



May 21, 2020

Ref: 254635

Dear Local Government Leader:

During these uncertain times, it is clearer than ever that safe, secure, appropriate, and affordable housing is critical for all British Columbians.

I am writing today to share with you that we will be opening the next Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Community Housing Fund, working with our partners to deliver more homes for the people of B.C.

The Community Housing Fund helps to create affordable rental homes for middle and low-income British Columbians. The fund supports projects that are a mixed-income model, with 20% of the housing in each building for low-income households, 50% rent geared to income (housing income limit) and 30% for moderate income households (up to \$74,000). Proponents must be a non-profit housing society, Indigenous housing society, First Nation, housing co-operative or municipality, which want to develop and operate rental housing projects for individuals, seniors and families with low to moderate incomes.

BC Housing will issue the Request for Proposals on May 27, 2020, and it will be open until mid-January 2021, giving proponents time to prepare their submissions. While the RFP will be open until mid-January, BC Housing will proceed with pre-allocation to successful proponents as early as September 2020. For more information, please visit <https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/funding-opportunities>.

These homes are the next step in our 10-year housing plan. In just over two years we've already made great progress together, providing thousands of secure homes to families, individuals and seniors in communities across the province through our housing programs:

- **Community Housing Fund** will provide close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to build and operate 14,350 affordable new rental homes for seniors, families, low-income and middle-income earners. As of December 31, 2019, 5,200 units are complete or in progress.
- **Indigenous Housing Fund** will provide \$550 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,750 units of social housing for projects for Indigenous peoples both on and off Nation. As of December 31, 2019, 1,165 units are complete or in progress.

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Women's Transition Housing Fund will provide \$734 million over 10 years to build 1,500 new supportive homes for women and children fleeing violence, including transition houses, safe homes, second-stage and long-term housing. As of December 31, 2019, 679 units are complete or in progress.

- **Programs for supportive housing** will provide \$1.4 billion over 10 years to build and operate 4,900 units of supportive housing for those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. As of December 31, 2019, 3,072 units are complete or in progress.
- **HousingHub**, a new branch of BC Housing, promotes, facilitates and coordinates housing partnerships to create affordable homes. As of December 31, 2019, 2,800 units are complete or in progress.

In addition to the Community Housing Fund RFP, there are other ongoing opportunities available to partner with BC Housing:

- **Building BC funds:** BC Housing welcomes discussions with partners interested in developing new housing through the Supportive Housing Fund and the Women's Transition Housing Fund. Visit <https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services> to learn more or contact your local Director of Regional Development (contact list below).
- **Major Repairs for Existing Social Housing:** The Province is providing \$1.1 billion over 10 years to non-profit housing providers and housing co-operatives to support capital projects that maintain or benefit an existing social housing building's condition or improve the building's seismic or fire safety, as well as for projects focused on energy performance. Visit <https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services/asset-management-redevelopment/capital-planning-repairs> to learn more about eligibility criteria and how to apply or speak with your local Regional Non-Profit Portfolio Manager.
- **HousingHub** was established to seek innovative partnerships with local housing organizations, community land trusts, Indigenous groups, faith-based groups, charities, the development community, financial institutions and other industries to create affordable rental housing and homeownership options for middle-income British Columbians. As a centre for housing expertise and collaboration, affordable housing will be developed through the HousingHub either through new construction or through the redevelopment of existing sites. Partners bring suitable land, equity and/or the catalyst for development. The HousingHub can provide:

- Expertise and assistance in the planning and development process
- Access to pre-development funding
- Low-cost financing
- Project coordination advice
- A place for organizations to collaborate

To learn more, visit: www.bchousing.org/partner-services/housinghub

There are many ways that municipalities can help to partner with BC Housing, such as providing city-owned land, waving Development Costs Charges and prioritizing affordable housing projects in the development approvals process. We also hope that you will help share these opportunities to partner with BC Housing with organizations in your area.

If you are interested in providing housing but are unsure of how to connect with non-profit housing operators, BC Housing or the [BC Non-Profit Housing Association](#) can help you identify housing non-profits in your region.

If your government or a stakeholder in your community has a housing proposal of any kind, please contact your local Director of Regional Development for more information:

Region	Director of Regional Development	Email
Interior Region	Danna Locke	dlocke@bchousing.org
Northern Region	Amy Wong	awong@bchousing.org
Vancouver Coastal & Fraser Region	Naomi Brunemeyer	nbrunemeyer@bchousing.org
	James Forsyth	jforsyth@bchousing.org
Vancouver Island	Malcolm McNaughton	mmcnaughton@bchousing.org
HousingHub	Raymond Kwong	rk Wong@bchousing.org

Thank you for all you are doing to bring more affordable housing to your community.

Sincerely,



Selina Robinson
Minister