

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Ontario Rural and Remote Communities

Call for Funding Applications

(2022-2023)

NOTE: Funding is conditional upon final approval from Parliament

United Way Simcoe Muskoka, in partnership with its Regional Advisory Board (RAB), invites organizations operating in rural and remote communities across Ontario to submit funding applications for consideration for capital projects.

The **Government of Canada** is taking decisive action to help communities address the impacts of the pandemic among people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness, and to provide additional support to the homeless-serving sector during this period.

A total of **\$1,634,757** is available to support activities 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.

Projects must take place during the funding period of **June 2022 to March 31, 2023**.

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

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Organizations that are currently receiving Reaching Home – Rural and Remote funds are eligible to apply for a different project.
- The following communities in Ontario are ineligible. They fall under the **Designated Communities** funding stream which supports larger urban areas: Barrie (Simcoe), Belleville, Brantford, Cochrane District (Timmins), Dufferin County, Durham, Fort Frances, Guelph-Wellington, Hamilton, Kenora, Kingston, Lambton, London, Midland, Moosonee, St. Catharines/Niagara/Thorold, Nipissing/North Bay, Ottawa, Peel, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Waterloo/Kitchener, Windsor, and York/Newmarket.
- Note: If you are unsure, check details for **Designated Communities [here](#)**.
- **All other communities in Ontario are eligible for Rural and Remote funding**
- **Eligible Recipients:**
 - Not for profit organizations
 - For-profit organizations (as per section 3.2 in the attached '[RH Terms and Conditions](#)')
 - 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
 - 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.

ELIGIBLE FUNDING REQUESTS

Organizations may apply for the following:

- Single applicant: \$25,000 - \$125,000
- Joint applicant: (two or more organizations): \$25,000 - \$250,000
- Capital applications: \$50,000 - \$500,000 maximum

Note: Only one application per organization will be accepted (Single, Joint or Capital)

Note: All applicants must include a completed [Budget Template](#) with detailed budget notes including other sources of funding for the project such as all capital contributions, including in-kind contributions, grants, forgivable loans and waiver of development charges and fees.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Note: Please complete the **Required Documents Checklist** [here](#).

All Applicants must provide the following:

- Project Budget
- Annual Report
- Enumeration Reports
- Vital Signs Report where available
- Inclusion Statement or Policy
- Letters of Support (minimum 3)
 - Acknowledgement of application to Reaching Home
 - Partner(s) contribution to the project (in-kind or financial), where applicable
 - Collaboration or relationship between organizations
 - Confirmation of project need in community
- Financial Statements (for Indigenous organizations, financial information which has been provided to Indigenous Services Canada can act as an alternative to financial statements)

Joint Applications, provide a **Partnership Agreement** that includes the following items plus anything else that is pertinent:

1. Identifies Lead organization/agency and contact details
2. Identifies Partners and contact details
3. Roles and responsibilities (including reporting requirements and funding management)
4. Term of agreement
5. Management of funds
6. Decision making process
7. Communication plan
8. Signatures from partners

General Applications including capital requests below \$50,000

- 1-3 quotes for assets \$5,000 or more

Capital Applications above \$50,000

- See additional Required Documents for Capital Projects in Appendix B, see page 5-6 below (*Capital Projects must complete applicable Required Documents including those listed above*)

REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

All projects are required to provide the following reports:

Monthly

- Financial Claim Form – indicating quantitative details of expenses in eligible cost categories incurred each month of the project period
- Activity Report – indicating qualitative progress of project

Annual

- Final Report consisting of Project Details and Data Collection

See additional reporting requirements for capital projects in Appendix B (capital projects must complete additional reporting requirements listed on page 6 including those listed above)

PROJECT EXAMPLES

See a list of previous project examples [here](#).

APPLICATION TIPS

- Demonstrate where project fits into regional housing strategy + plan
- Secure Letters of support from community partners + champions
- Demonstrate collaboration e.g., situation table, housing alliance, Poverty Reduction Task Group
- Consider joint application + provide Partnership Agreement
- Share demonstrated need – local data, research, surveys
- Outline how you plan to evaluate your project
- Include Lived Experience voice in planning + implementation
- Answer all questions
- Provide all Required Documents
- Include budget notes + other sources of funding or grant applications associated with project
- Connect with UWSM with any questions

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Application and applicable documents can be found here:**
<https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/reachinghomeapply/>
- Documents associated with your application must be completed and saved to your computer prior to the completion of your application.
Notes: your application must be completed in one sitting. All documents must be sent to the Reaching Home inbox: ReachingHome@UwSimcoeMuskoka.ca
- Application deadline: Friday, April 22th at 5:00 PM EST
- Regional Advisory Board (RAB) members and UWSM staff will review all applications and make final funding decisions in May. All applicants will be notified of funding decisions in May.
- Projects will start in June 2022 and may run until March 31, 2023.
- A Funding Agreement will be issued to successful applicants by UWSM and funding will flow following receipt of a signed agreement and Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information.
- Reporting Requirements will be outlined in the Funding Agreement.

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

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<https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/reachinghome/>

**Reaching Home - Rural and Remote (Ontario)
Capital Funding (2022-2023)
Application Guidelines
Appendix B: Capital Projects**

CAPITAL PROJECT ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Note: A capital application is any capital asset(s) that exceed \$50,000 in funding

Before completing a capital project application, please review Section 1 E and Section 6, 'Requirements Related to Capital Projects' in '[Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives](#)'.

All funding must be invested by **March 31, 2023**.

All project activities must be for individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Applicants 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 address gaps. Collaboration and partnerships are necessary for the sustainability of any capital project and must be demonstrated in your application.

Note: Capital projects may be subject to monitoring for up to five years after the project end-date to ensure the recipients are compliant with the terms of their funding agreement.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Note: All capital projects must provide the following items for funding requests above \$50,000 in addition to the Required Documents identified on page 3 of the Application Guidelines (see above). Please refer to the Required Documents Checklist [here](#) to ensure application is complete.

Note: All documents must be sent to the Reaching Home inbox:
ReachingHome@UwSimcoeMuskoka.ca

1. Completed [Budget Template](#) with detailed budget notes for Reaching Home funding, including all other funding sources
2. A Minimum of **2-3 Letters of Support** from local partners that include:
 - a. Acknowledgement of capital project
 - b. Partner(s) contribution to the project (in-kind or financial)
 - c. Confirmation of support of this project in their community
 - d. Relationship between organizations
 - e. Confirmation of project need in community
3. Completed **Capital Sustainability Checklist** [here](#)
4. The Reaching Home grant is a one-time, short-term investment. A project is considered sustainable when either the project activities or benefits achieved as a result of the project activities continue after the grant has ended. Please provide a **Sustainability Plan** that incorporates each component addressed in the [Capital Sustainability Checklist](#) and the

additional components listed below:

- a. A timeline for the completion of your capital project activities.
 - b. Outline how the project will prevent homelessness and reduce chronic homelessness in your community over the next five years
 - c. Outline whether the project will increase the level of service or remain stable
5. Applicable **quotes** for any expense(s) over \$5,000. A minimum of 2-3 quotes from different contractors or businesses is required.
6. The **Development and Construction Schedule Template** helps to identify the state of project readiness and preparedness of a capital project. Please complete the Development and Construction Schedule Template [here](#).

Note: If funding for your project is approved, United Way Simcoe Muskoka may request copies of materials identified in the Development and Construction Schedule.

REPORTING EXPECTATIONS - CAPITAL

Additional project reporting includes:

- Annual Declaration of Facility Use (capital projects with assets that exceed \$50,000 are subject to this reporting for 5-years following the project period to ensure the capital asset is being used for its intended purpose per original Reaching Home funding agreement)

Appendix C

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Eligible activities for RH are grouped into five (6) Funding Priorities:

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

- 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).