

REACHING HOME COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING

GREATER VANCOUVER DESIGNATED COMMUNITY



Applications will be reviewed and recommended
on an ongoing basis until:

April 29, 2020 at 12:00 pm



LU'MA NATIVE BCH HOUSING SOCIETY

Vancity
Community Foundation

The Greater Vancouver Community Entity (CE) Lu'ma Native BCH Housing Society, in partnership with Vancity Community Foundation (VCF) and the Greater Vancouver Community Advisory Board (CAB), is pleased to announce that applications for funding under Reaching Home's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan are now open under the Greater Vancouver Designated Community funding stream.

1. Funding Overview

Approximately \$8.1 million dollars is available to the Greater Vancouver Designated Community to support organizations in the homeless-serving sector responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. The objective of this funding is to support the community's capacity to reduce and mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on individuals experiencing and at imminent risk of homelessness and the organizations and individuals attending to their needs.

The Reaching Home program has made modifications to the directives and has released "Special Directives" providing flexibility in program requirements, eligibility and activities. To view the Special Directives posted by the Government of Canada, please [click here](#).

In seeking to understand how funding might best support the region, the CE consulted with a broad range of community organizations and individuals to identify needs arising out of the COVID-19 crisis; the following priorities were identified:

- ✓ Securing or creating spaces to address needs arising out of COVID-19
- ✓ Increasing the safety of sites, staff and clients
- ✓ Addressing housing needs including housing placement, housing loss and crisis intervention
- ✓ Meeting the basic needs of individuals and providing essential services such as food distribution
- ✓ Sustaining organizational capacity, operations and services

While recognizing the significant need for COVID-19 emergency response funding, the Community Advisory Board also aims to support initiatives that will contribute to recovery and longer-term benefits, such as those initiatives that create assets, tools or services that will support communities to reduce and prevent homelessness moving forward.

Funds Available: Approximately \$8.1 million dollars is available to the Greater Vancouver Designated Community for the period of April 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020.

2. Eligibility Criteria and Funding Parameters

Eligible Recipients: Funding is available for not-for-profit organizations and charities, municipalities, First Nations (on-reserve), and public entities such as health and educational institutions.

If you are an Indigenous-led organization supporting individuals and communities off-reserve, please apply for funding through the Indigenous Community Entity and Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee. For more information, please go to: <http://lnhs.ca/community-entity/contact/>

Eligible Communities: Funding is to available to organizations and projects operating with the Metro Vancouver Region as indicated the map below. In an effort to prevent transmission between nearby communities and given the transient nature of the homeless population, projects located outside of the traditional service boundary of

Metro Vancouver **may be eligible** under the COVID-19 Economic Response Funding. Please contact us at reachinghome@vancity.com if you are outside of the Metro Vancouver region and would like to apply.



Funding Period: The eligible project period is April 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020. *Expenses incurred after April 1, 2020 and before the contract has been signed may be eligible.*

Multiple Submissions: Organizations may submit more than one application if they are for distinct projects (example: different geographic regions or populations) with different activities or characteristic. Each application is evaluated separately and on its own merit.

Joint Submissions: Joint submissions, partnerships and coalitions, particularly those that seek to provide a coordinated response in the region, are highly encouraged. If awarded funding, a single party is required take responsibility for the contractual relationship with the Greater Vancouver Designated Stream CE.

Other Sources of Funding: There may be cases where activities eligible under Reaching Home may also be funded by the provincial or territorial government or the municipality. Reaching Home funds will be used to complement these investments and avoid duplication of existing programming to the extent possible.

3. Application Details

Application Submissions: In seeking to meet the immediate needs of applicants and to make funds available as quickly as possible, submissions **will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis until April 29, 2020 at 12:00 pm, or until all funds have been allocated, whichever comes first**. An announcement will be made once all funds have been allocated.

Review and Approval Process: The CE is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent process for selecting applicants for this funding opportunity that will best meet key gaps and priorities. Applications will be reviewed by the CE, in consultation with key community stakeholders and other funders, with the intent of making funding decisions on a weekly basis. Recommended applications will undergo a simplified due diligence and contracting process. *Note that when an application is received by the CE, there is no commitment on the part of the CE to move the application through to the next stage, to fund a project or to fund it at the amount requested.*

Funding Requirements and Reporting: If awarded a contract, organizations may be required to:

- Have a separate or sub bank account for RH funding before the funding can be released
- Report project details and annual results using a result reporting system provided by Canada.
- Submit periodic expense and activity reports (dependent project activities and timeline)

Eligible Activities and Expenses: All activities previously eligible under Reaching Home remain eligible. The table below provides a summary of activities that are now eligible under the Special Directives in the context of the COVID-19 Economic response. ***The list below is not exhaustive*** – if the activities in your proposed project are not described below, please contact us to determine project eligibility prior to beginning your application.

A. Housing Services
<p>Objective: to increase the physical distance between people, particularly those residing in shelters, to reduce the risk of viral spread and support social distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing and/or placing individuals in temporary accommodations for the purposes of self-isolation, including motels/hotels, community spaces, tents in sports arenas, RVs or other property/spaces. • Supporting individuals to move to more appropriate or stable housing situations,
B. Prevention and Shelter Diversion
<p>Objective: to support individuals and families to maintain their housing in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and provide a safe and secure place to self isolate and to divert individuals and families seeking shelter to other forms of safe and secure accommodation in order to reduce overcrowding in shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support enabling individuals to maintain housing, for example: short-term financial assistance (rental assistance/arrears, utility deposits), in-kind support (gift cards for groceries, providing food/hygiene products, etc.) and any mediation/problem-solving required to prevent eviction. • Financial support related to moving individuals to a more appropriate/stable housing situation • Helping individuals exiting institutions transition directly to housing and support them in maintaining housing so that they do not need to access a shelter • Shelter diversion activities such as establishing new access points to services, working with existing crisis lines to offer help over phone or website, or funding additional staff at points of shelter enquiry/entry to explore alternative options
C. Health and Medical Services
<p>Objective: to enable communities to respond to urgent medical needs arising out of the COVID-19 outbreak. This is a new <i>temporary</i> category – communities are still encouraged to connect individuals to clinical, health and treatment services through case management. Eligible activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing general health and medical services, mental health (including counselling) and addictions support services that are already provided by provinces and territories • Direct hiring of health care professionals (e.g., nurses, doctors) to provide services directly to clients
D. Client Support Services (Including Basic Needs)
<p>Objective: to reduce the potential for infection and transmission of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness and those who work with them, and to ensure basic needs are met given disruption in access to key essential services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procuring cleaning services or supplies, increasing the frequency of cleaning of facilities • Acquiring/providing physical barriers to be placed between beds, or any other measures that increase the safety of a facility including measures to adhere to social distancing protocols • Purchasing/distributing basic needs to individuals (whether housed or not), including gift cards, personal hygiene products, food, baby items, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchasing personal protection equipment/medical supplies (e.g., gloves, masks) for a facility or site• Providing access to communication tools/technology
E. Capital Investments
<p>Objective: reducing overcrowding in shelters and limiting the spread of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Securing, repurposing and outfitting spaces/properties not currently used for the purpose of housing/shelter in order to create new temporary housing and support isolation/social distancing (for example, community spaces, motels/hotels, etc.)• Outfitting existing spaces (e.g., shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or non-residential facilities) to address needs arising out of COVID, for example, improving ventilation or increasing the distance between residents• Installing facilities and services to increase sanitation and limit the spread of COVID, such as shower, washroom, handwashing/sanitation facilities
F. Coordination of Resources and Data Collection
<p>Objective: to support and enhance the sector's capacity to respond to the COVID-19 crisis through coordination activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and distribution of information that increases individual or community capacity to respond to COVID, including training, improving access to/awareness of existing supports, etc.• Other activities that enhance sector capacity to respond to COVID.

Other eligible activities and expenses: As previously noted, the above is not an exhaustive list of eligible activities or expenses. Additional eligible expenses could include:

- Direct staff wages (including MERCs and benefits) in order to support project activities, including danger/incentive pay to support employee retention and fair compensation.
- Expenses incurred in order to facilitate staff/worker/volunteer safety and availability for work, such as childcare, accommodation or transportation expenses.
- Expenses related to sustaining an organization's core operations/services due to revenue loss or other financial disruption attributed to COVID-19.
- Administration expenditures remain eligible; however, no more than 15% of the Reaching Home contribution can be used for administrative costs, and these costs must be reflected in the proposed project budget. Please see the directives for eligible costs under administrative expenditures

How to Apply: Apply using our grant application management platform, Survey Monkey Apply (SMA), by clicking [here](#). If you do not have a SMA account, you will need to register in order to apply. Applications will be accepted until April 29, 2020 at 12:00 pm, or until all funds have been allocated, whichever comes first. An announcement will be made once all funds have been allocated.

We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.

Important announcements will be disseminated via Survey Monkey Apply (SMA). If you have not already registered, please do so *as soon as possible to ensure you do not miss any important updates.*

Please contact us at reachinghome@vancity.com with questions.