
SUBJECT**COMMUNITY HOUSING**

ISSUE

What is the Government doing to help preserve units for low-income households living in community housing when operating agreements expire?

RESPONSE

- **Our government is taking concrete actions to protect the most vulnerable Canadians and ensure that Canada's community housing stock remains affordable and viable well into the future.**
- **As part of the National Housing Strategy, the \$4.3 billion Canada Community Housing Initiative is helping to protect and build community-based housing for some 330,000 households across the country and another 50,000 units created through an expansion of community housing.**
- **We are also investing \$500 million over 10 years in the Federal Community Housing Initiative. The initiative will protect tenants and stabilize the operations of more than 55,000 units in federally administered community housing projects.**
- **In addition to these investments, Budget 2021 proposed an additional \$118.2 million over seven years, starting in 2021-22, through the Federal Community Housing Initiative, to support community housing providers that deliver long-term housing to many of our most vulnerable people. This funding will support an additional 2,700 low-income units.**
- **Our Government is taking further steps to ensure that every Canadian has a safe and affordable place to call home. Through Temporary Rental Assistance, we are providing up to \$15 million until March 2022 to assist former federally administered social housing projects whose operating agreements expired prior to April 1, 2016.**

BACKGROUND

KEY FACTS

National Housing Strategy

Primary Initiatives for community housing:

- **\$4.3B** for the **Canadian Community Housing Initiative** delivered by provinces and territories to protect and repair a sustainable community-based housing sector. (**\$8.6B** with expected cost-matched by PTs)
 - Protect, regenerate and expand community housing administered by provinces and territories, and supported by former federal programs.
 - As of March 31, 2021, Provinces and territories have committed \$60 million to support close to 73,500 units. *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic committed dollars and units are currently understated.
- **\$618M** for CMHC-delivered **Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI)**.
 - As of September 30, 2020, \$42.2 million in subsidies were provided to over 26,700 housing units representing the extension of over 982 projects reaching their end of operating agreement dates.
 - Details on FCHI Phase 2 were announced on June 26, 2019. \$462 million in funding over eight years for Phase 2.
 - FCHI phase 2 was launched on September 1, 2020. As of June 30, 2021, phase II has provided close to \$21.8M in rent assistance to over 5,800 low-income units.

\$74.2 million over 10 years Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) and Sector Transformation Fund (STF) will provide:

- The initiative will provide technical assistance, tools and resources to increase capacity of social housing providers and support a more efficient, resilient and effective sector.
- As of June 30, 2021, \$18.2 million was provided to the “Centre”. Sector transformation Fund and Community-Based Tenant Initiative (CBTI), including online application capacity, launched in December 2019.
- As of June 30, 2021, 285 applications have been received, out of which 166 applications have been awarded.
- **Expert Community on Housing (ECOH)**
 - Web-based virtual community of practice for housing experts to address challenges and problems in housing.
 - Currently hosting over 1200 members with ongoing intake of new members.

Budget 2016

- **\$573.9M** to support energy and water efficiency retrofits and renovations of the aging community housing stock
- **Up to \$30M** to renew subsidies for all eligible federally administered community housing projects
- **\$504M** in doubling of Investment in Affordable Housing funding, which can be used to support community housing.
- **Existing Investments**
 - **\$1.7B** in 2016 in support of over **536,000 households** living in community housing.

Community housing typically refers to housing that was built under federal legacy programs and that receive government subsidies through long-term agreements. Community housing is any housing that is owned and operated by non-profits and co-operative housing organizations. The intent is that any new housing built in the future by these groups will be a new generation of housing, and thereafter be referred to as "community housing."

In support of long-term operational improvements for the federally administered stock, housing providers with expiring agreements that apply for new funding under the Federal Community Housing Initiative need to meet minimum requirements under a new agreement related to the depth and duration of affordability, social inclusion, asset management, and governance, and ensure that projects are charging adequate rents relative to tenant incomes.

The FCHI has 2 components: rental assistance and temporary transitional assistance. Rental assistance is offered to housing providers to ensure low-income households continue to receive rental support to help reduce or eliminate their housing needs.

In Phase 1 of the Federal Community Housing Initiative, which was launched in April 2018, federally administered community housing providers with long-term operating agreements that have ended or are ending between April 1, 2016 and February 28, 2020 will continue to receive the same level of subsidy currently provided under existing agreements until March 31, 2020. This will give community housing providers time to transition to the new rental assistance program, FCHI Phase 2.

Phase 2 is not an extension or continuation of other programs or of these prior agreements. It will provide rental assistance funding from September 1, 2020 until March 31, 2028. In the light of the COVID 19 pandemic, the launch date for the phase 2 of the Federal Community Housing initiative was delayed from April 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020. We've made sure that current levels of financial assistance were maintained until the end of August 2020.

Temporary Rental Assistance:

- Temporary Rental Assistance is available to providers of non-profit and co-operative housing:
 - whose CMHC Operating Agreement ended before April 1, 2016,
 - who were administered by either CMHC or the Agency of Cooperative Housing at the time the agreement came to term, and
 - who had an agreement under one of the following programs:
 - Section 95 (Pre-86) non-profit, co-operative, urban native
 - Section 95 (Post-85) non-profit, co-operative, urban native
 - Section 95 (Post-85) Index-Linked-Mortgage (ILM) co-operatives
 - Section 27, 61 non-profit and co-operatives
 - Section 26 non-profit, and
 - who have an eligible low-income household in their project.
- The Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) is administering this Temporary Rental Assistance on behalf of CMHC for the non-profit housing sector; and the Agency for Co-operative Housing is administering this assistance on behalf of CMHC for the co-operative housing.
- The application for Temporary Rental Assistance will open between February 1st and March 1, 2021. Non-profit providers are invited to apply through the [CHTC](#) website, while the housing co-operatives are invited to apply through the [Agency for Co-operative Housing's](#) website.
- To enroll, an organization must complete an enrolment form and submit it by the deadline.
- Requests will be reviewed to confirm eligibility. If demand exceeds the maximum funding available, funding allocations will be prioritized.
- This temporary rental assistance does not offer assurance of continued federal government support.

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