

City Announces Covenant House as Operator of 1615 Dufferin Street Youth Shelter



Councillor Alejandra Bravo (Ward 9) touring Covenant House's youth shelter at Gerrard and Yonge earlier this month.

Last December, the City of Toronto announced 1615 Dufferin St. in Davenport for use as a municipal shelter that will provide critical services to help 50 youth experiencing homelessness move toward permanent housing. The City launched an Expression of Interest for a service operator of the shelter and has announced that Covenant House was the successful applicant selected as the youth shelter operator.

Estimated to open in 2027, the 1615 Dufferin St site is part of the City's Council-approved Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy, which aims to open (up to) 20 new shelters citywide by 2033.

These sites will help respond to demand and stabilize the shelter system.

[Learn more about the Strategy.](#)

Who is Covenant House? What experience do they have supporting young people in Toronto?

Covenant House Toronto is one of Canada's largest agency serving youth experiencing homelessness, helping more than 2,000 young people each year. They offer the widest range of services that

help break the cycle of homelessness to hundreds of young people every day. Since 1982, the organization has supported more than 100,000 young people in Toronto to help overcome their challenges, ignite their potential and reclaim their lives. To find more information, please visit

[Covenant House Toronto.](#)

Join us for a Community BBQ to welcome Covenant House!

We are in the process of planning a community BBQ over the summer to welcome Covenant House to the neighbourhood. Email us at 1615Dufferin@gmail.com or visit toronto.ca/1615Dufferin to find out more!

How does Covenant House work with young people who are homeless? How will staff handle any resident concerns?

“Our approach at Covenant House is to work closely with youth to understand their unique needs and build trusting authentic relationships with them using a trauma-informed lens. Our team provides the structure and support to help stabilize young people in a safe environment so they can move forward in their lives and transition to stable, permanent housing. We do this by providing thoughtful, tailored programming using the best available evidence to ensure their essential needs are met, including offering counselling services, on-site healthcare, skill development opportunities, and access to educational and employment services to help encourage youth to realize their full potential. We’ve built and maintained strong relationships with our neighbours and businesses in our community for over 40 years through open communication and by immediately addressing any concerns. Ensuring the safety and security of the young people we help, our staff and local community is our top priority.” **Mark Aston, CEO, Covenant House Toronto**




Why did the City choose Covenant House to operate the youth shelter at 1615 Dufferin?

Toronto Shelter & Support Services developed a Toronto Shelter Expression of Interest (EOI) process to provide fair opportunities for non-profit organizations across the city to apply to act as shelter operators for HSCIS shelter sites under development. The first iteration of Toronto Shelter EOIs was released to select operators for single adult, youth, family, and senior shelter programs.

The EOI process included an application, an evaluation panel, a due diligence process to assess the financial and organizational health of successful applicants, and a capacity building component. Toronto Shelter & Support Services received complete and eligible applications from 26 non-profit agencies, including existing and new partners. Covenant House was identified as the most suitable shelter operator for 1615 Dufferin St. More information on the City’s EOI process is available [on the City of Toronto’s website](#).

“Access to a safe and secure shelter space is the first step towards housing for many, and is especially critical for young people in need. City of Toronto staff conducted a thorough search for a shelter operator for the site at 1615 Dufferin that has extensive experience supporting youth to successfully transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Covenant House has a long record of managing services and programs for homeless young people, along with a demonstrated record of working with local residents, businesses, and organizations to build community connections and ensure the success of their shelter locations. The City will remain involved and supportive of the shelter once it opens and there will be opportunities for Davenport residents to be involved going forward.” **Councillor Alejandra Bravo (Ward 9 - Davenport)**

The City is engaging with the local community to support the success of the site and has hired Community Engagement Facilitator Public Progress to lead engagement. If you are interested in receiving e-updates as the project progresses, please send an email to 1615dufferin@gmail.com.

 **1615Dufferin@gmail.com**  **647-946-8710**  **toronto.ca/1615Dufferin**