

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GROUP HOMES

Surrounding property values will go down.

In a review of 26 studies of supportive housing across North America, the HomeComing Community Choice Coalition found that 25 of the studies showed no impact on property values. The City of Toronto found the values of property surrounding the group home increased in pace with the values across the City (de Wolff 2008).

This group home doesn't belong in my neighbourhood because it's a business.

This is a resident's only home. Who owns or operates it has no bearing on this any more than a family renting a home in the neighbourhood. The presence of paid staff is no different from a family hiring a personal care attendant.



The home won't fit into the neighbourhood.

This is usually on the false assumption that the home will resemble an institution. Group homes are regular family residences that meet the same zoning, building and fire code requirements as other homes in the neighbourhood.

This home is an institution in a residential zone.

Courts and human rights commissions across the country have ruled on this issue numerous times and confirmed that for the purposes of zoning, residents of staff group homes are indeed a family. This is no different than a group of friends choosing to live together.

This group home will bring too much traffic into the area.

When properly planned and managed, this is not the case. Service providers have plans to manage parking and drop-off if necessary. There is no reason this should be any different from a typical family with multiple residents and vehicles.

The home will strain existing infrastructure and services.

Group homes are no larger and have no more residents than many other homes, and are well within the capacity of existing infrastructure. Since residents are properly housed and cared for, they typically use health and emergency services at the same, or lower, rates than other neighbourhood residents.

