

Building Food Security That Lasts



Help us expand our essential kitchen to prevent food insecurity for our most vulnerable residents living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

The Need

Our PHS Food Program in Vancouver prepares and delivers over 3,900 meals daily including 2,000 hot meals, serving residents in supportive housing and shelters, participants in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)-affiliated programs, and community members in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside experiencing food insecurity.

As food costs continue to rise, demand continues to grow. Our Vancouver commercial kitchen was originally designed to produce 200 meals a day, only a fraction of today's volume of 3,900 meals. Operating far beyond its intended capacity poses real risks to safety, reliability, and continuity of service.

Supporting Evidence

Food insecurity is increasing across the region. In March 2026, Statistics Canada reported food prices rose 4.4% year-over-year, with fresh vegetables increasing 7.8%.

A 2023 BC Centre for Disease Control report found that 10.4% of people in the Vancouver Coastal Region experience food insecurity,

rising to 26.9% among the lowest-income households, including 8.1% experiencing severe food insecurity.

Among people on social assistance, food insecurity reaches 57.9%, with 32.3% facing severe food insecurity, forcing many to skip meals or go without food for days.

Food insecurity also affects mental health, with significantly fewer people reporting positive mental health in food-insecure households (79.1% vs. 93.0%).

Currently, our commercial kitchen, designed for 200 meals per day, but producing over 3,900 meals daily, is located inside a supportive-housing building, leaving the program exposed to frequent residential-building emergencies. A recent fire-related sprinkler flooding in that building underscored the fragility of producing essential community meals in a multi-use residential environment.

Our Response

After a two-year search for a location, PHS took decisive action.

On April 22, 2026, PHS purchased a former restaurant building at 15 West Cordova Street for \$3,275,000, securing the future home of a purpose-built commissary kitchen dedicated solely to food production.

This new facility will allow PHS to:

- Protect uninterrupted meal delivery for thousands of people
- Increase wellness and stabilization for people with mental illness and substance use disorders
- Increase production capacity and emergency preparedness
- Strengthen long-term sustainability of essential food services

Why This Matters

Establishing a stand-alone commissary kitchen will:

- Safeguard food production from residential building emergencies
- Expand cold storage to stabilize supply chains and improve emergency response
- Enable scale, supporting up to 4,000 hot meals per day as demand grows
- Strengthen food safety, efficiency, and dignity for those we serve

This investment is not just about a building; it is about protecting a lifeline.

To activate this property, critical seismic, building, and operational renovations are required.

Preliminary estimates place total renovation costs:

**Over
\$2.1 million**



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Our Ask

We invite investment partners to help bring this vision to life.

As a meaningful entry point into this transformational project, PHS is seeking funding to support the purchase of our new building and the required renovations, as well as critical commercial kitchen equipment, enabling meal production to continue as renovations are completed.

Your contribution will:

- **Directly support food security and emergency preparedness for thousands of vulnerable residents**
- **Help unlock a matching contribution from the Al Roadburg Foundation, designated toward the building renovation**
- **Equip a kitchen designed for safety, efficiency, and long-term impact**

Together, We Can

Reliable food is foundational to health, housing stability, and dignity. By investing in our PHS Food Program, you are helping to create a resilient, future-ready food-security hub for one of Canada's most vulnerable communities.

This is a chance to build infrastructure that lasts, and to ensure that no one relying on PHS goes without a nutritious meal.

We invite you to stand with us.

For more information, please reach out to donations@phs.ca.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Micheal Vonn, PHS CEO

About Us:

PHS Community Services Society is a registered charity providing truly accessible, low-barrier supportive housing, healthcare, harm reduction, and health promotion for thousands of highly vulnerable people each day in Vancouver and Victoria. We serve individuals experiencing homelessness and deep poverty alongside serious and often intersecting health challenges—including mental illness, substance use, brain injury, dementia, physical disabilities, and complex behavioral or forensic histories—whose needs exceed what conventional supportive housing and service models are designed to provide. By offering specialized, intensive supports, PHS ensures stability, dignity, and care for people who would otherwise be left without safe housing or services.

At PHS, housing alone is not enough. Stability, dignity, health, and recovery depend on access to reliable, nutritious food every single day.