



# Questions and Answers

## Indigenous Shelters and Transitional Housing Initiative

Canada



[CMHC.ca](https://www.cmhc.ca)

## **1. Who is eligible for the Shelters and Transitional Housing Initiative funding?**

Indigenous organizations and governments across Canada are eligible to apply.

## **2. What project types for shelters and transitional housing are eligible under this initiative?**

Funding under this initiative is for new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing buildings for the creation of new shelter and/or transitional housing spaces intended for Indigenous women, children, or 2SLGBTQQIA+ people facing gender-based violence.

While the overall goal of the funding is to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people facing gender-based violence, community needs and approaches are diverse. Applicants are encouraged to design services and/or support programming that best meet the cultural needs of their communities.

## **3. What is considered transitional housing and is it the same as second stage housing?**

Transitional housing and second stage housing under this initiative are interchangeable terms that designate the same housing purpose intended to offer a supportive living environment for its occupants in need for additional time and support to heal from their trauma, offering them the experience, tools, knowledge and opportunities for living independently and violence-free. It is considered an intermediate step between emergency shelter and supportive housing, and has limits on stay duration.

## **4. What is meant by Indigenous-led projects under this Initiative?**

The projects funded under this Initiative are serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and as such, must be led by organizations, communities or Governments representing First Nations, Métis and Inuit. This principle is tied to those of self-determination and self-governance as defined by articles 3 and 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to which Canada is a signatory.

**Article 3:** “Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”

**Article 4:** “Indigenous Peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.”

Indigenous-led projects include control in governance, human resources and financial authority.

## **5. What are the differences between this new funding initiative and the 2020 Shelter Initiative for Indigenous Women and Children?**

The 2020 Shelter Initiative for Indigenous Women and Children added 12 new shelters across Canada ([announcement](#)). This new initiative aims to further expand supports for Indigenous women, children, and now to 2SLGBTQQIA+ people as well, escaping gender-based violence, across Canada. Also, the funding eligibility is now extended to transitional housing and the average cost per facility (shelter or transitional housing) is increased to as much as \$7.2 million in northern geographic areas of the country and as much as \$3.48 million in southern and urban areas.

## **6. How many shelters and transitional homes will be built under this initiative?**

The Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative is estimated to provide at least 38 shelters and 50 transitional homes across Canada, including in urban areas and in the North (inclusive of the territories and Inuit Nunangat).

## **7. Are funding levels for the construction of projects flexible and based on the uniqueness of each project?**

The funding maximums for shelters and transitional housing are \$3.48 million in Provinces and \$7.2 million in Territories and Inuit Nunangat. It is therefore expected that proponents with projects surpassing these levels of construction costs will have the financial capacity or partners to bring equity into the project to cover additional budget.

## **8. How much funding is available to operate the shelters or transitional housing?**

Through its Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will provide:

- An average annual allocation of \$800,000 to operate shelters in southern geographic areas
- An average annual allocation of \$1 million to operate shelters in northern geographic areas
- An average annual allocation for transition homes of \$500,000 across the country

It is anticipated that budgets for transitional housing may incorporate some rent geared-to-income from clients as part of its operational budget.

Applicants must provide an annual operational budget that is specific to their proposed facility. The operational budget must reflect annual costs associated with the operations of the facility on an ongoing basis. Information on eligible expenditures can be found at: [Contributions to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children, families and 2SLGBTQIA+ people \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca)

The addition of one-time expenditures into the on-going operational budget impacts the amount required to operate the facility on an annual basis, and is likely to require revisions. Indigenous Services Canada can work with applicants to address start up costs for one-time expenditures. Available start up costs are usually up to 50% of the average annual operating budget for one year. For example, with an average annual allocation of \$800,000 to operate shelters in southern and urban areas, the start up costs are expected to be approximately \$400,000, which will be allocated one year in advance to the facility's operation. For additional information, please contact ISC at: [fvpp-ppv@sc-isc.gc.ca](mailto:fvpp-ppv@sc-isc.gc.ca)

Selected proponents will enter into a funding agreement with ISC and will be required to submit annual financial reports and complete annually the Family Violence Prevention Program's Data Collection Instrument (visit [the link](#) to download the template).

## **9. What is the process to access the funding?**

Proponents have the opportunity to submit an application in response to the call for submission. A review and selection process of eligible applications received will take place periodically over three years from 2021 to 2023 to determine a pool of projects considered for funding. The review periods will be posted on CMHC's website page dedicated to the Shelters and Transitional Housing Initiative and the number of shelters selected will be posted at the end of each review period.

## **10. How is the funding envelope set up to equally serve each group?**

The project targets of 38 shelters and 50 transitional housing and the associated funds are equally accessible to Métis, Inuit and First Nations for the construction and operation of facilities in urban areas, in the north and on reserve land. While this funding is not divided amongst Métis, Inuit and First Nations, project targets for each have been determined with Indigenous partners and organizations. This will ensure all groups will see projects funded to meet their needs and serve their peoples in a culturally appropriate way.

The application intake is on-going until March 2024. It is now time to take the opportunity to bring more safe places to serve Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ people, women and their children experiencing gender-based violence.

We are currently experiencing a gap in applications for projects led by Métis, Inuit and Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ groups as well as urban groups. During the next review and selection phases, applications for projects from these groups will be prioritized to reduce the current gap being observed.

## **11. Is there a separate process to apply for the construction funding and the operational funding?**

The application process is for both the construction and operating funding.

Selected applicants will receive capital funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the construction of the facility and operational funding from Indigenous Services Canada to support its operations. Start up funding will be delivered through Indigenous Services Canada a year in advance to the operations of the facility. All applications must be eligible to receive operational funding under the Family Violence Prevention Program's Terms and Conditions: [Contributions to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children, families and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](#)

## **12. How will proposals be evaluated?**

Eligible applications will be evaluated by selection committees comprised of representatives from CMHC, ISC, organizations representing First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ and urban communities as well as subject matter experts and people with lived experience of shelter and/or transitional housing needs. The committees will establish the evaluation process, as well as review applications to determine a pool of projects for funding.

## **13. What will be the criteria for evaluating the proposals?**

Given the funding available, proposals will be evaluated based on criteria that include how proposed projects respond to shelter and transitional housing needs of the population, number of communities served, geographic location, planned measures to ensure the safety of occupants, energy efficiency and accessibility, construction and operational costs, programming and services etc. A document with the evaluation criteria is available for more details and is used by the selection committees to apply a consistent way of evaluating all eligible applications and determine a pool of proposals considered for funding.

## **14. How will I know when my application will be reviewed?**

CMHC will contact you within approximately two weeks of submitting your application. It will be reviewed for readiness, eligibility and completion. CMHC will contact you if additional documentation or clarifications are required.

The review of applications will be ongoing. The selection of projects for funding will be conducted in phases twice a year at a minimum from January 2022 to April 2024. The number of projects which receive funding as a result of each selection phase will be communicated as well as useful information about the next selection phase.

## **15. What happens with my application if it is not selected over a selection phase, would I have to resubmit?**

If your application is not selected as a result of a selection phase, you will be contacted by your Indigenous and Northern Housing Specialist who will advise you on next steps or options available for your consideration.

## **16. Will facilities under this initiative be accessible to 2SLGBTQQIA+ people?**

We know there is an urgent need for shelter and transitional housing spaces among many vulnerable groups, including 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This initiative aims to serve Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people facing gender-based violence. Facilities are independently operated, and establish client service models that address community needs.

## **17. Who can I contact for more information?**

You can contact an [Indigenous and Northern Housing Solutions Specialist](#) from your region for more information.

## 18. How can facilities address the needs of Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people?

Facilities have the autonomy to develop and implement client service models that best meet the unique needs of the communities that will be served, so long as the primary goal is to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This may include family-centred holistic healing models to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. While the depth and breadth of programs and services will be considered in assessing proposals, neither client intake nor service model approach will impact the selection of proposals.

To learn more about 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and the Government of Canada's commitment towards advancing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+) Calls for Justice, please refer to the following sources:

**MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan  
FINAL REPORT**

**2SLGBTQQIA+ - 2021 National Action Plan**

