

REACHING HOME'S WINTER 2023-24 UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Application Package to Submit an Expression of Interest

All Proposed Projects are Dedicated to Reducing Unsheltered
Homelessness in HRM & Impacted Rural Communities

February 9, 2024

Reaching Home – Canada’s Homelessness Strategy

Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding

INTRODUCTION

To further support communities in keeping people experiencing unsheltered homelessness safe this winter, a one-time top-up of \$100 million has been reallocated by Infrastructure Canada (INFC) to Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy for 2023-24. This funding opportunity is provided via the Designated Community Stream for the Halifax Regional Municipality with flexibility to support Rural Communities throughout the Province of Nova Scotia that are severely impacted by unsheltered homelessness realities.

CANADIAN DEFINITION OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

In Canada, homelessness describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances from people being without any shelter on one end and being insecurely housed at the other¹. **Unsheltered homelessness** refers to people living in literal homelessness and living on the streets, in encampments or in places not fit for human habitation such as bus shelters, abandoned building or vehicles.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY AREAS

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, all proposed projects **MUST**:

- Support people experiencing UNSHELTERED homelessness during the Winter of 2023-24
- All approved funds must be spent by APRIL 30, 2024.
- This is a one-time, top-up of Reaching Home funds and will not be continued past April 2024.
- Incorporate HIFIS data collection and Coordinated Access participation into project.

The following activity areas have been identified as eligible for potential funding for the Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Response. Examples of potential activities provided by Infrastructure Canada:

1. **Temporary Accommodations** (e.g., Leasing hotel/motel spaces to temporarily expand shelter space through the winter). This is a NEW Category for Reaching Home – Designated Community Stream such as HRM

¹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness: Canadian definition of Homelessness. Source: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>

2. **Housing Services** (e.g. Placing those experiencing unsheltered homelessness into transitional housing or supportive housing)
3. **Prevention and Shelter Diversion** (e.g., Help obtaining housing for those at imminent risk, including shared housing)
4. **Client Support Services** (e.g. Hiring outreach workers to support those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, expanding service availability)
5. **Capital Investments** (e.g., *Renovation of existing emergency shelters to expand the maximum capacity of available spaces, acquisition of housing (buildings and units) is eligible but must support people experiencing unsheltered homelessness THIS WINTER*)

RESOURCES RELATED TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS & APPROACHES TO RESPOND

Training Sessions:

- Homelessness Learning Hub – Webinar Recording: How to Address Unsheltered Homelessness. <https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/library/resources/how-to-address-unsheltered-homelessness/>
- HUD Exchange – Webinar Recording: Strategies for Understanding the Needs of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (2020). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AzwC6rq1mU>
- National Health Care for the Homeless. Promoting Safety in Street Outreach. <https://nhchc.org/resource/promoting-safety-in-street-outreach/>
- NLIHC & NAEH. Housing First Series: How to Address Unsheltered Homelessness. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4R3prOxPB4>

Research Reports & Blogs regarding Unsheltered Homelessness:

- Van Wagner, E. 2022. *Federal Obligations and Encampments: Security of Tenure in Canada*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Source: [https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Van%20Wagner-federal obligations and encampments-security of tenure.pdf](https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Van%20Wagner-federal%20obligations%20and%20encampments-security%20of%20tenure.pdf)
- Flynn, A., Hermer, J., Leblanc, C., MacDonald, S-A., Schwan, K., Van Wagner, E. 2022. *Overview of Encampments Across Canada: A Right to Housing Approach*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Source: https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Overview%20of%20Encampments%20Across%20Canada_EN_1.pdf
- The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. 2023. *Upholding dignity and Dignity Rights - Interim report*. Ottawa: The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Source:

https://www.housingchrc.ca/sites/housing/files/2023-10/ofha_-_interim_report_on_encampments_-_en_-_october_2023.pdf

- OrgCode Consulting Inc. (2022). Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments in Canada. Source: <https://caeh.ca/wp-content/uploads/CAEH-Encampment-Final-March-2022.pdf>
- Hermer, J. 2022. *Case study: Prince George—A human rights analysis of encampments in Canada*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Source: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/case-study-prince-george>
- Leblanc, C., Alunni-Menichini, K., Loignon, C. and Bertrand, K. (2023). *Living in the street: Rethinking our response to homelessness. Report on the results of the systems thinking event*. Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Source: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Living%20on%20the%20street%20-%20Rethinking%20our%20Response%20to%20Homelessness.pdf>
- Olson, N., Pauly, B. Homeless encampments: connecting public health and human rights. *Can J Public Health* **112**, 988–991 (2021). Source: <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-021-00581-w>
- CAEH Bright Spot: How Fort McMurray Resolved an Encampment without Enforcement. Source: <https://caeh.ca/bright-spot-how-fort-mcmurray-resolved-an-encampment-without-enforcement/>
- California Policy Lab (2019). Health Conditions Among Unsheltered Homelessness in the US. Source: <https://www.capolicylab.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Health-Conditions-Among-Unsheltered-Adults-in-the-U.S..pdf>
- USICH (2022). Resource Roundup for Addressing Encampments. Source: <https://www.usich.gov/guidance-reports-data/federal-guidance-resources/resource-roundup-addressing-encampments>
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (2022). Encampment Practices & Best Practices. Source: <https://www.usich.gov/guidance-reports-data/federal-guidance-resources/resource-roundup-addressing-encampments>
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2022). Impact of Encampment Sweeps on People Experiencing Homelessness. Source: <https://www.usich.gov/guidance-reports-data/federal-guidance-resources/resource-roundup-addressing-encampments>
- USICH (2023). How Communities are Responding to Vehicular Homelessness. Source: https://www.usich.gov/sites/default/files/document/How_Communities_Are_Responding_to_Vehicular_Homelessness.pdf
- USICH (2022): 7 Principles for Addressing Encampments. Source: https://www.usich.gov/sites/default/files/document/Principles_for_Addressig_Encampments_1.pdf

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CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

ADDRESSING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN HRM & RURAL COMMUNITIES

SECTION 1: ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

Organizational Information:

Name of Organization: _____
Street Address: _____
City/Community: _____
Postal Code: _____
Phone Number: _____

Legal Signing Officer(s) for the Organization:

Name of Signing Officer: _____
Position Title: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name of Signing Officer (optional): _____
Position Title: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Primary Sub-Project Contact:

Name: _____
Position Title: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Primary Contact for Financial Reporting:

Name: _____
Position Title: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

SECTION 2: SYSTEM LEVEL COLLABORATION EXPECTATIONS

Active Participation in Coordinated Access (CA): All Reaching Home funded organizations must fully participate in Coordinated Access processes that exist in your community. For sub-projects that connect with people experiencing homelessness (or are at risk of homelessness), participation in CA means completing all CA intake processes, including updating housing status on the By Name List. For sub-projects that house and support individuals and families, participation in CA involves willing all caseload and housing vacancies from the BNL. Is your organization prepared to fully commit to the community's Coordinated Access process?

- Yes
- No

HIFIS 4.0: Proponents are required to take part in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS 4.0) for new client intakes as well as regular updates to the client housing and support status. All outcome reporting for funded sub-projects will be derived from HIFIS data entry. All successful proponents are required to sign our community's Data Sharing Agreement (DSA). Is your organization prepared to commit to HIFIS 4.0 for outcome-based reporting?

- Yes
- No

Promotion of Partnership & Collaborative Approaches: Responses to address homelessness – especially unsheltered homelessness – require strong partnerships between service providing organizations, private landlords (and hotel or other temporary accommodation operators) and government departments. These collaborations are based on trauma-informed, ethical and action-oriented activities completed to enhance shelter, housing, service navigation and support delivery for the individuals and families that our system of care has the privilege of serving. Does your proposed project incorporate collaboration with other organizations?

- Yes
- No

If you answered YES, please provide the names of the partners and collaborations incorporated into this project.

Names of Partners:

SECTION 3: PROPOSED PROJECT TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS DURING THE WINTER OF 2023-24

Proposed Approach to Service Delivery:

Please provide a brief description of the proposed approach to address Unsheltered Homelessness during the Winter 2023-24 (activities to be delivered, number of people served, key outcomes that will be achieved for this short-term funding).

Community Partnerships to Deliver Project:

Please provide a description of the partnerships that your organization already have and/or will leverage to enhance housing options (temporary and/or permanent), service delivery, support and navigation activities and assertive engagement with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Financial and Human Resources Needed to deliver the Proposed Project¹:

To identify the project costs that are eligible for reimbursement under Reaching Home, please review <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html#h2.3-h3.1>. Ineligible costs cannot be reimbursed.

Please identify the staffing and project-specific resources required to deliver this proposed project.

Staffing Resources:

# of Staff & Job Titles:	Full or Part time:	# of Hours per Week:	Total Salary Costs (including MERC)
Total Staffing Costs:			

¹ All 2023-24 Winter Response projects must expend all approved budgets by April 30th, 2024.



Winter 2023-24 Response for Unsheltered Homelessness

Project & Client Costs:

Resources Required (i.e. rent, hotel costs, documentation readiness costs, transportation, etc.):	Funding Required for These Resources
Total Project & Client Costs:	

Administration Costs to Deliver the Project:

Administration Costs (i.e. staff travel, phone, direct supervision for the project, etc.). Administration has a maximum allowance of 15% of the project budget.	Funding Required for These Project Administration
Total Administration Budget:	

Expression of Interest submitted by:

Name & Position

Signature

Date of Submission: _____

***Please submit completed Application to AHANS at info@ahans.ca ASAP
(firm deadline of February 29th, 2024)***

Note: EOI proposals submitted will be reviewed for alignment with evidence informed approaches as they are received to ensure funds are optimized ASAP. The Reaching Home Advisory Boards will review and decide upon the recommended proposals.