



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	January 30, 2025
Organization/Group making the request	Nanaimo Family Life Association
Contact Person	Deborah Hollins, Executive Director
Address	1070 Townsite Road Nanaimo V9R 1M6
Telephone	250.754.3331 Local 201
Email Address:	d_hollins@nflabc.org
Type of Support Requested (Select one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Letter of Support in Principle <input type="radio"/> In-Kind Contribution <input type="radio"/> Partnership <i>Note: This policy is not applicable to requests for grant funding by the City, including Permissive Tax Exemption requests, or in-kind funding for facility rentals (see Grants Policy and Guidelines for further details)</i>

IF APPLICABLE:

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

BC Housing for Permanent Shelter

Amount of Funding Requested: 511,814 annual Grant Due Date: _____

Grant Organization: BC Housing

Address: 101 4555 Kingsway

City: Burnaby Postal Code: V5H 4V8

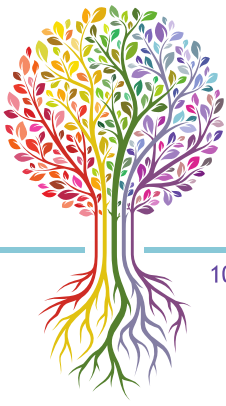
Telephone: 604-433-2218

Please provide an executive summary or short narrative that addresses each of the points outlined in the "Council Support policy". Include a draft letter, any supporting documents or materials and a detailed list of other funding partners (if applicable).

Please submit this form, with accompanying materials, to the attention of the Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6, or by email to: legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca.

Respecting Your Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) – Information collected on this form is done so under the general authority of the *Community Charter* and FOIPPA, and is protected in accordance with FOIPPA. Personal information will only be used by authorized staff to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally collected, or for a use consistent with that purpose. For more information, please visit the Legislative Services Department at 455 Wallace Street, call 250-755-4405, or email foi@nanaimo.ca.



Nanaimo Family Life Association EST. 1967

*Healthy individual and family relationships
are the heart of a strong and resilient community.*

1070 Townsite Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1M6 📞 T: (250) 754-3331 📠 F: (250) 753-0268 🌐 www.nflabc.org

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Request for Letter of Support for the Shelter at The Hub (55 Victoria Road)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Request Submitted by:

Deborah Hollins, Executive Director
1070 Townsite Road, Nanaimo V9S 1M6
(p) 250.754.3331 (local 201)
(e) d_hollins@nflabc.org

About NFLA:

Nanaimo Family Life Association has been operating in Nanaimo since 1967, providing support and programs designed to improve the lives of those in our community who are historically underserved. For the past 5 years, NFLA has been operating the Winter Shelter at St. Peter's Catholic Church and more recently took over the operations of the Unitarian Shelter in July of 2024 and opened the Hub shelter in partnership with Island Crisis Care Society in January 2025.

Current Funding:

The Hub shelter is currently funded by BC Housing and is funded until March 31, 2025.

We are grateful for the funding we have received to operate this shelter from January 6 through March 31st; however, we have been informed that there is no commitment from BC Housing to extend this funding beyond that date. This uncertainty puts us in a precarious position. Without current funding, the shelter will close, staff will face layoffs, and individuals experiencing homelessness will once again be displaced. Additionally, the surrounding community on Victoria Road will feel the impact, as temporary relief from street homelessness will be short lived, with individuals seeking public spaces for overnight sheltering.

Services Offered:

Currently the shelter (20 beds) connected to The Hub, operates from 730pm to 8am, 7 days per week in conjunction with the daytime services provided at the Drop-in Hub Having daytime drop-in services attached to an overnight shelter allows for continuity of care, provides stability and safety by giving people places to go, provides wraparound services and will improve outcomes by providing consistent access to round the clock resources and services.

The shelter provides the following services:

- Secure storage: space for guests' carts and belongings.
- Basic necessities: two meals daily and a safe place to sleep.
- Support services access to counselling, resource referral, and connections to services that address the root cause of homelessness, addiction and poverty.
- Community safety: by providing shelter, we help to reduce the crime and street activity in the surrounding neighborhood by bringing people inside.
- Outreach and engagement: through the Hub, we foster community involvement, accept donations and support those in need..
-

The Hub guests are primarily individuals from the downtown area who are experiencing homelessness and are also using substances.

Target Group:

The shelter provides critical relief for both unhoused individuals and the community, reducing the number of people sleeping outdoors around Victoria Road. The shelter is at full capacity every night, and unfortunately, we must turn people away due to limited beds.

Timeframes:

The Shelter is funded from January 2025 – March 31st, 2025. After that, it will close with other seasonal winter shelters, leaving us with only 63 shelter beds to house our Nanaimo's growing unhoused population. Winter months provide an additional 84 temporary beds, which remain insufficient to meet community needs. Programs like Heart and Hearth rely on shelter access as a pathway to stable housing. Without adequate year-round shelter capacity, the effectiveness of such programs and our broader efforts to address homelessness will be severely limited.

Budget:

Currently the budget per month is \$42,651 (see attached).

Similar Programs:

Existing shelters in Nanaimo cannot meet the demand for safe, temporary housing. When this shelter closes, the lack of available beds will create bottlenecks for programs like Heart and Hearth and increase pressure on public spaces, businesses, and neighborhoods as individuals are forced to seek shelter wherever possible.

Ongoing funding:

We are asking for a letter of support to BC Housing to provide funding for this shelter space on an on-going basis, 7 days per week, 730pm – 8am.

|

Coordination with other Entities:

The Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA) is currently partnering with the Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS) to provide shelter space at 55 Victoria Road. This collaboration includes ICCS's year-round warming/cooling centre and NFLA's overnight shelter service. This vital collaboration was made possible through the partnership of the Nanaimo CAB (Community Advisory Board overseeing the allocation of Reaching Home dollars in our community) and the City of Nanaimo. This is a ground-breaking partnership that shows how, when we focus our efforts on solutions, we can move the dial to provide the resources necessary to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness as well as alleviate pressure from communities and businesses.

Sincerely,



Deborah Hollins
Executive Director
Nanaimo Family Life Association
Office 250-754-3331 (Loc 201)

**The Hub Shelter
Monthly Amount
Budgeted**

Rent	\$ 4,500.00
Food	\$ 8,400.00
Housekeeping	\$ 335.00
Laundry	\$ 600.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 570.00
Phone	\$ 194.00
Wages, Merchs	<u>\$ 22,207.14</u>
	\$ 36,806.14
Admin Charge (15%)	<u>\$ 5,845.00</u>
	\$ 42,651.14

Letter of Support – suggested content

“Date”

BC Housing
Suite 101-4555 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4V8

Attention: Allison Dunnet, Executive Director and Strategic Advisor

Dear Allison Dunnet,

Re: Support for Ongoing Funding of The Hub Overnight Shelter Services

On behalf of the Nanaimo City Council, we are writing to express our strong support for continued funding for The Hub Shelter, currently operated through a partnership between the Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA) and Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS) at 55 Victoria Road. This vital service, funded by BC Housing until March 31, 2025, provides essential overnight shelter and support for some of our community most vulnerable individuals.

Since opening, The Hub Shelter has provided 20 critical shelter beds, operating from 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., seven days a week. It offers a safe space, nutritious meals, secure storage, and access to life-stabilizing support services for individuals experiencing homelessness, many of whom face complex challenges related to mental health and substance use. This shelter not only meets basic human needs but also serves as an entry point to long-term housing solutions, healthcare, and recovery services.

The absence of ongoing funding beyond March 2025 presents a significant risk not just to the individuals who rely on this shelter but to the broader Nanaimo community. Without this resource, vulnerable individuals will once again be forced onto the streets, increasing the risks to their health and safety while placing additional strain on emergency services, local businesses, and public spaces.

Nanaimo currently has only 63 year-round shelter beds to support a growing population of individuals experiencing homelessness. Seasonal winter shelters temporarily alleviate this pressure, but their closure in the spring leaves a dangerous gap in services. Programs like Heart and Hearth, designed to support pathways to permanent housing, rely heavily on access to shelter beds to function effectively.

We urge BC Housing to provide sustainable, year-round funding for The Hub Shelter beyond March 2025. Continued investment will:

- Provide a safe, stable environment for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Reduce the burden on emergency services and healthcare systems
- Support community safety and well-being
- Strengthen the pathways from homelessness to stable housing

The City of Nanaimo is committed to working collaboratively with BC Housing, local partners, and community organizations to address homelessness and its root causes. Ongoing support for The Hub Shelter is a critical component of this shared effort.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to continued collaboration in supporting the health, safety, and dignity of all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Leonard Krog

cc. Jennifer Fox, Regional Director, Vancouver Island, BC Housing

DRAFT