

# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## Shelter Initiative for Indigenous Women and Children

Canada



### 1. OVERVIEW

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) are launching an Expression of Interest with respect to funding for the creation of 12 new shelters for Indigenous women and children escaping family violence. *For the definition of family violence, please refer to the [Glossary of Definitions](#) at the end of this document.*

CMHC will deliver a total of \$44.8 million over five years, to cover up to 100% of eligible capital costs for the construction of:

- 10 shelters in First Nation communities on-reserve across the country; and
- 2 shelters in the territories (Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Shelter projects must be completed by 2024/25 fiscal year.

#### Shelters in First Nation communities on-reserve

CMHC will provide contribution funding of \$31.7 million (average allocation of \$3.17 million per shelter), delivered through its **On-Reserve Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP)**, for the construction of 10 shelters in First Nation communities on-reserve across Canada.

**Financial assistance:** The Shelter Enhancement Program provides a forgivable loan for up to 100% of eligible capital costs for the construction of new shelters or for the acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings for conversion to shelters. Selected proponents will enter into a loan agreement with CMHC for a 15-year period. The full amount of the forgivable loan will be earned in 15 equal annual amounts, provided the terms and conditions of the loan agreement continue to be fulfilled.

Upon completion of the shelter project, ISC will provide ongoing annual funding of \$8 million (average allocation of \$800,000 per year, per shelter<sup>1</sup>), delivered through its Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP), for the operational costs of 10 shelters in First Nation communities on-reserve. Successful proponents will enter into a funding agreement with ISC and, at a minimum, will be required to submit annual financial and activity reports.

#### Shelters in the territories

CMHC will provide contribution funding of \$13.1 million (average allocation of \$6.55 million per shelter), delivered through the Government of Canada's **National Housing Co-investment Fund (Co-investment Fund)**, for the construction of 2 shelters in the territories.

**Financial assistance:** Through the Co-investment Fund, CMHC will provide a forgivable loan for up to 100% of eligible capital costs for the construction of new shelters or for the acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings for conversion to shelters. Selected proponents will enter into a loan agreement with CMHC for a 20-year period. The full amount of the forgivable loan will be earned in 20 equal annual amounts, provided the terms and conditions of the loan agreement continue to be fulfilled.

**Note:** Funding for shelters in the territories is being provided through the Co-investment Fund because the Shelter Enhancement Program is only available on-reserve.

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible expenses for operational funding from the Family Violence Prevention Program are listed in appendix A of the application package.

Given higher operating costs in the territories, upon completion of the shelter project, ISC will provide ongoing annual funding of \$2 million (average of \$1 million per year, per shelter), delivered through its Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP), for the operational costs of 2 shelters in the territories. Selected proponents will enter into a funding agreement with ISC and, at a minimum, will be required to submit annual financial and activity reports.

## 2. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

*The following requirements apply to shelter projects on-reserve and in the territories.*

**Intended use:** Proponents must confirm that the proposed project will be a shelter intended for Indigenous women and children escaping family violence.

**Application form:** The application form provided in this package must be completed in full. *If some information is unavailable to proponents at the time of submitting their application, they are required to indicate when they can expect to obtain the missing information within their application package.*

**Loan security:** Proponents must be eligible to obtain appropriate loan security to cover the value of the forgivable loan received, for instance, with a Ministerial Loan Guarantee or a form of security acceptable to CMHC for the totality of the forgivable loan.

**Operational funding:** As CMHC does not provide operating assistance, proponents must be eligible for operational funding from ISC<sup>2</sup>. To this end, proponents must demonstrate the capacity and/or the commitment to hire a professional (for example, a shelter director) with proven operating experience to help with the opening and support the ongoing operations of the shelter, including trained staff, HR / shelter policies, business plan, etc.

**Support from the appropriate authority and/or Indigenous government:** Proponents must provide evidence of support for their proposed project from the appropriate authorities (for example, a signed letter endorsing the proposed project).

**Financial worksheet:** Proponents will be required to complete the financial worksheet provided with the application package.

**Energy efficiency:** Proposed projects must have a minimum 25% reduction in energy consumption as compared to the [National Building Code of Canada 2015](#) **or** the [National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2015](#). If the proposed project is for the conversion of an existing building, it must have a minimum 25% reduction in energy consumption relative to past performance levels.

**Accessibility:** The proposed project must have common areas that are barrier-free and a minimum of 20% of units that meet accessibility standards, **or** the project must have full universal design.

*For shelters where it is not feasible to meet the energy efficiency and/or accessibility requirement, flexibility may be considered. A rationale must be provided to seek consideration for the application of this flexibility.*

### 3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION PACKAGE

For assistance in preparing the application package, please contact your CMHC specialist. Financial assistance may be available to support costs associated with carrying out the predevelopment activities and obtaining the documentation required for the application package. For more information, you can also consult the CMHC website at <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/developing-and-renovating/funding-opportunities/seed-funding>

The application package should be sent to [NewShelterInitiative@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:NewShelterInitiative@cmhc-schl.gc.ca) and must contain the following:

- Completed application form
- All required documentation listed in the application form checklist
- Completed financial worksheet

Only proposals that include all of the above received on or before the closing date of January 15, 2021, will be assessed by the committee. We encourage you to supply any additional supporting documentation you may have at the time of application. If some documentation is not readily available by the closing date, applicants may state when it is anticipated.

The above constitutes an initial application package for the expression of interest, which will be used by the selection committee to determine eligible and accepted projects. Selected proponents will be required to submit a final application package prior to receiving final approval or commitment. For a list of documentation that will be required prior to receiving final approval, please refer to the application package.

### 4. SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed and assessed with input from representatives of Indigenous organizations and federal partner organizations (CMHC, Indigenous Services Canada, and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada). There will be two selection processes, one for shelters in First Nations communities on reserve, and another for shelters in the territories.

Given the limited funding available, priority will be given to proposed shelters that serve the greatest needs. Proposals will be evaluated on a number of different criteria, including demonstrated need, number of communities served, geographic location, construction and operational costs, planned measures to ensure the safety of women and children, energy efficiency, and accessibility.

Selected applicants will be required to submit a final application package prior to receiving final approval or commitment. Assistance will be provided in completing the final application.

#### Timeline

Acceptance of applications	As of July 15, 2020
Deadline to submit applications	January 15, 2021
Review and assessment of applications	February 2021
Identification of selected 12 proponents	March 2021

Due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, CMHC, ISC and CIRNAC understand the added pressures on Indigenous communities to safeguard their members, which may cause hardships and delays for eligible proponents to submit their applications. The set timeline may be reviewed throughout the course of the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure a fair and equitable process for all eligible proponents. For questions and more information about this Expression of Interest and Shelters Initiative for Indigenous Women & Children, please contact your CMHC specialist.

### GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

**Family violence:** Family violence is defined as “a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust” (Family Violence Initiative Performance Report, 2008). This definition can encompass physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and financial victimization as well as neglect. The term *family* refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, cohabitation (in the case of common-law partners), foster care or adoption.

**Unit:** A *unit* is one hostel room, regardless of the number of beds in the room, that shares kitchen and/or bathroom facilities with other hostel rooms in the shelter.

**Bed:** A *bed* is an individual bed in a shelter that supports overnight sleeping accommodations.