



**United Way
Centraide**
Simcoe Muskoka

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

Ontario Rural and Remote Communities: Call for Expressions of Interest

Application Guidelines (Round 2)

United Way Simcoe Muskoka, in partnership with its Regional Advisory Board, invites organizations operating in Ontario to submit an Expression of Interest through the **Reaching Home (RH) – Rural and Remote Communities COVID-19 Round 2** funding stream.

Through the **Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**, decisive action is being taken to help communities address the impacts of the COVID-19 among people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness, and to provide additional support to the homeless-serving sector during this period. A total of \$2,596,209 will be allocated (pending funding availability) in rural communities across Ontario for a **three (3) month funding period of January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021**, with potential of extending to April 30, 2021 if extenuating circumstances occur due to COVID-19.

Please review the Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) 'Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives' found [here](#) before submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI).

Deadline to Submit an Expression of Interest is Monday, November 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Organizations that are currently receiving Reaching Home – Rural and Remote funds are eligible to apply for a different project.
- **Communities excluded from RH – Rural and Remote COVID-19 funding consideration include:** Belleville, Brantford, Dufferin County, Durham, Guelph-Wellington, Halton, Hamilton, Kingston, London, St. Catharines/Niagara/Thorold, Nipissing/North Bay, Ottawa, Peel, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Simcoe County, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Waterloo/Kitchener, Windsor, York, Kenora District, and Timmins (Note: These communities are eligible under the [Reaching Home – Designated Communities](#)).
- **All other rural communities in Ontario are eligible for RH – Rural and Remote COVID-19 funds**
- **Eligible Recipients:**
 - Not for profit organizations;
 - For-profit organizations (as per section 3.2 in the attached 'RH Terms and Conditions');



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- Municipalities;
- Indigenous organizations (Indigenous organizations may include, but are not limited to, incorporated for-profit and not-for-profit Indigenous controlled organizations, Indigenous controlled unincorporated associations, Indian Act Bands, Tribal Councils and Indigenous self-government entities);
- Public health and educational institutions; and
- Provincial and territorial governments and their entities, including institutions, agencies and Crown Corporations.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Note: Please review the ESDC 'Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives' found [here](#) for more details. All COVID-19 related activities are listed in the pink boxes throughout the Directives.

See Appendix A for an excerpt from the Directives, describing eligible activities under the new COVID-19 funds.

ELIGIBLE FUNDING REQUESTS

Individual organizations may apply for up to a maximum of \$100,000.

Multiple organizations applying under one (1) project may apply for up to a maximum of \$150,000.

Organizations may apply for up to a maximum of \$500,000 for a capital project.

Note: All applicants must include a completed budget template with detailed budget notes.

CAPITAL PROJECT ELIGIBILITY + REQUIREMENTS

Note: Before completing a capital project application, please review Section 6, 'Requirements Related to Capital Projects' in ESDC's 'Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives'.

All capital project funds must be invested by March 31, 2021, with potential of extending to April 30, 2021 if extenuating circumstances occur due to COVID-19.

All housing units must be for individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Where possible, communities are encouraged to ensure that Reaching Home is not the sole funder in capital projects. Reaching Home funding must not duplicate or displace funding from other programs, it is meant to fill in gaps.

Applicable to organizations which own a property or have a long-term lease, capital renovation projects may be subject to monitoring for up to 5 years after the project end-date to ensure the recipients are compliant with the terms of their funding agreement.

Capital Project Application Attachments:



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1. Completed budget template with detailed budget notes
2. [Capital Sustainability Checklist](#)
3. Proof of in-kind and/or financial contributions (e.g. letters of support)
4. Sustainability Plan that includes:
 - a. A description of your partnerships
 - b. Confirmation of funding sources for ongoing operations
 - c. Report if the project will increase the level of services or if it will remain stable
 - d. A timeline for the completion of your capital project activities (Note: All activities must be completed by March 31, 2021)

Examples of Acceptable Capital Projects:

- Set up self-isolation unit(s) for individuals experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Purchase modular, prefabricated housing, to utilize as affordable housing units.
- Renovate existing facilities (e.g. shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or non-residential facilities) to, for example, improve ventilation or increase the distance between residents.
- Purchase washable furniture for shared space in shelter to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Purchase an existing building, such as a motel, to create affordable housing units.
- To extend the reach of an existing capital build, such as adding another unit on to accommodate more individuals.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **The Expression of Interest and Application Guidelines can be found here:**
<https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/reachinghomeapply/>
- Please complete the entire Expression of Interest (EOI) to the best of your ability. We highly encourage you to **keep your responses brief and direct**, to assist with the timely review of applications and funding decisions.
- **EOI deadline: Monday, November 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST**
- Regional Advisory Board members and UWSM staff will review all EOI's in December and make final funding decisions. All applicants will be notified of approval or denial in early January at the latest. **No further application will be required.**
- Projects will start early January and may run until March 31, 2021, with potential of extending to April 30, 2021 if extenuating circumstances occur due to COVID-19.



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- For those that are approved, a simplified Contribution Agreement will be issued by UWSM as soon as possible.
- **Reporting Requirements:**
 - A signed Contribution Agreement and completed 'Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Request' form is to be returned no later than 7 business days after UWSM issues the agreement.
 - A final [Activity and Data Report](#) will required by April 15, 2021.
 - A completed [Financial Claim Form](#) must be submitted to UWSM, along with all corresponding receipts/invoices by April 30, 2021 at the very latest. (When you click the Financial Claim Form link above, you must click "Download" to view the spreadsheet)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your project idea(s), please contact:

Jenna Thorkildsen | Program Associate, Community Impact

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ReachingHome@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca





Appendix A

Eligible activities for RH are grouped into five (5) Directives:

1) Capital Investments

- To increase the capacity or improve the quality of facilities that address the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, including those that support culturally appropriate programming for Indigenous individuals and families.
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - Purchase or repurpose existing properties to create new temporary housing (e.g. motel and hotel spaces, community spaces); and
 - Renovate existing facilities (e.g. shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or non-residential facilities) to, for example, improve ventilation or increase the distance between residents.

2) Housing Services

- Project leads to an individual or family transitioning into more stable housing that has been deemed appropriate and safe.
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - All activities previously identified under Directive 1 continue to be eligible (i.e. housing placement, emergency housing funding and housing set-up cots).
 - Increase physical distancing between people, particularly people residing in shelters.
 - Place individuals in temporary, transitional, or permanent housing accommodations including for the purposes of self-isolation (e.g. motels, hotels, rooming houses, community buildings, schools, tents in sports arenas, RV's, etc.).

3) Prevention and Shelter Diversion

- Projects that aim to **prevent 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.
- **Shelter diversion** is a tool used to prevent the use of emergency shelters by providing individualized supports when individuals or families are seeking to enter an emergency shelter.
- **Keeping people housed is a key way to limit the spread of COVID-19 as people need to have a secure place to self-isolate.**
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - Provide short-term financial assistance (e.g. rent arrears and utility deposits).



- Deliver in-kind support (e.g. grocery cards, personal hygiene products, gift cards).
- Utilize non-financial tools such as landlord-tenant mediation, problem-solving with neighbours, and helping individuals or families with budgeting.
- Help individuals exiting institutions transition directly to housing and support them in maintaining housing so that they do not need to access a shelter.
- Set up new access points to services, such as working with an existing crisis line to offer help over the phone or virtually through a website.
- Fund staff at points of shelter inquiry to explore options for individuals and families through problem-solving and leveraging strengths, existing informal and natural supports and community resources.
- Utilize tools and resources such as short-term financial support, landlord-tenant mediation, and in-kind support to offset the costs individuals and families of moving to alternative accommodations.

4) Health and Medical Services:

- To enable communities to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, RH has added a new *temporary* category of eligible activities and expenses.
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - Provide general health and medical services, mental health (including counselling) and addictions support services that are already provided by provinces and territories.
 - Direct hiring of health care professionals (e.g. nurses, doctors) to provide services directly to clients.

5) Client Support Services

- Individualized services to help improve integration and connectedness to support structures, such as basic needs and treatment services.
- Services to support the economic, social and cultural integration of individuals and families (i.e. income, employment, education and training assistance).
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - Increase frequency of cleaning with disinfectants in, for example, shelter facilities and high traffic areas.
 - Acquire and/or provide shelter beds and physical barriers to be placed between beds.
 - Provide individuals moved off-site from a shelter with access to food and transportation.
 - Purchase personal hygiene products, personal protection equipment, cleaning equipment and cleaning/disinfectant supplies.

6) Coordination of Resources and Data Collection



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- Activities that: (1) enable communities to organize and deliver diverse services in a coordinated manner and/or (2) support the implementation of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) or the alignment of an existing HIFIS with federal coordinated access requirements.
- **Examples of eligible activities related to COVID-19:**
 - Develop partnerships with other sectors, as well as gather, share and disseminate information to key partners and stakeholders; and,
 - Inform the public, and solicit support or feedback on the community's response (e.g. communication activities such as issuing press releases to solicit volunteers).

7) Administration expenditures

- Eligible expenditures under the administration category remain the same under Reaching Home. **In the context of the COVID-19 response, communities may use Reaching Home funds to:**
 - Support overhead costs, including costs that are central to the functioning of the organization in its delivery of Reaching Home-funded activities or those supported under Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan;
 - Provide training to existing staff/volunteers on, for example, appropriate practices to reduce the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19; and,
 - Purchase equipment and supplies.

