

What We Do:

Coordinated Access was developed to meet the growing and evolving needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness.

We do this by collaborating with community partners and those with lived/living experience to simplify access to services for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

We prioritize individuals by assessing their strengths, vulnerabilities and risk of re-entering homelessness. This ensures that individuals with higher needs and priority populations are served first.

Clients benefit from this system because they are not left to navigate the growing list of resources by themselves. Service providers benefit because they do not risk doubling services being accessed by the client elsewhere.

Connect with us today!

Alison Coldwell
Annapolis Valley Coordinated Access Manager
alison.coldwell@novascotia.cmha.ca
(902) 517-2403



Annapolis Valley

Coordinated Access System (AVCAS)



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Nova Scotia
Mental health for all



AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

How it Works

Step 1: Access Points

Access points connect people with housing support services and housing resources within the Coordinated Access Resource Inventory.

Current Access Points:

- The Portal (for youth)
- Open Arms Shelter and Individual Support (OASIS)
- Kids Action Program
- West Hants Family Resource Center
- Project H.O.P.E

We are actively working on increasing Access Points across the region.

Step 2: Intake

Individuals will meet with a support worker and be asked to complete an intake form with them.

At this time the worker will also connect individuals with services to meet any immediate needs not being addressed including access to food, clothing and other basic human needs.

Step 3: Detailed Assessment

AVCAS uses the Vulnerability Assessment (VAT) to identify the barriers individuals have to accessing housing. It is completely voluntary and if individuals decline, this will not impact the support or resources they receive.

With permission, client's information and score from the assessment is entered into a secure data base. We take confidentiality extremely seriously and ensure only pertinent information is shared with approved agencies.

Clients must be 18+ to participate in this assessment.

Step 4: Connection to Services:

Once we are familiar with the client and their current situation, they are connected to a Housing Support Worker in their area as available. If the client provides informed consent, AVCAS routinely gathers with community service providers to case conference so we can pool our resources to ensure client's are accessing the proper supports to meet their needs and goals.

FAQ

How is this different than what we do now?

Previously, clients experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness in the Annapolis Valley would have to seek out resources independently. Coordinated Access removes the burden placed on clients and instead, service providers work together to connect them to the best support and resources.

Who funds Coordinated Access?

Reaching Home' is a federal strategy that aims to prevent and reduce homelessness. Coordinated Access is set up in designated communities across the country.

The Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia provides funding through the Reaching Home federal initiative.

How do we get Involved?

To learn more, host a training session on AVCAS, HIFIS, or the VAT assessment, reach out to the Coordinated Access Manager, Alison Coldwell.