

## Reaching Home Program (RHP) Designated Communities Call for Proposals 2020-21 Notice of Additional Information November 26, 2019

The following additional information regarding the RHP Call for Proposals (CFP) 2020-21 was communicated at the Information Meeting on November 25, 2019

- See the PowerPoint presentation for additional information on the application decision process.
- Organizations can apply for multiple years of funding (up to four years, ending March 31, 2024). However, allocations are expensed annually and there is currently no carryover from year-to-year. If applying for multi-year funding, include a separate budget for each year.
- Organizations can submit multiple applications for multiple projects. For example, an organization applying in partnership can submit a joint application, and it can also submit a separate application for another project.
- Housing First targets have been removed from the program requirements, but are still encouraged. The five Housing First principles can be found in the CFP Application Guide.
- Serious consideration will be given to a project's sustainability during evaluation. Please ensure the application describes how the organization would thoughtfully and sensitively deal with the needs of clients if RHP funding ends.
- The priority population groups (Indigenous, youth and women escaping violence) were selected by Employment and Social Development Canada as a policy decision. However, while these groups are a priority, other populations are eligible for services under Reaching Home.
- The CRD is working with BC Housing to develop a pilot project for HIFIS. Current CFP applicants are not required to use HIFIS in 2020/21, but projects will be required to use HIFIS within the next three years. HIFIS is web-based and cannot be linked to existing databases. To test HIFIS, visit the demo site at <https://demo.hifis.ca/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fHIFISHelp%2fTrainingIndex>  
User Name: Admin, Password: 123456.
- The Community Plan (CP) is posted on both the CRD and GVCEH websites. The CP identified five priority areas; however, RHP is one of many community resources to meet these priorities and will not address all priority areas.
- The Community Advisory Board (CAB) approved the Reaching Home Investment Plan for the next four years (see the CP, page 43). This investment plan is structured to take into account new units that will be opening in the next few years, which will reduce community need for housing placement services (now handled under CAA) and increase need for support services for new tenants. The CAB requested increased investment to prevent people transitioning out of health care facilities, corrections facilities and foster care from becoming homeless. Note that the investment plan shows proposed targets and can be adjusted in response to community needs. If the Investment Plan changes during a multiyear agreement, the organization with the multiyear agreement would not need to adjust their budget.
- Eligible activities are outlined in great detail in the Directives and should be reviewed by applicants.
- "Clinical/Treatment" funding cannot be used to fund services already provided by the Provincial government and should be used to help support clients to access existing treatment programs.

- Emergency shelter beds or delivery of harm reduction activities cannot be funded by RHP because funding for this is already provided provincially. Respite beds to prevent homelessness are considered to be a different resource and the CRD is looking into whether this would be an eligible expense.
- Reporting
  - RHP is a contribution agreement, not a grant, and Reaching Home require reports that are more detailed than applicants may be accustomed to.
  - If an organization is currently collecting the same client related data required by Reaching Home in another format, it may be able to submit it in that format. Contact Gina Dolinsky to discuss.
  - Accurate financial projection is very important because unused funding may not be able to be carried over to the following year and unused funds could be lost to the community.
- Letters of support can confirm need for the service/project and there is no limit on how many are submitted. Client testimonials are acceptable demonstrations of support; however, only if the program has already been operating and the client can speak directly to the program/services.
- If your organization has access to rent supplements to support the project being proposed, please identify the rent supplement funder and their contribution in the budget in the “other revenue” column. Please provide either a short letter of explanation (preferred) or a copy of your funding agreement with the rent supplement funder.
- The CRD will continue as the Community Entity for the Indigenous Homelessness Funding Stream in 2020-21 and a CFP for 2020-21 Indigenous Homelessness Funding will open in December 2019. When applying for Indigenous Homelessness Funding, if non-Indigenous organizations are partnered with Indigenous groups, a rationale is required if a non-Indigenous organization is leading the project. Designated Communities funding can fund Indigenous programs, but Indigenous Homelessness funding must fund Indigenous programs.

