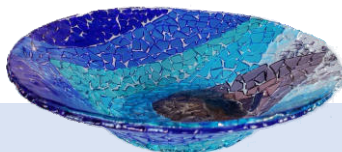
The CLS supports two studios where artists receive support to reach their artistic aspirations. The artists display their work at various venues throughout the Lower Mainland and online. This is a source of revenue for the artists.

studio seventy three

Located in Surrey, this studio is home to a group of artists who work with glass to create beautiful glassware, decorative pieces and wearable art. These glass artists are fully trained in using techniques of molding and fusing to bring their original designs to life. The artists are supported by a team of professionals who assist them in learning new techniques, as well as in the use of glass kilns and other equipment. The artists of Studio Seventy Three exhibit their work at art shows and galleries around the Lower Mainland.



Pottery Works is a studio/gallery space located in New Westminster that supports a collective of talented painters, potters and jewelers who create original works of art for exhibition and sale. Some of the PotteryWorks artists receive support; others attend independently, each inspiring one another to reach their artistic aspirations. Working artists provide instruction for those who want to improve their skills and techniques. The artists of PotteryWorks exhibit their work at art shows and galleries around the Lower Mainland.



2023-2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

All strategic priorities are underpinned by an unwavering commitment to:

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Strategic, accessible, and plain language communications

Meaningful action towards Indigenous reconciliation and self-education

RECRUITMENT and RETENTION	HOUSING	CONNECTION	OPERATIONAL RESPONSIVENESS
At CLS, we recognize our recruitment and retention efforts directly impact our ability to support individuals and families. We are committed to enhancing recruitment and retention to ensure prospective candidates want to work with us and existing staff members want to stay with us. 	We believe every person deserves a safe, inclusive, welcoming, and dignified place to live. CLS wants to create innovative housing solutions that meet the specific and ongoing needs of the individuals and families we support. We know that some people want more independent housing solutions while others are looking to age comfortably in place. 	The individuals we support are clear in their desire for greater connection and friendship. The last three years of COVID-19 have made genuine connection much harder to maintain. CLS wants to recalibrate and rededicate ourselves to being collaborative, creative, and thoughtful as we develop programs and projects that nurture genuine friendships, connections, and a true sense of belonging for supported individuals. 	CLS is a large organization with broad reach. As we move forward, CLS wants to enhance operational responsiveness by streamlining, and modernizing the systems and processes we use to deliver our services. By doing this work, we can best advocate for and support individuals and families. 



Communities
where every person
lives with dignity and
enjoys a full life

imagine it - live it

