Introduction

Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to Designated Communities (urban centers), Indigenous communities, territorial communities and rural and remote communities across Canada.

**Eligible activities and expenses:**

1. **Housing services**

Housing services are those that lead to an individual or family transitioning into more stable housing that has been deemed appropriate and safe. Housing could include:

- **Transitional housing**: Housing intended to offer a supportive living environment for its residents, including offering them the experience, tools, knowledge and opportunities for social and skill development to become more independent. It is considered an intermediate step between emergency shelter and supportive housing, and has limits on how long an individual or family can stay. Stays are typically between 3 months and 3 years.

- **Permanent supportive housing**: Housing that combines rental or housing assistance with individualized, and flexible support services for people with high needs related to physical or mental health, developmental disabilities or substance use. Permanent supportive housing may be:
  - **placed-based**: Congregate or independent permanent supportive housing units situated in 1 building or location
  - **scattered-site**: The provision of permanent supportive housing services in the community, delivered through home visits or community-based agencies

- **Housing**: Housing that is not supportive housing and that can be long-term. Includes a house, apartment or room (including social housing) that a family or individual rent or owns. Housing may include living arrangements with friends or family members that are expected to be long-term.
• **Indigenous housing options** that reflect Indigenous values, beliefs and practices (for example, community/family living environment) and are delivered by Indigenous organizations.

  **Eligible activities include:**

  **Housing placement**
  • Determining an individual’s or family’s preferences and needs for housing and type of supports.
  • Securing housing for individuals and families by working with private and public local real estate, landlord associations, home communities (for example, First Nation band, Inuit community, Métis settlement), to identify available housing units.
  • Time-limited rental assistance in the context of a rapid rehousing project. While at the discretion of the community to establish parameters for the rental assistance, rapid rehousing usually consists of 3 to 6 months of support.
  • Providing landlord-tenant services for an individual or family that was placed into housing, which includes providing landlord mediation and training on roles and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.
  • Re-housing (if required).

  **Emergency Housing Funding**
  • Within parameters that are established by the community, funding to help cover housing costs in the short term while awaiting access to longer-term housing supports, including the Canadian Housing Benefit or benefits from provincial, territorial or municipal programs.

  **Housing set-up**
  • Activities which cover costs associated with setting up a housing unit, including: insurance, damage deposit, first and last months' rent, maintenance (for example, painting), moving, furniture, kitchen, basic groceries and supplies at move-in, etc.

    Available to all individuals and families, not just those in receipt of rental assistance or Emergency Housing Funding.

    • If a provincial social assistance or other program offers first and last month's rent or damage deposits, this funding should be exhausted first before Reaching Home funding is used for these purposes.

    **Ineligible activities include:**

    • Emergency Housing funding while the individual or family is supported by the provincial, territorial or municipal welfare and rent supplement programs; and
    • Level of funding provided for Emergency Housing Funding must not exceed amount of financial assistance provided by provincial, territorial or municipal rent supplement programs
2. **Prevention and shelter diversion**

Prevention includes activities aimed at preventing homelessness by supporting individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness before a crisis occurs. This includes supporting individuals and families who are currently housed but at-risk of losing their housing, and preventing individuals who are being discharged from public systems (for example, health, corrections, and child welfare) from becoming homeless. Populations at imminent risk of homelessness are defined as individuals or families whose current housing situation will end in the near future (for example, within 2 months) and for whom no subsequent residence has been established.

Shelter diversion is a tool used to prevent the use of emergency shelters by providing individualized supports when families and individuals are seeking to enter the emergency shelter system. Shelter diversion programs help individuals and families seeking shelter to explore safe and appropriate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connect them with services and financial assistance to help them find secure housing.

Shelter diversion is different from other permanent housing-targeted interventions because of the point in time in which the intervention occurs. Shelter diversion focuses on people as they are seeking entry into shelters, while prevention focuses on people at risk of homelessness. However, many of the same initiatives may be employed with shelter diversion as with prevention.

**Eligible activities include:**
- Discharge planning services for individuals being released from public systems (for example, health, corrections, and child welfare)
- Help obtaining or retaining housing, including shared housing
- Landlord liaison and intervention to prevent eviction and preserve tenancy
- Advice on budgeting, credit counseling and debt consolidation
- Legal advice, advocacy and legal representation in order to avert eviction
- Emergency assistance to help avert eviction (for example, food, clothing, transportation vouchers, cleaning/repair of damage to a rental unit)
- Moving costs; and
- Short-term financial assistance to help avert eviction or loss of housing with rent, rental arrears, and utility deposits or payments.

**Ineligible activities include:**
• Provision or payment for student housing for students who are not at imminent risk of homelessness; and
• Supports for low-income individuals or families who are not at imminent risk of homelessness.

EOI - Instructions:

• Refer / complete the Territorial Communities EOI Form included in the RH-EOI package.

• If available, supporting materials may strengthen your project proposal (e.g., consultation or performance reports).

• Address as many of the EOI components as possible, however the CE & Community Advisory Board will review all letters including those that do not address all EOI components.

• All proposals may be emailed, Faxed or delivered in person through any of the following methods:

Email: Donovan.cote@cyfn.net

Mail: Council of Yukon First Nations
2166 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A-4P1
Attention: Donovan Côté, Reaching Home Strategy Coordinator

Fax: 867-668-6577

Contact Person:
Name & Title: Donovan Côté, Reaching Home Strategy Coordinator
Phone: (867) 393-9222 Ext: 222
E-mail: donovan.cote@cyfn.net

• You will receive confirmation that your Expression of Interest package has been received.
• Expect your Expression of Interest to be assessed within one to two (1-2) weeks from the deadline date. In addition, The CE / Community Advisory Board member may contact you during this assessment period to ask follow-up questions.

Lastly; CYFN and the Community Advisory Board would like to thank you for your interest in the Reaching Home Program.