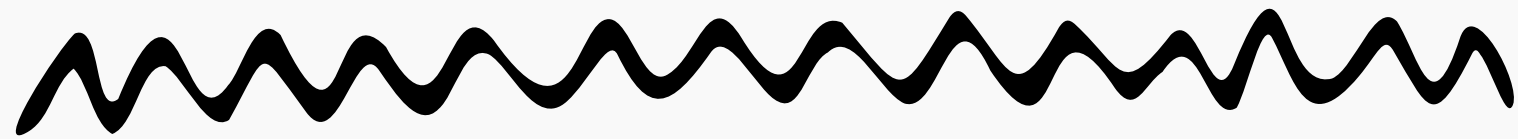


About Us

Coverdale provides support and specialized services to women and gender-diverse individuals experiencing the justice system in Nova Scotia. Our priorities reflect communities of criminalized women and gender diverse people, including Indigenous and African Nova Scotian women, trans and queer people, those affected by gender-based violence and those living in poverty. We focus on supporting individuals impacted by the legacy and traumas of historical, and ongoing colonization, racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of marginalization and oppression that impact people uniquely at every intersectional position.



Strategic Goals

1. Improve access to justice
2. Provide alternatives to traditional justice
3. Enhance public safety & well-being

History

Coverdale had its origins in 1923 with the pioneering of the inter-provincial home for young women by the Anglican, United Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist (United) Churches. The home provided educational and rehabilitation programs in a minimum-security setting. When it closed in 1972, Coverdale transformed to a multi-service community-based organization, operating in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.



Operating Plan 2023-2026

Court Based Services

Legal issues are often embedded in a cluster of other problems that can affect many areas of life, including housing, employment, education and health. This makes it very important to address these problems as early as possible. Timely access to a fair and effective justice system, as well as access to information, resources and informal service support the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Criminal Court

Court support services are Coverdale's prominent community program offering women & gender diverse individuals' information and support as they navigate the criminal justice system



Family Court

Staff provide services and support too those who have been subjected to abuse and are involved in the family court process and individuals who are navigating child protection.



Virtual Court

A private and confidential space is provided in the community, for individuals scheduled for virtual court who need access to technology. Staff are available to support those attending court virtually upon request and can provide assistance with understanding what is happening and make appropriate referrals and follow-up.



Victim Services

Staff assist victims of crime with information, support and assistance as their case moves through the criminal justice system.



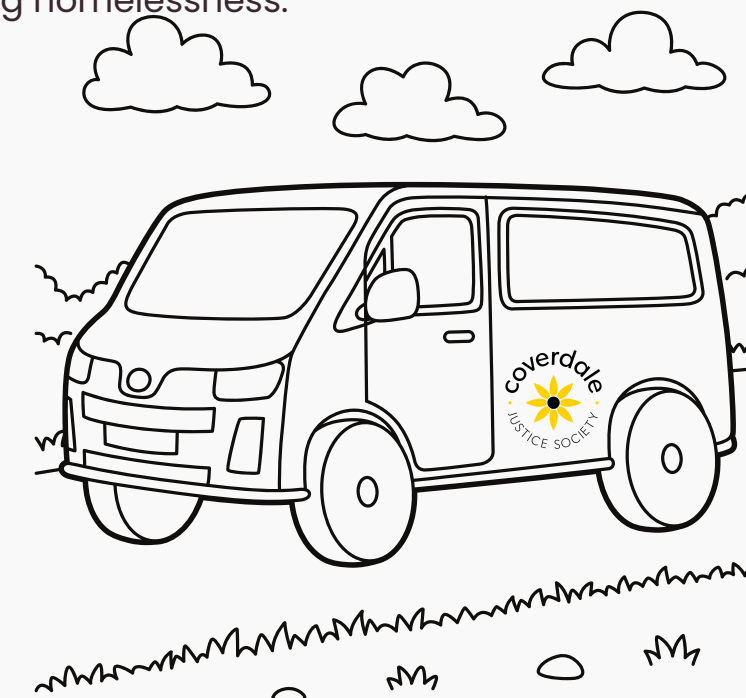
Transportation & Outreach

Staff provide transportation for clients attending court, probation, programming and for those exiting the correctional facility. The van provides outreach for those requesting community-based services and interventions including those experiencing homelessness.



Education & Advocacy

A range of public education methods are utilized to engage communities in conversations related to the work Coverdale does. These include producing a podcast, delivering trainings, developing resources, and designing social media campaigns.



Community Based Services

If prison doesn't work, what are the alternatives? Community programs offer a range of alternatives to the traditional justice system that provide opportunities for healing and transformation, accountability, repair, and interconnection.

Supervised Release Program

The program aims to reduce the high numbers of people remanded into jails while awaiting trial by providing positive community-based interventions that help people to meet the conditions of bail and other conditional releases.



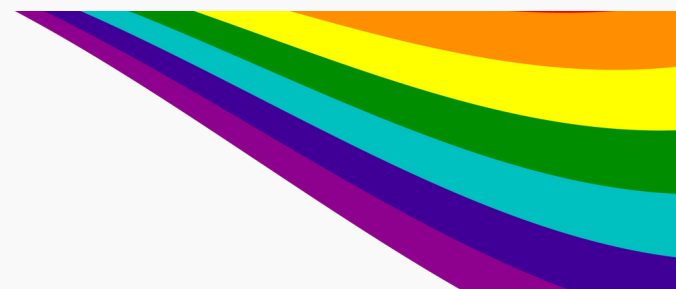
Healing through Accountability

Program participants work together to actively cultivate the things we know prevent violence such as healing, accountability, resilience, and safety.



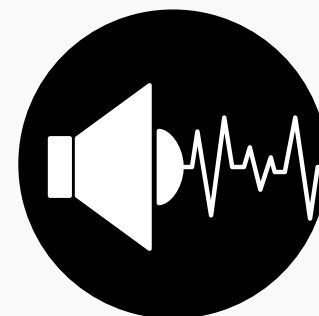
Queer Justice

Safety, care and connection is fostered through this program that offers services and supports to incarcerated and criminalized LGBTQ+ folks. Research, resources, court support and workshops are offered by LGBTQ+ staff.



Voices Program for Youth

Voices is based on the realities of girls' lives and the principles of gender responsivity; it is also grounded in theory, research, and clinical experience. The Voices curriculum advocates a strength-based approach and uses a variety of therapeutic approaches, including psychoeducational, cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness, body-oriented, and expressive arts.



Helping Women Recover

This evidence-based program integrates theories of women's psychological development, trauma, and addiction to meet the needs of women with addictive disorders.



Parenting Inside Out

Parenting Inside Out (PIO) is an evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral parent management skills training program created for incarcerated parents through a six-year collaboration of scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and instructional designers. Both the information in the program and the way that information is presented were informed by knowledge derived from research and practice.



Peer Advisory Committee

The committee engages people with first-hand experience in the Criminal Justice system to give input on our programs and practices. We believe that people with lived experience are experts in their own care, and this expertise should be valued, respected, and utilized to better the systems they navigate. People who have previously navigated the Criminal Justice system can provide a unique perspective to the agencies designed to support our community.

Housing Based Services

Homelessness and the criminal justice system are deeply intertwined. People experiencing homelessness are more likely to interact with the justice system. And people currently or previously involved in the justice system, who are often disconnected from supports and face housing and job discrimination, are more likely to experience homelessness. Black and Indigenous people are also overrepresented among both groups because of systemic and structural racism in housing, criminal justice, employment, and other systems.

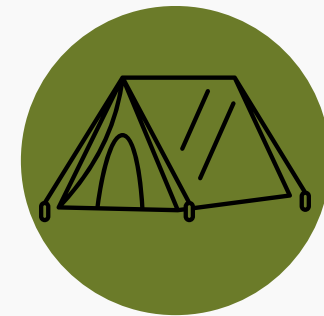
Caitlan's Place

A supportive housing facility providing 24/7 staffing and comprehensive wrap-around services to 15 women and gender diverse individuals navigating the criminal justice system and homelessness in the Halifax Region. The house operates with principals of harm reduction, housing first, and utilizes restorative and transformative approaches.



These services are designed to help establish supportive relationships, give people advice and support, and hopefully enhance the possibility that they will access necessary services and supports that will help them move off the streets and out of the purview of the justice system.

Community Outreach



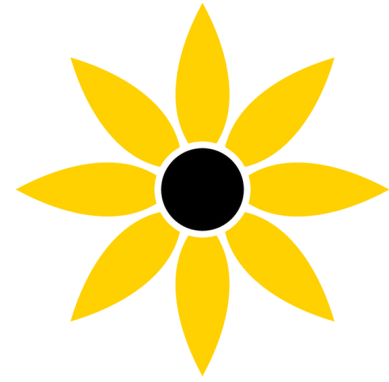
Supportive Housing

Coverdale is expanding its supported housing facilities to reach more women and gender diverse individuals navigating homelessness due to criminalization, addiction and mental illness. All facilities are grounded in restorative justice, housing first and harm reduction principals and philosophies.

Housing Support

A social worker assists clients to maintain housing and stability and achieve an optimum quality of life through developing plans, enhancing life skills, addressing health and mental health needs, engaging in meaningful activities and building social and community relations.





EMPATHY

We strive to recognize and understand the perspectives, feelings and lived experiences of others, including and especially those most different from ourselves, and give one another grace.

JUSTICE

We affirm the dignity and worth of each member of our community, while recognizing and working to combat the structural forces (such as racism) that have harmed some groups while benefiting others.

RESPECT

We root ourselves in our shared humanity and treat each other with kindness and compassion. We're at our best when we honor the equal dignity and worth of all people – even in the face of conflict.

SOLUTIONS FOCUSED

It's not enough for us to point the finger; we develop, research, and promote concrete steps towards a safe and equitable society for all of us.

COLLABORATION

We value the transformative impact of collaboration. By working together, fostering open communication, furthering understanding, and building caring and supportive environments, we can achieve something bigger than we could alone

Our Core Values

RESPONSIBILITY

We are mindful that the actions we take have an impact on people's lives, and our duty is to them. As a community organization, accountability and integrity is core to our mission. We are entrusted by those we serve to observe the highest standards and ethics.

COURAGEOUSNESS

We are innovative, creative, and bold in our pursuit of making real and lasting change for women and gender diverse people.

CLIENT CENTRICITY

We center the voices, priorities and wellbeing of the clients and communities we work with in every decision we make and every action we take.



HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction is a philosophy and set of empowerment-based practices that teach us how to accompany each other as we transform the root causes of harm in our lives.

HOUSING FIRST

'Housing First' is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing appropriate services.

TRAUMA INFORMED

Trauma-informed care is a framework for human service delivery that is based on knowledge and understanding of how trauma affects people's lives, their service needs and service usage..

RESTORATIVE

Restorative Justice is a philosophy and set of practices, rooted in Indigenous teachings, that emphasize our interconnection by repairing relationships when harm occurs while proactively building and maintaining relationships to prevent future harm."A restorative community is underpinned by the principles of inclusion, participation, accountability, deep listening and respectful dialogue.

COMMUNICATION

Our communication has to be clear and precise to avoid conflicts. Restorative communication is a way to repair relationships that have been damaged by conflict, and prevent future conflicts from arising

Our Key Competencies

ANTI-OPPRESSION

This is a critical framework that guides us in challenging and dismantling oppressive structures and practices. It requires us to critically reflect on our values, beliefs, and biases and actively work to eliminate oppressive systems and practices.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy promotes equality, inclusion and social justice, all goals of social work practice. In addition, successful advocacy involves informing clients of their rights and how to exercise them for their benefit, which allows clients to influence decisions that will directly affect them.

CRITICAL THINKING

Thinking critically and without prejudice enables social workers to make informed decisions, identify the best resources and formulate the best plan to help clients.