

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Ontario Rural and Remote Communities

Call for Funding Applications

Revised January 3, 2023

(2023-2024)

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 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 **\$3,231,547** 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 **April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024**.

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

FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Organizations serving rural and remote clients in Northern Ontario
- Project creates new units or maintains and improves the quality of existing units
- Projects demonstrate funds can be invested in 12-month funding period
- Organizations new to United Way Simcoe Muskoka and Reaching Home Rural and Remote are supported
- Projects serve vulnerable populations

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Organizations that are currently receiving Reaching Home – Rural and Remote funds are eligible to re-apply.
- The following communities in Ontario are ineligible to apply for this funding: Barrie (Simcoe), Belleville, Brantford, Timmins, Dufferin County, Durham, Guelph-Wellington, Hamilton, Kenora, Kingston, Lambton, London, St. Catharines/Niagara/Thorold, North Bay, Ottawa, Peel, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Waterloo/Kitchener, Windsor, and York/Newmarket.

Note: These communities are eligible under the Reaching Home – Designated Communities. You can find contact information for Designated Communities [here](#). This also includes Indigenous organizations that are eligible to apply with the appropriate Community Entity.

- **All other rural and remote communities in Ontario are eligible for RH – Rural and Remote Capital funding**
- **Eligible Recipients:**
 - Not for profit organizations
 - For-profit organizations (as per section 3.2 in the [‘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: up to \$500,000 maximum

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

All Applicants must provide the following:

- Project Budget
- Annual Report
- Enumeration Reports
- Vital Signs Report where available
- Diversity, Equity and 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

- A minimum of 2 quotes for capital 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

- Initial Report consisting of Project Details and Final Report consisting of 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-23-24/>
- Documents associated with your application must be completed and saved to your computer prior to the completion of your application. Note: your application must be completed in one sitting.
Note: All documents must be sent to the Reaching Home inbox:
ReachingHome@UwSimcoeMuskoka.ca
- Application deadline: Wednesday, January 18th at 5:00 PM EST
- Regional Advisory Board (RAB) members and UWSM staff will review all applications in February and make final funding decisions in March. All applicants will be notified of approval or denial in March.
- Projects will start April 1, 2023 and may run until March 31, 2024.
- 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:

Kelsey Nicholls | Federal Program Associate
705.726.2301 x 2026
ReachingHome@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca

Tally Lajeunesse | Manager, Federal Initiatives
705.726.2301 x 2012
ReachingHome@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca

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 up to a maximum of \$500,000

The objective of Reaching Home capital funding is to create and expedite much needed affordable housing units. This will be achieved by:

- Supporting the costs to create new affordable housing units (permits in place, RFP – award done, contractor and operating fund identified, all capital funding in place).
- Top up to other funding e.g. CMHC
- Cover the construction of new rental housing units, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion/rehabilitation of existing buildings to affordable housing.
- Committing all funds as quickly as possible to ensure housing is available within 12 months of the agreement

With housing supply and housing affordability at a crisis across Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing estimates an additional 1.85 million homes are needed in Ontario by 2030. Increased rental and ownership are critical for families to access housing that meets their needs.

Before completing a capital project application, please review Section 1 E and Section 6, 'Requirements Related to Capital Projects [here](#).

What Does The Funding Cover?

The funding associated with this initiative is for addressing the needs of vulnerable residents of rural and remote Ontario through the construction of residential housing including transitional housing, permanent affordable housing, land acquisition, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing. Given the 12-month window to use the funding, modular units, secondary or garden suites, tiny homes on land already available, repurposing existing buildings, predevelopment professional costs for new construction are encouraged.

All funding must be invested by March 31, 2024. Extensions past this date are NOT available.

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

Reaching Home is not intended to be 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.

1. Completed **Budget Template** with detailed budget notes for Reaching Home funding, including all other funding sources
2. Copy of all permits and approvals associated with capital project as identified in **Required Documents Checklist**
3. Completed **Capital Sustainability Checklist**
4. 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
5. The Reaching Home grant is a one-time investment that must be expended within a 12-window ending March 31, 2024. Reaching Home considers a project sustainable when either the project activities or benefits achieved as a result of the project activities continue after the Reaching Home grant has ended. Please provide a **Sustainability Plan** that includes the following:
 - a. A description of your partnerships
 - b. Confirmation of funding sources for ongoing operations
 - c. Report if the project will increase the level of service or remain stable
 - d. A timeline for the completion of your capital project activities.
 - e. Outline how the project will prevent homelessness and reduce chronic homelessness in your community over the next five years
 - f. Outline whether the project will increase housing units or service available or remain stable
 - g. People or populations that will be served
 - h. How will your organization continue to deliver the activities and/or sustain the benefits of your proposed project once the Reaching Home grant ends?
6. Applicable **quotes** for any expense(s) over \$5,000. A minimum of 2 quotes from different contractors or businesses is required.
7. **Completed Development and Construction Schedule** including the following, where applicable:
 - a. All development and construction milestones
 - b. Execution of purchase and sale agreement for real estate
 - c. Project manager and contact details
 - d. Status of all permits, zoning and land designation
 - e. Status of Procurement and award of contractor
 - f. Approvals and Funding Agreements
 - g. Confirmed operating funding for additional housing units. Any potential risks to project completion and strategies to mitigate any risks
 - h. Relevant activities, and pertinent information that outlines how the funding will be invested by March 31, 2024
 - i. Management:
 1. **Project Management:**
 - Identify current or previous projects managed in the last 5 years of similar type, size and scope or provide similar details for company undertaking management for project

2. Housing Development:

- Identify projects of similar size and scope completed in the same market or comparable sized communities within the last 5 years or provide the name of the construction company/general contractor who will undertake the build

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)

Appendix C

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Eligible activities for RH are grouped into five (5) 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.
- Expediency will be prioritized to ensure funding is invested in 12 month time period. All approvals, permits, contractor agreements should be in place to ensure projects can be completed in this window of time.

2) Housing Services

- Project leads to an individual or family transitioning into more stable housing that has been deemed appropriate and safe.

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.

4) 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).

5) 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.