



Ontario First Nations Reaching Home Funding Initiative

December 2, 2025



ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS
TECHNICAL SERVICES
CORPORATION



Reaching Home Funding

Project Information and Guidelines



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Reaching Home Project Overview

The Ontario First Nations Reaching Home Funding Initiative is a community-based social program funded by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada. The project provides funding to deliver programming to help prevent and reduce homelessness in Ontario aligned with First Nations needs. The project is designed to support the goals of the First Nations Housing Strategy by enhancing housing stability and culturally relevant, community-led solutions.





First Nations homelessness requires culturally appropriate, tailored supports and solutions developed and led by First Nations for First Nations. These supports will address community needs while generating insights using innovative, culturally specific approaches.

An important objective of this program is to provide all First Nations across Ontario an opportunity to access funding through the program.

Project Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

First Nations in Ontario, through their administrations, or First Nations organizations that have the support of the First Nations they are representing.



Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the need, capacity to deliver, and alignment to the project objectives.

Project Location

Project activities may take place either on-reserve or off-reserve.



Eligible Expenses

- Overhead costs, including administrative functions of the recipient First Nation/organization that are needed to support agreement activities.
- Staff wages and mandatory employment-related costs (MERCs) for personnel directly supporting homelessness prevention and reduction activities. A job description clearly showing the wages are supporting a position that aligns with the project's objectives should be provided.
- Staff training and professional development costs for personnel directly supporting homelessness prevention and reduction activities. Training must be directly related to the project's objectives.
- One-time Emergency Housing, Rental Assistance, Utility Arrears Assistance.
- Life Skills Development.
- Limited Capital Costs– renovations to existing temporary housing (e.g., homeless shelter, transitional home), furniture, professional fees (contractor/consultant costs)
- Any other costs that are considered to be direct and necessary for the successful implementation of the project and that are approved in advance by OFNTSC.



Eligible Activities

- **Transitional Housing Service**
 - Housing placement support, emergency housing funding, housing set-up.
- **Homelessness Prevention and Housing Support Services**
 - Advice on budgeting, credit counseling, basic life skills, home maintenance education, short-term financial assistance to help avert eviction or loss of housing with rent, rental arrears, and utility deposits or payments.
- **Client Support Services**
 - Basic needs services, culturally relevant supports, access to technology in a community setting, bus or public transit tickets related to integration activities (job search/interviews, appointments/reconnecting to family).



Eligible Activities

- **Capital Investments with limitations**
 - Renovations of emergency shelters, transitional housing, or **non-residential** facilities for upgrades and to meet building standards, repurposing an existing facility to create transitional or supportive housing, purchase of furniture, appliances, machinery.
- **Emotional, Physical, and Cultural Health Supports**
 - Provide assistance in navigating access to clinical, health, and treatment services (including mental health and addictions support), partnership development, liaison, and integration to bring together services to support the needs of individuals or families to establish case management team where none exist, delivery of harm reduction activities that seek to reduce risk and connect individuals and family's key health and social services, support to access traditional or culturally sensitive healing services that are not offered through provincial programming.



Eligible Activities

- **Social and Community Integration Services**
 - Indigenous elder consultation, gathering and preparing of traditional foods, establishing and maintaining culturally relevant responses and supports to help Indigenous individuals and families
- **Support Services for Accessing Employment, Training, and Income Programs**
 - Provide assistance in accessing income benefits (provincial/territorial social assistance, child benefits, disability benefits, veterans' allowance, old age security, or employment insurance), pre- and post-employment services (job search assistance, interview preparation), education and training assistance.



Ineligible Activities

- Emergency Housing funding while the individual or family is supported by the provincial, territorial or municipal welfare and rent supplement programs.
- Level of funding provided for Emergency Housing Funding must not exceed amount of financial assistance provided by provincial, territorial or municipal rent supplement programs.
- Income support or income assistance.
- Supports for low-income individuals or families who are not imminent risk of homelessness.
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Employment activities normally delivered by other federal, provincial, or territorial labour market programs.
- Job wages for individuals participating in an education, training, or pre-employment program.
- Salary for a full-time teacher to provide an alternative to provincial or territorial education.



Ineligible Activities

- Tuition.
- Workplace skills development.
- Apprenticeship grants.
- Providing income instance and supplements.
- Construction and renovation of housing units funding through the Bilateral Housing Partnership Framework agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and most provinces/territories, construction and renovations for permanent individual homes.
- Investments in social housing including repairs, renovations, and creations of social housing units.
- Construction or renovations to individual homes.



Proposal Criteria

- **NOW Accepting Proposals**
- **Proposals to include:**
 - First Nation, Project Location, Project Description, Project Budget, Reporting Requirements, Project Contact Information.
- **Proposal Deadline:**
 - December 19th, 2025
- **Reporting Requirements**
 - Reporting requirements related to the measurable outcomes and alignment with the Reaching Home funding objectives will be outlined in the agreement. Meeting the reporting requirements will be a condition to receiving funding allocations for the approved proposal.

Proposal Outline

First Nation Background Information

- Department/Organization's mission and how the Reaching Home project fits into their mission/mandate to support Homelessness prevention and reduction activities. Provide a letter of support from First Nation.

Project Description

- Provide a detailed summary of the proposed social programming or service initiative aimed at supporting individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homelessness.
- Include the purpose and the social issue or need it addresses, the key services, activities and/or supports being offered (eg. Mental health, food security, emergency housing assistance, rental arrears, and move-in costs, food banks, case management, life skills training, cultural support, harm reduction, employment readiness, mental health and addictions support, meal programs), and over all intents. Include how, when, and where the program will be delivered and who will lead or support delivery.
- Demonstrate a clear alignment with the identified eligible activities and expenses.
- Outline the project's intended outcomes. Objectives should be clear, measurable, and focused on social stabilization, harm reduction, improved well-being, or increased access to services.
- Describe how the program will be sustained after the funding period.

Reporting

- Explain how you will gather, measure, monitor, and report on the project. Results measurements – how you will meet and track the expected results of the project – qualitative and quantitative, demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of the project in supporting individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Reporting requirements related to measurable outcomes and alignment with the Reaching Home Funding objectives will be outlined in the Sub-Agreement.



Sample Project Budget

Project Deliverable	Description	Cost
Salaries and Benefits	Housing Navigator, Homelessness Outreach Coordinator	\$50,000
Honorarium/Elders	Elder support, guest speaker	\$3,000
Program Costs	Supplies, hygiene kits, food baskets, transportation costs, meals, room rentals	\$5,000
Transitional Home Renovations	Repairs and renovations to existing transitional or supportive home (short-term, less than 6 months), this includes materials, supplies, contractors.	\$50,000 Limited costs
Emergency Assistance	Rental and utility arrears, first and last months rent assistance, emergency shelter support (hotel costs), move-in costs (moving vehicles, appliances, furniture). Assistance in this category is one-time only .	\$15,000
	TOTAL	\$123,000

Provide a clear explanation for each cost, ensure all items directly relate to your proposed activities, and if you are receiving other funding or in-kind contributions, include a brief description and amount. A job description should be included for any position(s) funded, even partially, through this program.

Project Contact Information

Name, position, address, and contact information provided.



Please contact us with any questions:
reachinghome@ofntsc.org



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