

Find out more about

Better *at* Home



United Way helping seniors remain independent.

What is Better at Home?

Better at Home is a United Way program that helps seniors continue living independently in their own homes by providing simple non-medical services like help with housekeeping and transportation to appointments. United Way designed the Better at Home program and will support local non-profit agencies in delivering services.

What services does Better at Home provide?

The range of Better at Home services available varies from community to community, depending on the specific needs of local seniors. Examples of Better at Home services include:

- Housekeeping
- Grocery shopping
- Home repair
- Transportation to appointments
- Friendly visiting
- Snow shoveling
- Yard work

Who delivers the services?

In each community, local non-profit agencies deliver Better at Home services. Some of the staff are paid, others are volunteers.

Am I eligible?

If you are a senior living in a community that has a Better at Home program, you may be eligible. You can apply by contacting your local Better at Home provider. You can find a list of current providers on our website. A program representative will speak with you, assess your needs, and suggest services that may be of interest to you.

How do I apply?

Contact your local Better at Home provider. You can find a list of current Better at Home providers on our website.

Who pays for Better at Home?

The BC Ministry of Health has given United Way of the Lower Mainland funding to manage Better at Home across BC. Individual community agencies will accept donations, raise funds, and encourage volunteer participation in the program.

Seniors who receive Better at Home services will also pay a fee for some services, based on their income. Other services will be free.

Which communities does Better at Home serve?

The Better at Home program will be available in up to 60 British Columbia communities.

Currently, there are five similar programs operating, which are expected to become Better at Home programs in the spring of 2013. They are known as Community Action for Seniors' Independence (CASI) programs, and are located in:

- Maple Ridge
- Renfrew-Collingwood in Vancouver
- Newton in Surrey
- Dawson Creek
- Osoyoos

How are Better at Home communities chosen?

Program sites are selected with the help of regional experts, for example people from seniors' organizations and the Regional Health Authorities managing the seniors' portfolio. They are asked to identify communities with a high number of vulnerable seniors who would benefit from these services.

Who decides which Better at Home services are available in each community?

Seniors themselves, organizations that serve seniors, and others in the community who are knowledgeable about the needs of seniors will help determine which services are most needed.

Can my community be included?

We are not conducting an open call for community applications. If your community is interested having a Better at Home program, please let us know by contacting Christien Kaaij, Provincial Project Manager, Better at Home, at christienk@betterathome.ca.

Is Better at Home a permanent program?

No. Better at Home is a three-year project that began in 2012. United Way of the Lower Mainland will seek ongoing funding support for Better at Home but that funding is not yet confirmed.

I want to know more!

For more information, please contact:

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betterathome.ca