



City of Richmond

**2021–2031
Collaborative
Action Plan to
Reduce and
Prevent Poverty
in Richmond**

**2024–2025
Highlights**

Community Social
Development
Department



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1. Introduction

The factors contributing to poverty are complex and require coordinated action from all levels of government and sectors in order to respond effectively. Recognizing this, the City of Richmond has adopted a collaborative approach, working closely with community partners to understand, reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond.

Poverty can be defined as “the condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society.”¹ It affects each household in different ways and extends beyond the inability to meet basic needs to include issues of inequity and a corresponding lack of access to opportunities. It can also influence or limit the ability of individuals or families to participate in different aspects of community life (social, cultural, political, economic and recreational).

Over the last several years, persistent high cost of living, including food, housing and transportation costs, combined with global economic insecurity, have increased financial pressures on households across Canada. As a result, more households are struggling to meet their basic needs, and many are relying on community and government supports, including households with incomes above poverty thresholds.

The City recognizes that local governments have a role to play in reducing and preventing poverty and is committed to working closely with community organizations and senior levels of government. Since the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty was adopted in 2021, the City in collaboration with its partners, has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at connecting households to vital community services that promote well-being, financial stability and inclusive participation in the community.

This document provides a progress update from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, on the implementation of the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond. In addition to reporting out on highlights, this document serves as a tool for the City, partner organizations, service providers and community members to identify future collaborative opportunities to reduce and prevent poverty in the community.

1 Employment and Social Development Canada (2018). Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy.

2. About the Plan

On December 6, 2021, City Council adopted the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond (Poverty Action Plan) to guide the City’s approach to working with the community to reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond over the next 10 years.

The Poverty Action Plan identifies four strategic directions and 26 recommended actions that are to be implemented collaboratively with the community from 2021 to 2031. They are intended to bolster community capacity to prevent and reduce poverty in Richmond. The strategic directions are:

- **Strategic Direction 1:** Prevent and Reduce Poverty
- **Strategic Direction 2:** Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty
- **Strategic Direction 3:** Increase Awareness and Educate
- **Strategic Direction 4:** Research, Monitor and Evaluate

The purpose of the Poverty Action Plan is to deepen the shared understanding of the experiences of individuals and families at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond and to identify actions to better meet their needs. The City-convened Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table, comprised of representatives from local non-profit organizations, community members with lived experience and public sector agencies, continues to play an important role in advancing the Poverty Action Plan. Through information sharing, ongoing dialogue and identifying collaborative initiatives to respond to poverty in Richmond, the Table fosters connections and helps to strengthen the capacity of the community to respond to the evolving needs of residents.



Alignment with Other City Strategies

The strategic directions and actions outlined in the Poverty Action Plan align with and build upon other City strategies and plans that address key areas related to poverty reduction and prevention to form a comprehensive approach. Key strategies that align with the Poverty Action Plan include the following:

- Richmond 2041 Official Community Plan (OCP)
- Building Our Future Together: The Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)
- City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (2018–2023)
- ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy (2026–2031)
- City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy (2017–2027)
- City of Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan (2019–2029)
- City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy (2019–2029)
- City of Richmond Recreation and Sport Strategy (2019–2024)
- City of Richmond Seniors Strategy (2022–2032)
- City of Richmond Youth Strategy (2022–2032)
- Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050
- Richmond Accessibility Plan (2023–2033)
- Richmond Child Care Action Plan (2021–2031)
- Richmond Child Care Strategy (2024–2034)

3. Poverty Amid Growing Economic Instability and Rising Cost of Living

Across Canada, the high cost of living combined with growing economic uncertainty has created affordability challenges for more Canadians. In 2024, the Canadian Social Survey found that 45% of Canadians reported that rising costs are affecting their ability to cover day-to-day expenses, nearly 12% higher than in 2022, which was 33%.² Additionally, data shows that these financial challenges are making it more difficult for a growing number of households at risk of or experiencing poverty to meet their basic needs.

The Government of Canada’s official measure of poverty is the Market Basket Measure (MBM).³ The MBM estimates the annual household income required to afford a ‘basket’ of services and goods to maintain a modest standard of living for a household. Households that earn an annual income that is less than the MBM are deemed to be experiencing poverty. In 2024, according to the MBM, a household comprised of a family of four with two children in Metro Vancouver needed to earn \$62,842 to cover the costs of rent, food, transportation and other basic necessities of life.⁴ Since 2021, the MBM has increased by 14%, reflecting a longer-term trend of growing financial barriers to meeting basic needs for low-income households across Metro Vancouver.

While market housing rental rates were reported to have declined nationwide in 2024–2025, the affordability of rental housing remains a significant financial barrier for households at risk of or living in poverty.⁵ Since 2021, the average rent for a two-bedroom unit in Metro Vancouver has increased nearly 30%.⁶ The high cost of housing paired with rising costs for basic needs has placed additional financial strain on low-income households. An affordable housing survey conducted by Habitat for Humanity Canada in 2024 revealed that 59% of respondents traded off expenses for basic needs such as food, clothing and education to pay rent or mortgage.⁷ Additionally, this financial strain is reflected in food prices across the country, which have increased by 24% between 2021 and 2025.⁸ According to Food Banks Canada, in March 2025, more than two million people accessed food banks across Canada to help meet their immediate food needs, with food bank usage across the country doubling since 2019.⁹

Overall, more Canadian households are relying on community and government supports to meet their basic needs. This trend underscores the increasing pressure on community and government organizations to provide support for Canadians at risk of or living in poverty.

Richmond Context

Community data reflects that an increasing number of Richmond residents are also accessing supports to meet their basic needs. In the trends highlighted below, the most recent data has been provided. Additionally, data from 2021 has been provided to illustrate longer term changes in community need since the adoption of the City’s Poverty Action Plan.

² Statistics Canada (2024). The Daily — Nearly half of Canadians report that rising prices are greatly impacting their ability to meet day-to-day expenses.

³ Statistics Canada (2022). Market Basket Measure.

⁴ Statistics Canada (2025). Market Basket Measure (MBM) thresholds for the reference family by Market Basket Measure region, component and base year.

⁵ CMHC (2025). Rental Market Report.

⁶ CMHC (2025). Rental Market Survey Data Tables.

⁷ Habitat for Humanity (2024). Affordable Housing Survey.

⁸ Statistics Canada (2026). Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted.

⁹ Food Banks Canada (2025). Hunger in Canada – Overall Findings.



Food Bank Usage

- Data collected by the Richmond Food Bank Society indicates that from 2024 to 2025 visits increased by 1,861 visits or 3%, from 62,672 visits in 2024 to 64,533 visits in 2025.^{10, 11} The growth in Food Bank visits is part of an ongoing trend in Richmond of increasing use of food assistance programs.
- Between 2021 and 2025, annual Food Bank visits increased by 27,901 visits or 76%, from 36,632 total visits in 2021 to 64,533 total visits in 2025.^{12, 13}

BC Housing Applicant Registry

- In 2025, the number of households in Richmond enrolled on the BC Housing Applicant Registry decreased by 85 households or 5%, from 1,760 households in 2024 to 1,675 households in 2025.^{14, 15} While there was a slight decrease, overall, there has been a continued trend of increasing demand for affordable housing in the community since 2021.
- Between 2021 and 2025, the number of Richmond households enrolled on the BC Housing Applicant Registry increased by 601 households or 56%, from 1,074 households in 2021 to 1,675 households in 2025.^{16, 17}

Point-in-Time Homeless Count

- Data collected through the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 175 individuals as experiencing homelessness at the time of the Count. This represents an 8% increase, a change of 13 individuals, from the data collected in 2023 when 162 people were counted.¹⁸
- The individuals identified in the 2025 Count, included 71 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 104 individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness in the city. This represents a decline in unsheltered homelessness in the community of 9 individuals, from 80 individuals in 2023 to 71 individuals in 2025.¹⁹

BC Income and Disability Assistance

- Data from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction indicates that from 2024 to 2025, the number of Richmond households supported by BC Income and Disability Assistance grew by 205 households or 6%, from 3,682 households in 2024 to 3,887 households in 2025. This increase is part of a longer-term trend of a growing number of Richmond households requiring financial assistance to meet their basic needs.^{20, 21}
- Since 2021, the number of households supported by BC Income and Disability Assistance has increased by 974 households or 33%, growing from 2,913 households in 2021 to 3,887 households in 2025.^{22, 23}
- In 2025, single-person households continued to comprise the majority of BC Income and Disability Assistance cases in Richmond, representing 1,074 or 74% of Income Assistance cases and 2,143 or 88% of Disability Assistance cases.²⁴ The high proportion of single-person households accessing BC Income and Disability Assistance is consistent with caseload trends since 2021.²⁵

10 Richmond Food Bank Society (2025). Impact Report.

11 Richmond Food Bank Society (2024). Annual Report.

12 Richmond Food Bank Society (2021). Annual Report.

13 Richmond Food Bank Society (2025). Annual Report.

14 BC Housing (2024). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

15 BC Housing (2025). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

16 BC Housing (2021). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

17 BC Housing (2025). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

18 Homelessness Services Association of BC (2025). Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver.

19 Homelessness Services Association of BC (2025). Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver.

20 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

21 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2024).

22 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2021).

23 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

24 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

25 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2021).

4. Roles and Responsibilities in Poverty Reduction

Experiences of poverty are the result of many social and economic factors at the community, regional and national levels. Reducing and preventing poverty requires all three levels of government, the non-profit, private and public sectors, as well as community members, including individuals with lived experience of poverty, to work together to make an impact.

Government of Canada

The Government of Canada plays a pivotal role in reducing and preventing poverty in Canada, as it is responsible for economic policies and social programs that affect the well-being and household income of Canadians. This includes programs such as the Canada child benefit, Disability tax credit, Canada workers benefit and employment-related policies and programs, such as Canada’s Employment Insurance program. The federal government also provides funding transfers to provincial governments in key areas such as health care and child care and provides funding to municipalities and community service organizations for projects, programs and services that align with federal priorities. Additionally, various federal agencies work closely with municipalities on areas of mutual concern, such as affordable housing via the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In 2018, the Government of Canada launched Canada’s first poverty reduction strategy, Opportunity for All, which recognizes the role of the federal government in working with other levels of government to urgently reduce poverty.

New Government of Canada policies and programs that were introduced to support households at risk of or living in poverty in 2024–2025 included the Canadian Dental Care Plan, which reduces financial barriers to oral health for low-income Canadians without a dental plan; the Canada Disability Benefit for low-income working Canadians with disabilities; the National School Food Program, which aims to ensure school-aged children across Canada can access healthy meals and snacks; and a 1% middle-income tax rate reduction, which will return up to \$420 per person annually.



Province of BC

The Province of BC is responsible for a broad range of social policy areas that contribute to poverty reduction and prevention, including health care, education, child care, affordable housing and income assistance. The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction delivers a system of supports to help British Columbians achieve their social and economic potential. This includes the BC Income and Disability Assistance programs and WorkBC centres that provide free employment services for individuals who are unemployed. In addition, the Province delivers a variety of social services and supports through partnerships with all levels of government, non-profit organizations and Indigenous governments.

New policies and programs introduced by the Province in 2024–2025 to support households at risk of or living in poverty included updates to the BC Income and Disability Assistance programs that allow recipients to keep more of their benefits; and enhancements to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) that increase monthly rental assistance provided to recipients and raise the income threshold for assistance eligibility. Additionally, in 2024, the Province implemented the \$25 million Community Prosperity Fund, which distributed funding to charities and non-profit organizations across BC to implement poverty reduction and social inclusion initiatives.

City of Richmond

As a local government, the City of Richmond has a unique ability to understand and respond to the evolving needs of Richmond residents. In collaboration with the provincial and federal governments and community partners, the City enhances access to poverty reduction and prevention services at the local level. The legislative powers available to the City enable it to advance actions that contribute to affordability, livability and social inclusion, such as the development of affordable housing, child care amenities and programs that promote social connection. In response to specific needs within the community, the City takes a variety of approaches, such as:

- Developing and implementing policies and strategies that guide its approach to poverty reduction and prevention to meet the needs of Richmond’s diverse population;
- Working with community-based organizations to advocate for policy change, funding and program recommendations to federal and provincial governments;
- Highlighting promising practices for fostering belonging that increase awareness and education of the specific needs and barriers for residents experiencing poverty;
- Making data-informed recommendations to ensure programs, policy and funding are reflective of community needs;
- Delivering poverty reduction initiatives in the form of programs and services that are within the City’s mandate;
- Acting as a convener and connector to enable cross-community collaboration efforts with the City and community organizations that prevent and reduce poverty; and
- Collaborating with community partners to deliver programming that prevents and reduces poverty through providing financial assistance and access to space for programming.

Community Associations and Societies

The City works closely with Community Associations and Societies to provide recreation, sport, arts, culture and heritage opportunities to all Richmond residents. The City provides the facilities and core staffing at a number of City-owned facilities and the Community Associations and Societies are responsible for the delivery of programs, services and events. The City and Community Associations and Societies aim to provide a range of free and low-cost programs that are inclusive and remove barriers to participation so all residents can participate. The Community Associations and Societies also partner with the City to offer the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program for those who experience financial barriers. The program provides unlimited drop-in admission for all ages to a wide range of activities, including drop-in swimming, skating and fitness programs, as well as a 90% discount on eligible registered parks, recreation and cultural programs, up to \$300 per year for children and youth and \$100 per year for adults and seniors.

Richmond Public Library

Public libraries promote literacy and lifelong learning and provide a range of resources, programs and services that are accessible to everyone in the community, including individuals at risk of or living in poverty. Richmond Public Library provides barrier-free services with no late fines for borrowed items and responds to the community's evolving needs to learn and connect by providing a variety of options. In addition to print materials, the Library's collection includes a variety of activity kits that are free to borrow and dedicated spaces are available to access and learn about digital technology. The Library acts as a resource hub, working in partnership with community-based organizations to better connect residents with skill-building opportunities and community resources. Through its four Richmond locations, the Library leverages its welcoming and familiar environment to foster new and stronger relationships with community and non-profit organizations through cross-referrals and collaborative programming.

Richmond School District

The Richmond School District plays a significant role in supporting children and families experiencing poverty that goes beyond their fundamental purpose of providing education. Richmond schools act as community hubs that help families build support systems and create connections in the community. They provide access to social and recreational opportunities that contribute to healthy child development and help connect children and families to resources in the broader community. The Richmond School District also operates programs that ensure all children and youth have access to supplies, nutritious snacks and other basic necessities.

Vancouver Coastal Health

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) provides health care services through a network of hospitals, primary care centres, community health centres and residential care. VCH is one of five regional health authorities that governs, plans and coordinates health services in BC. VCH aims to improve the health and well-being of all residents. This is accomplished by building collaborative partnerships with municipalities and community service organizations to address conditions that create health inequities, consider the needs of vulnerable groups, including those at risk of or living in poverty and foster supportive environments for everyone.

Business Community

A resilient and inclusive economy is important to both preventing and reducing poverty. The business community plays an integral role in fostering a robust labour market, providing income to workers and contributing to the overall quality of life of Richmond residents. Businesses partner with community organizations to remove barriers to employment, offer mentoring opportunities and assist with sponsorship of programs and events that help foster the full participation of all Richmond residents in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the city.

Residents and Community Members

Richmond residents and community members play an integral role in preventing and reducing poverty in the city. Through volunteering and raising awareness, many residents and community members make a positive impact on the lives of people at risk of or living in poverty. In addition, residents who have lived experience of poverty share their insights and knowledge to guide poverty reduction initiatives.

Collaborations in the Community

Poverty prevention and reduction requires a community effort and is not the sole responsibility of one organization, sector or level of government. Richmond-based community organizations and public sector agencies, including the City, are committed to working together on initiatives that contribute to preventing and reducing poverty in the community. The overview below provides a summary of some of the important work led by community partners in 2024–2025.

- Social Services:** Richmond is home to over 50 non-profits, charities and faith-based organizations that have dedicated resources to social services that prevent or reduce the impacts of poverty on Richmond residents. In 2024–2025, key supports offered by community organizations included affordable housing navigation, mental health and wellness programs, addictions and recovery supports, employment resources and social programs that promote connections among community members. Community organizations also continuously adapted services to meet community needs. For example, in 2024, Richmond Family Place launched “Pre-Natal Circles of Support” a group-based learning series that fills the gap in services for new parents who face financial barriers, and are seeking to build community and connect with prenatal professional guidance.
- Food Access:** In 2024–2025, Richmond faith-based and community groups along with non-profit organizations continued to respond to the growing need for food assistance by offering a wide range of programs. These included daily community and outreach meals, food hampers and specialized food programs designed to support specific populations, such as people with disabilities, newcomers and seniors. To further improve access to food services, the Food Bank launched a new online registration system in 2024 to streamline intake and better serve residents. In addition, Richmond Family Place received a City of Richmond Neighbourhood Celebration Grant to support its Roots and Relationships event in 2024. This event helped to strengthen food security in the community by bringing community members together through gardening-based activities.
- Employment:** Employment readiness and skills development are key services that contribute to preventing and reducing poverty. In 2024–2025, approximately 20 community organizations, government agencies and post-secondary institutions supported Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty to find work and gain new skills. This included the Richmond WorkBC Centre, operated by S.U.C.C.E.S.S., that served over 2,500 diverse job seekers with inclusive, personalized job search services. These job search services led to a 17% increase in job seekers securing and sustaining employment in 2024–2025.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** Experiencing poverty can lead to additional challenges with managing overall mental health, stress and well-being. In recognition of the need for access to quality mental health services available to Richmond residents, Vancouver Coastal Health delivered multiple initiatives in partnership with faith-based and community organizations, aimed at raising awareness and improving access to mental health and substance use services. These included hosting an information table at the monthly Community Services Pop Ups and providing educational sessions about mental health and substance use recovery with community partners including the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition, Peace Mennonite Church and St. Alban's Church.
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** Effective poverty reduction and prevention initiatives must be developed with the active participation of people with lived experience to ensure they are responsive and relevant. In 2024–2025, the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC) led several community-based initiatives to raise awareness on topics such as challenges with the new Canada Disability Benefit, funding cuts to Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, and low-end market rental housing. Additionally, RPRC completed the Keeping Seniors Housed Project in 2025, which aimed to identify solutions to help address the growing number of seniors who are at risk of homelessness.
- **Financial Assistance:** Direct financial assistance to community organizations and Richmond residents provided important access to supports and programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty. In 2024–2025, Vancouver Coastal Health disbursed over \$900,000 in grants to community groups for initiatives that support Richmond newcomers, refugees, seniors, people living with lower incomes, families with young children, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, persons with lived or living experience of substance use and people with mental health disabilities and their families. Additionally, a total of 34 unique community organizations were supported through the City's Health, Social and Safety Grant Program during the 2024 and 2025 grant cycles, with \$1.18 million awarded to support social services and programs benefiting Richmond residents, including individuals and families with lower incomes. While not all initiatives were directly focused on poverty reduction, many supported factors that contribute to addressing poverty, such as access to community food programs, outreach services, employment supports, and health and wellness opportunities.

5. Progress on the Poverty Action Plan

The following sections of the report include highlights from the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The current status of the Poverty Action Plan’s strategic directions and recommended actions are outlined in the Appendix.

Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty

Poverty reduction and prevention means improving equitable access to the resources and opportunities needed for individuals to meet their immediate needs, foster belonging through social connections and develop more financially stable futures. The City is committed to facilitating collective action with community organizations and senior levels of government through ongoing dialogue, information sharing and social planning that proactively meets the evolving needs of Richmond residents.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 1, the City aims to strengthen community capacity in Richmond to implement strategies that meet the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty.



Achievements and Highlights

- Since 2022, the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table worked collaboratively to advance the Poverty Action Plan’s priorities. In 2024–2025, the Table focused on fostering cross-sector collaboration, building awareness of the resources available to Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty and identifying ways to enhance referrals between services. The Table also increased connections among community partners by welcoming Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Literacy Richmond and Richmond Women’s Resource Centre to the Table. (*Action 1.1*)
- The City worked in partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and BC Housing to open Harbour House, a 25-unit affordable housing development for women and women with children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Completed in 2025, this development was made possible through investment from all three levels of government whereby, the City contributed land and allocated \$2.21 million in capital funding through its Affordable Housing Reserve Fund and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation invested \$9.1 million in capital funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative. Additionally, BC Housing contributed capital funding towards the project, enabling an increase in the number of units from 18 to 25 homes and has provided ongoing operating funding to Turning Point Housing Society, the local non-profit housing operator managing the development. (*Action 1.2*)
- In 2024, the City launched the Community Services Connectors Pilot Program in partnership with Richmond Public Library. Development and implementation of the pilot program was supported by a \$50,000 provincial grant from the Union of BC Municipalities’ Poverty Reduction Planning Action Program Grant and an additional investment of \$10,000 from the Government of BC’s Public Library Enhancement Grant that was awarded to the Library. The Connectors program trains individuals with lived experience to provide peer-to-peer resource navigation to connect Richmond residents to a variety of government and community-based supports. (*Action 1.2*)
- Throughout 2024–2025, the City co-chaired the Richmond Employment Resources Network in collaboration with Back in Motion and Pacific Autism Family Network. The Employment Network focuses on increasing access to opportunities for mentorship, training and upskilling for Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty. Since 2023, the Employment Network has engaged approximately 20 community organizations to strengthen connections among a broad range of community-based employment services and programs to support Richmond residents seeking employment. (*Action 1.4*)
- In 2024, the Richmond Employment Resources Network in collaboration with the City and Richmond Public Library, launched Employment Connections: Programs and Supports for Jobseekers. Employment Connections is a free resource event designed to raise awareness of employment services and supports available to Richmond residents who may face barriers to work. Employment Connections events were held in October 2024 and May 2025 at Brighthouse Library. The events helped to connect a total of 206 job seekers to 22 local organizations with information about training and employment programs, on-site resume reviews and mock interviews. (*Action 1.4*)
- The City, in partnership with WorkBC and City Centre Community Association, delivered annual hiring fairs at City Centre Community Centre in 2024–2025. These hiring fairs provided free, accessible opportunities for Richmond job seekers to explore their employment prospects with potential employers. A total of 1,100 individuals participated in the hiring fairs. (*Action 1.4*)

- In 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library hosted several employment-based initiatives in partnership with community organizations.
 - The Library, in partnership with WorkBC, Richmond Multicultural Community Services and local Richmond businesses, hosted five job fairs at Brighthouse Library in 2024–2025. These free in-person events provided opportunities for close to 1,900 job seekers to network with potential employers, explore job openings and participate in on-the-spot interviews.
 - In 2024–2025, the Library partnered with BC Settlement and Integration Services, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and WorkBC to deliver monthly resume clinics at Ironwood Library. These resume clinics provided a total of 130 job seekers the opportunity to receive resume feedback from employment experts. (*Action 1.4*)
- Since 2023, the City in partnership with Touchstone Family Association, has delivered the Workforce Readiness Initiative for at-risk and gang-involved youth 12 to 24 years who are seeking support with employment readiness. The program provides employment supports tailored to individual participant's career goals, which includes vocational training, resume development, interview preparation, guidance on education pathways and purchasing protective workwear. In 2024–2025, a total of 21 youth accessed support through the program. The program is federally funded through Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund and will continue until March 2026. (*Action 1.4*)
- In 2025, the City was awarded a \$5,000 BC Healthy Communities PlanH Grant to develop the Rec Ready Program for young adults 19 to 24 years who were not enrolled in post-secondary education. Through Rec Ready, participants were introduced to a variety of recreation roles and equipped with the skills and training needed for successful employment in the recreation field. As a result of this initiative, Community Associations and Societies engaged five youth as staff and five youth as volunteers. (*Action 1.4*)
- The Richmond Youth Media Program continued to provide Richmond youth with access to digital media skills development and literacy opportunities. In 2024–2025, approximately 550 Richmond youth joined the program's free weekly drop-in sessions, where they developed digital media skills and applied these skills to volunteer and paid roles, such as photography at the City's Battle of the Bands event series. The program also collaborated with community partners to deliver initiatives that developed digital media skills among youth participants.
 - In 2024–2025, the Richmond Youth Media Program hosted an annual Career in Media Arts networking event to celebrate BC Youth Week in May. The event welcomed approximately 80 youth and seven partner organizations to highlight the diversity of digital media career pathways.
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the Richmond Youth Media Program, with funding support from Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund, engaged 25 at-risk youth in sessions that built a variety of digital and media skills, including photo and video production, music creation, graphic design, digital illustration and filmmaking.
 - In March 2024, with funding through Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund, improvements to the Media Lab were completed that enhanced its capacity to meet the needs of at-risk youth. This funding enabled the purchase of new hardware, equipment and software. (*Action 1.5*)



- Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library hosted digital literacy education programs that helped individuals use computers and smartphones for learning, communication and accessing programs and services.
 - The Library’s Tech Buddies program linked seniors with volunteers for one-on-one learning about basic computer skills, such as using email and applications. In 2024–2025, over 130 sessions were offered at the Brighthouse and Steveston Libraries, supporting approximately 1,300 seniors.
 - The Library partnered with Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends’ Society in 2024–2025 to deliver 60 computer basics training sessions that benefited over 350 participants. (*Action 1.5*)

Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty

People at risk of or living in poverty face complex barriers to accessing the supports and services they need to meet their basic needs and improve their overall well-being. The City works alongside Richmond’s network of community organizations and federal and provincial government agencies to increase access to a wide range of programs and services.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 2, the City aims to reduce barriers and increase access to the programs and resources available to community members at risk of or living in poverty and to promote resiliency and a sense of inclusion in the community.

Achievements and Highlights

- Richmond Public Library continues to reduce barriers to accessing library resources for Richmond residents who are at risk of or living in poverty and housing instability. In 2025, 267 library customers accessed the No Fixed Address Library Card that requires no proof of identification for library registration. Additionally, the Library introduced an instant access digital library card in 2025. Approximately 2,350 library users have benefited from this access initiative that promotes the inclusion of Richmond residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- In July 2025, Richmond Public Library launched the RPL To Go service which aims to ensure that Richmond community members can access library resources regardless of where they live in the city. From July onwards, the RPL To Go service engaged with more than 1,100 individuals through 19 outreach visits to locations in Richmond, including the Richmond Food Bank and City community facilities. Learnings from the pilot program will be used to develop additional outreach opportunities to reduce barriers to accessing literacy and digital resources for Richmond residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- As of spring 2025, 11 of the 13 City-owned child care facilities now operate as \$10 a day sites, charging a maximum fee to parents of \$200 per month. Funding to support these fee reductions is provided by the Province of BC. The other two facilities participate in a range of Provincial funding programs that also reduce fees. These initiatives, combined with nominal leases for the use of City-owned facilities, support child care affordability and give families, particularly women, opportunities to pursue employment and improve their finances. (*Action 2.1*)
- In 2024–2025, the City collaborated with City Centre Community Association, East Richmond Community Association, South Arm Community Association, Steveston Community Society and the Richmond School District’s Community Schools Program to provide free or low-cost after-school activities at Richmond school sites. In total, 65 children and youth participated in art, recreation and social programming through this partnership. (*Action 2.1*)
- The annual Snow Angels program matches volunteers with residents who face barriers to snow clearing that prevent them from safely accessing the Richmond community. In 2025, recognizing the financial barriers faced by some Richmond residents to completing snow clearing, the program was expanded to serve Richmond residents with low incomes. In 2024–2025, Snow Angels provided snow-clearing assistance to 169 residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- The City provides grant funding to community organizations to support a variety of opportunities for children, youth and families who face financial barriers to accessing recreational and physical activities.
 - The City awarded KidSport Richmond \$20,000 in funding in 2024 and \$24,000 in funding in 2025 through the Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grant Program, to subsidize sport fees for children and youth of low-income families. In 2024–2025, KidSport Richmond provided 967 children with the opportunity to participate in at least one season of a sport that is affiliated with Sport BC.

- In 2024–2025, the City provided funding to Richmond Sports Council to support the Active Recreation & Sports Fund, which helps to remove financial barriers to recreation and sport programming for children in Richmond, with \$5,000 in funding provided in 2024 and \$8,000 in funding provided in 2025. Since 2024, the Fund has supported 50 children, providing up to \$500 per child to cover fees for active recreation and sport programs that do not have a provincial governing body. Eligible programs included martial arts, floor hockey, swimming, gymnastics and various types of dance.
 - In summer 2025, Community Associations and Societies hosted Neighbourhood Play Days with funding from the City's Parks Recreation Culture and Event Grants Program. These summer events delivered free, family-friendly programming in neighbourhood parks across Richmond. Play Days attracted over 1,450 participants, providing an opportunity to build social connections among Richmond's diverse community members while providing low-barrier access to recreation programming. Program partners included Art2Heart, OceanWise, Richmond Fire Rescue, Richmond RCMP and Urban Bounty.
 - Beginning September 2024, the City, in partnership with Touchstone Family Association and the Richmond School District's Horizon Program, offered art, recreation and social programs to youth who were not attending traditional school and facing mental health or financial barriers to participating in community programs. Over 50 youth benefitted from these low-barrier programs, which are scheduled to continue until the end of the 2026 school year. (*Action 2.1*)
- A Drop-in Centre for individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness, located at the City-owned Brighthouse Pavilion, continued to operate in 2024–2025. The Drop-in Centre was funded by the Province of BC through the Union of BC Municipalities' Strengthening Communities' Services Grant from December 2021 until March 2024, when the grant concluded. Starting in April 2024, the Drop-in Centre has been funded by the City and is currently operated by The Progressive Housing Society. The Drop-In Centre offers resources and referrals to community services, lunches, showers, laundry and access to computers. (*Action 2.1*)
 - During the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 winter seasons, there were two Temporary Winter Shelters in Richmond to provide overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Operated from two City-owned facilities, by The Progressive Housing Society, these shelters provided a safe, warm space to rest, evening meals, snacks, washroom access and referrals to additional services. In the 2024–2025 winter season, the Temporary Winter Shelters were supported by operating funding from the City and BC Housing and for the 2025–2026 winter season, all operating funding was provided by BC Housing. (*Action 2.1*)
 - The Recreation Fee Subsidy Program, offered by the City and Community Associations and Societies, supports residents of all ages who are experiencing financial hardship by providing access to a wide range of recreation, cultural and parks programs. During the 2024–2025 program year (September 1–August 31), 4,584 residents participated in the program, representing an 18% increase from the 2023–2024 program year, which supported 3,899 residents. This increase highlights the continued and growing need for affordable recreation opportunities in the Richmond community for residents facing financial barriers. (*Action 2.2*)
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the City increased awareness of the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program through outreach initiatives to Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty in partnership with community organizations. This included hosting Recreation Fee Subsidy Program information tables at the Community Services Pop Ups at Brighthouse Library, Cambie Community Centre, Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living, South Arm Community Centre and Steveston Community Centre. Additionally, the City, in partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. delivered two informational workshops for newcomers to learn more about the program. (*Action 2.2*)

- In 2024, Urban Bounty was awarded a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Events grant of \$16,000 to implement food system programs, events and community initiatives. Through this grant, Urban Bounty delivered initiatives that provided access to fresh produce for community members, including those at risk of or living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity.
 - In 2024, Urban Bounty partnered with homeowners to collect 6,300 pounds of recovered local fruit from trees on private property through the Fruit Recovery Program. Portions of the collected fruit were donated to Richmond community service organizations that support residents at risk of or experiencing food insecurity, such as the Richmond Food Bank and RainCity Housing.
 - Urban Bounty also lowered barriers to growing food for Richmond residents experiencing food insecurity by providing tools and resources needed to grow food. In 2024, the City in partnership with Urban Bounty, provided five individuals and 28 groups (non-profit organizations or schools) with subsidized garden plots. In 2025, this increased to 12 individuals and 68 groups. (*Action 2.4*)
- During the 2024 and 2025 grant cycles, the City provided a total of \$369,097 through the City Grant Program and additional one-time funding to support food security initiatives. These initiatives—including grocery distribution and meal delivery services, community and outreach meals, small-scale sustainable agriculture, and local farmers’ markets and events that supported food security through the promotion of local food and food producers—helped improve food access among Richmond residents, including individuals and families with lower incomes, supporting their ability to meet basic needs. (*Action 2.4*)
- The City collaborated with the Richmond Food Bank and Richmond Food Coalition to update the No or Low-Cost Community Meals and Food Programs resource. The resource compiles information about free and low-cost meals delivered by community organizations and grocery distribution through the Richmond Food Bank. In 2024, the resource was refined to enhance access to information about community food programs, as well as provide a tool to support community meal providers in identifying potential gaps and service duplication. The resource is available on the City’s Community Resources webpage and regularly updated in collaboration with the Richmond Food Bank. (*Action 2.4*)



- In 2024–2025, the City and its partners delivered a variety of social food programs that aim to foster social inclusion and provide access to healthy meals to Richmond residents experiencing food insecurity in an inclusive and low-barrier environment.
 - The Minoru Seniors Society, in collaboration with Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), hosted the free Seniors Social Meals program, which included transportation to and from a social activity and group meal. In 2024–2025, 32 sessions were hosted, providing 579 meals to 135 isolated seniors. Participating seniors were referred through social prescribing programs offered by the Richmond Division of Family Practice and RCRG. The Seniors Social Meal program was supported by a United Way BC Social Meals Enhancement grant totaling \$22,000.
 - From May to October 2025, the Minoru Seniors Society delivered the Food for Thought program, with funding from the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. This free program engaged 108 seniors who learned hands-on skills to grow their own produce and cook basic dishes. The program also included intergenerational activities and trips to farmers’ markets to learn about local producers, enhancing the food security of the participating seniors.
 - In 2024–2025, Minoru Seniors Society and Steveston Rotary Club partnered to deliver a total of 680 free meals to Richmond seniors experiencing food insecurity. Through this partnership, the Minoru Seniors Society prepared meals in its cafeteria and Rotary Club volunteers delivered them to participating seniors.
 - In April 2025, the City launched Brunch with Friends, a free program for youth 13 to 24 years who are experiencing food insecurity. Since its inception, the biweekly program has fostered social connections and provided light snacks and brunch meals to 36 youth. (*Action 2.4*)
- In 2024, the City, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health’s Richmond Adult Mental Health Team, launched the free Arts Sampler program for Richmond patients facing financial and mental health barriers to participating in arts programming. Through the program, participants were exposed to a variety of art forms, including creative movement, drumming, clay hand building and printmaking. Since the program launched in 2024, 70 participants have accessed the Arts Sampler program. (*Action 2.6*)
- In 2024–2025, the City delivered Into the Woods, a free hiking program that supports youth experiencing addiction, anxiety, poverty and social isolation. The program engaged a total of 23 youth to take part in weekly hikes throughout the summer which also provided opportunities to develop peer-to-peer connections. Youth participants were referred to the program through community partners, including Community Associations and Societies, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Touchstone Family Association and Richmond School District. (*Action 2.6*)
- In 2024–2025, the City continued to partner with Community Associations and Societies to deliver monthly citywide 55+ Wellness Clinics, which provide free or low-cost access to a variety of seniors’ health and wellness services. Services include blood pressure and glucose checks, hearing exams, foot care clinics, shiatsu treatments, reflexology, registered massage therapy and information from community organizations. These clinics were hosted at City Centre Community Centre, East Richmond Community Hall, Minoru Centre for Active Living, South Arm Community Centre and Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. In response to high demand for Wellness Clinic services, an additional clinic was opened at the Thompson Community Centre in 2025. In total, over 13,400 appointments were completed in 2024–2025 for various health and wellness services offered at these clinics. (*Action 2.6*)

- Lime operates the City’s shared micromobility e-scooter and e-bike service. In 2024, to reduce barriers to accessing affordable transportation, the City collaborated with Lime to introduce a streamlined application process for Recreation Fee Subsidy Program participants to apply to the Lime Access Program. The Lime Access Program provides discounted e-scooter and e-bike rides to program participants with low incomes. In 2024–2025, 171 Richmond riders signed up for the Lime Access Program, completing 761 rides. In total, approximately 40% of riders participating in Lime Access are Recreation Fee Subsidy Program participants. (*Action 2.8*)
- In 2024–2025, a variety of accessible transportation programs were offered that aimed to remove transportation and financial barriers for seniors.
 - In 2024, the Rediscover Richmond Parks pilot program provided seniors with free shuttle service to attend free workshops in Richmond parks. These workshops focused on themes such as bird watching, kite flying, bees, and local flora and fauna. In total, 300 seniors participated and 19 workshops took place at nine different Richmond parks. The pilot was funded provincially by a \$5,000 BC Healthy Communities PlanH Grant and was made possible through partnerships with the City and Community Associations and Societies.
 - In 2025, the City awarded the Richmond Nature Park Society a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Events grant for \$3,000 to support environmental parks programming. This funding was used to provide free shuttle bus service to the Richmond Nature Park to increase access to the park for 42 seniors who face transportation barriers. The transportation enabled participants to engage in nature walks, educational sessions and social activities.
 - In 2024–2025, the City partnered with the Minoru Seniors Society to deliver the Shopping Bus, which provides seniors with low-cost shuttle services to access local businesses and services around Richmond. Shuttle services include pick-ups and drop-offs from several seniors housing complexes in Richmond and the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Throughout 2025, seniors used the Shopping Bus in record numbers, completing a total of 97 trips by 1,316 passengers. (*Action 2.8*)
- Richmond Public Library partnered with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Canada Revenue Agency, Service Canada and the Lord’s Harvest Fellowship to offer free income tax clinics to low-income individuals at Brighthouse Library. In 2024–2025, 17 tax clinics were offered, providing 450 individuals with low incomes personal income tax filing assistance. As a result, low-income Richmond residents had an increased opportunity to receive provincial and federal income benefits, such as the Canada child benefit. (*Action 2.9*)
- Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library in partnership with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Chartered Professional Accounts of BC and Gulf and Fraser Financial Group, hosted 12 free financial literacy programs at Brighthouse and Ironwood Libraries. Through these programs, 70 participants learned new skills for managing finances. (*Action 2.9*)
- In March 2024, Richmond Public Library launched the Laptop Kiosk program to expand options for free access to information and resources for Richmond residents navigating community services. The program provides residents with the ability to borrow a laptop computer and use it in the library for a single day. Between March 2024 and December 2025, community members borrowed laptops over 13,500 times through this self-serve kiosk. (*Action 2.9*)

Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate

Building a community that is inclusive of all residents, regardless of socioeconomic standing, requires increased awareness and understanding of the needs and challenges of those at risk of or living in poverty. As well, participation of residents with lived or living experience of poverty is essential to developing initiatives that address their needs to ensure solutions are accessible and meaningful.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 3, the City aims to develop a shared understanding of the needs of households at risk of or living in poverty and to increase opportunities for people with lived experience to contribute to the development of poverty reduction initiatives. This enables the City, community organizations and individuals themselves to advocate more effectively for funding, policies and programs that best support Richmond community members.

Achievements and Highlights

- Due to the complexity of Canada’s poverty reduction policy landscape and the unique needs of Richmond residents, the City continued to raise awareness of emerging community needs and local poverty reduction efforts to provincial and federal government partners.
 - In 2024, in response to growing needs in Richmond, the City sent letters to the Government of Canada and the Province of BC to advocate for increased support for non-profit organizations that provide meals to food-insecure individuals in Richmond.
 - In 2025, the City sent a letter to the federal government advocating for the reinstatement of Immigrant, Refugees and Citizenship Canada funding to Richmond-based organizations that provided settlement services for newcomers, including refugees. This letter emphasized the importance of comprehensive supports for newcomers who need settlement services to enable their success in their new home. These supports provide essential tools that enable newcomers to build the necessary economic and social connections to prevent and reduce poverty.
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the City shared progress reports on the implementation of its Council adopted Poverty Reduction Plan, Seniors Strategy, Youth Strategy and Child Care Strategy to raise awareness among the Government of Canada and Province of BC about the needs of Richmond’s vulnerable populations. The reports highlight the City’s efforts to improve the resiliency of children, youth, seniors and families through providing information related to community trends and highlighting the collaborative efforts of community partners in Richmond. (*Action 3.1*)
- The Community Services Pop Ups continued to be offered at Brighthouse Library throughout 2024–2025 in collaboration with Richmond Public Library and community partners. Since 2022, the Pop Ups have provided a targeted outreach opportunity for community and government organizations to engage with Richmond residents seeking access to vital community-based services and supports. In 2024–2025, 2,085 participants were supported through these monthly drop-in sessions. In recognition of the Pop Ups program model, the City received honourable mention from the Union of BC Municipalities 2024 Community Excellence Awards: Excellence in Service Delivery Award. (*Action 3.2*)

- In 2024, the City, in partnership with Richmond Public Library, launched the Community Services Connectors Pilot Program at Ironwood Library to expand the reach of resource navigation supports in Richmond beyond the city centre and outside of traditional service hours (e.g. Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm). The Connectors program trains individuals with lived and living experience to provide Richmond residents living on lower incomes with one-on-one, peer-led assistance to find information about community-based services and supports.

In 2025, Richmond Public Library assumed operations of the Community Services Connectors program and the Community Services Pop Ups, which included an expansion of the Connectors program to Cambie Library. In recognition of the Library's role in the development of the Community Services Pop Ups and Community Services Connectors program, the Library was awarded the 2025 British Columbia Library Association's Building Better Communities Award. As of December 31, 2025, Community Connectors have supported over 629 residents in navigating community supports and services at Ironwood and Cambie Libraries. (*Action 3.2*)

- In 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library made nine outreach visits to the Richmond Food Bank, providing access to library cards, books and information about library services to 430 individuals. Through these outreach visits the Library serves as an informational resource hub that connects Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty with a range of library programs that increase their financial resiliency, digital literacy and social inclusion. (*Action 3.2*)
- Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library continued its longstanding partnership with NewToBC to deliver the Library Champions Project. Library Champions is a three-month volunteer program that helps newcomers build outreach and communication skills while learning about library and community services. Volunteer Library Champions are then equipped with information and skills to help connect newcomers with a range of library and community resources. The Library hosted four intake cycles of the Library Champions Project in 2024–2025, with more than 60 Library Champions completing the program. (*Action 3.2*)
- In 2024, the City developed a Homelessness Outreach Program and hired two Homelessness Outreach Workers to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond. The Outreach Workers work directly in the community and provide street-based outreach to people experiencing homelessness and support referrals to housing and other relevant programs and services. (*Action 3.2*)
- In 2024, the City established a Housing Office as a dedicated in-house department to advance Council's affordable housing goals. The new office brings together reallocated and new grant-funded positions to work alongside existing departments that facilitate housing development to expand affordable housing opportunities across the community. Through planning policies, partnerships, and funding programs, the new Housing Office works with non-profit organizations, government agencies and developers to deliver a range of housing options. (*Action 3.3*)
- Launched in 2025, the Affordable Housing Non-Profit Partnership Program brings together 20 non-profit housing providers and community partners who support the delivery of affordable housing and housing-related services in Richmond. This initiative aims to monitor trends, coordinate information sharing, maintain partnerships with non-profit housing providers, liaise with senior levels of government and educate partners on the continued need for affordable housing in Richmond. The overarching goal of the Partnership Program is to build the capacity of local non-profit affordable housing operators to expand their delivery of new affordable housing units through programs and partnerships. (*Action 3.3*)
- In April 2025, the City in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, hosted a Community Services Networking Event. This event aimed to increase awareness of community-based services, foster collaboration between organizations and improve client referrals to reduce barriers to accessing services. In total, 89 representatives from 30 community and government organizations participated in the event. (*Action 3.3*)



- In October 2024 and 2025, Homelessness Action Week was proclaimed in Richmond. The proclamation included recognition that effective action to reduce homelessness and promote social inclusion requires all levels of government to work with individuals, non-profit organizations, Indigenous and community groups, and private sector representatives to find ways to that will break down barriers that hold people back, deliver supports that lift people up and make Richmond more inclusive for everyone. (*Action 3.4*)
- In fall 2025, the City undertook an extensive public engagement process to inform the development of the City’s Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035). More than 700 community members provided input through surveys, pop-up events, presentations to community tables and facilitated focus group discussions. The engagement process centred around equity-deserving groups, including seniors, youth, newcomers, families with young children and individuals experiencing poverty, to ensure the Strategy reflects the realities and priorities of those most affected by social inequities. To deepen this outreach, Community Ambassadors with lived experience of poverty were hired and trained to support a more meaningful and culturally relevant engagement process across a diversity of residents. (*Action 3.5*)
- In fall 2025, the City conducted interviews with residents with lived experience that access affordable rental housing, live in affordable rental housing or help others navigate the process of finding affordable housing. Responses from these interviews were used to inform the development of the City’s Affordable Housing Hub, an online tool designed to improve access to affordable housing information, and updates to its affordable housing website. (*Action 3.5*)

Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate

Developing an understanding of the evolving context and local trends related to poverty in Richmond is essential to determine the most effective responses through funding, services or supports. The City stays informed of the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty through tracking community usage of programs and services, monitoring poverty line measures and reviewing research about poverty reduction and prevention.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 4, the City aims to monitor Richmond-specific information and remain up to date on emerging best practices in poverty reduction and prevention to make data-informed recommendations to meet changing community needs.

Achievements and Highlights

- To inform the development of the Richmond Child Care Strategy 2024–2034, extensive engagement took place with families and a best practice review was conducted. Findings highlighted the importance of child care for economic development and as an important poverty reduction measure, offering families the support they need to be able to sustain employment and allow more women to participate in the labour force. Through the Strategy, work is being done to support the expansion of a high quality, inclusive and universal system of child care that is both affordable and accessible for families in Richmond. The Strategy was adopted by City Council in December 2024. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2025, the City developed Community Profiles based on the results of the 2023 Community Needs Assessment to support data-informed planning for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Division. Community Profiles included data such as demographics, household income, land use and park space within each City planning area. The profiles will inform the future development of approaches to meet the needs of community members in each planning area, including consideration for Richmond residents who face financial and social barriers to engaging in parks, recreation and arts programming offered by the City and Community Associations and Societies. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2024–2025, the City facilitated information sharing between community and government organizations about emerging community trends and program opportunities to support the needs of Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty. This included presentations to the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table and Employment Resource Network on key topics such as the new Canada Dental Care Plan, usage trends for the Richmond Food Bank, financial empowerment programs from Family Services of Greater Vancouver, the social prescribing program from the Richmond Division of Family Practice and youth unemployment trends. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2025, the City engaged community partners to ensure the perspectives of Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty and organizations that support poverty reduction in Richmond were considered in the development of strategic priorities. In September 2025, the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table was consulted as part of the Social Development Strategy consultation. In November 2025, the Employment Resource Network participated in a feedback session as part of the City's Economic Development Strategy public engagement process. (*Action 4.3*)

6. Next Steps and Conclusion

Poverty is a complex issue that requires collaborative efforts amongst all three levels of government, the private sector and community-based organizations to reduce its impacts and prevent more households from experiencing its effects. In 2024–2025, the high cost of living combined with increasing economic uncertainty placed financial pressures on Richmond households, resulting in a growing number of community members needing to access supports and services to meet their basic needs. In response, the City and its government and community partners worked together to meet the increasing demand for services. Together, numerous initiatives were implemented that strengthened connections to essential supports, enhanced financial stability and provided wraparound services that improve overall quality of life of Richmond residents.

Through this collaborative approach, noteworthy progress has been made by the City and community partners on the implementation of the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Poverty in Richmond. To date, five out of six short-term actions have been completed, with three of these short-term actions converted to ongoing activities. Significant progress has also been made on the remaining short-term action. Additionally, all seven medium-term actions have either been initiated or are in progress, and both long-term actions are also in progress. Finally, all ongoing actions continue to be advanced.

The City recognizes that ongoing collaboration is central to reducing and preventing poverty in Richmond and continues to work with community organizations, senior levels of government and residents, including individuals with lived experience, to implement actions in the Poverty Action Plan. Priority actions for 2026–2027 will support the implementation of initiatives that promote economic and social inclusion, digital literacy upskilling and increased food security in the community. Through these collective efforts, a more socially connected, resilient and livable community will be fostered for all community members.





Appendix: Summary of Poverty Action Plan Strategic Actions and Status

The tables below outline the strategic actions in the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Poverty in Richmond and their status at the end of 2025.

Legend

Status of Actions

Initiated	Work towards this action has begun.
In progress	Considerable work towards this action is underway.
Completed	Work towards this action has been accomplished.
Ongoing	Work towards this action has been initiated and will be continuous.

Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
1.1	Create a Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table to support the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing
1.2	Pursue funding opportunities to advance poverty reduction and prevention initiatives.	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.3	Develop and implement a poverty lens criterion to support future City social planning processes (e.g. strategy and policy development, community needs assessments).	Medium-term	Initiated
1.4	Expand work experience, mentorship and upskilling opportunities for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Long-term	In progress
1.5	Increase educational opportunities to support employment readiness and digital literacy programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	Initiated
1.6	Develop social enterprise opportunities in the community to stimulate job creation for populations at risk of or living in poverty.	Long-term	Initiated
1.7	Provide additional staff resources to support the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan and prevent and reduce poverty in the community.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing

Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
2.1	Reduce barriers, address gaps and streamline access to City programs and services for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.2	Continue to monitor and refine the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program to ensure it responds to changing community needs.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.3	Explore the development of a city-wide community food hub to expand access to healthy food and food skills programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	Initiated
2.4	Implement initiatives to increase food security in the community for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.5	Explore the development of a community resource centre for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Short-term	In progress
2.6	Provide accessible community wellness opportunities for residents at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. dental clinics, mental wellness-based programming).	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.7	Explore ways to improve community connections and health impacts for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	In progress
2.8	Reduce transportation-related barriers in the community for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	In progress
2.9	Develop programs and services that respond to the specific needs of demographics at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. energy poverty reduction programs, financial literacy training for young adults, family-based outreach programming).	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
3.1	Advocate to senior levels of government regarding the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond (e.g. health care, transportation).	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2	Implement targeted outreach that facilitates connections to community programs and services for residents at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. community navigator programs).	Short-term	Completed
3.3	Identify new opportunities to share poverty-related information and best practices among the City, community service organizations and key stakeholders.	Medium-term	In progress
3.4	Raise awareness and increase understanding of the challenges faced by residents at risk of or living in poverty in the community to support increased inclusion.	Medium-term	Initiated
3.5	Foster dialogue with residents at risk of or living in poverty to ensure they are active participants in the development of initiatives related to reducing and preventing poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
4.1	Develop a consistent set of community-based measures to track trends and changing needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing
4.2	Research and monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on populations at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond.	Short-term	Completed
4.3	Monitor and analyze trends in poverty-related data to understand and respond to emerging and changing community needs.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.4	Research and evaluate best practices related to poverty reduction and prevention and continue to identify opportunities for Richmond.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.5	Report out every two years on the progress of the Poverty Action Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing



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