

## Human Services Guidelines: Victims of Family Violence New Construction and Renovation Program

### Introduction

Beginning in 2016–17, the Federal government announced \$94.5 million over two years for the construction and renovation of off-reserve shelters and transition houses for victims of family violence<sup>1</sup>. This investment is expected to support the construction or renovation of over 3,000 shelter spaces across Canada over the next two years. Alberta's portion is \$6.15 million (\$4.1 million in 2016/17 and \$2.05 million in 2017/18).

The *Victims of Family Violence New Construction and Renovation Program* is provided under the Federal Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing and is intended to address priority capacity issues and the need for additional shelter and transition housing spaces to ensure that families fleeing violence have a safe, secure and healthy environment. Cosmetic renovations are not eligible for funding under this program.

The *Victims of Family Violence New Construction and Renovation Program* specific outcomes include:

- Improved support for individuals fleeing family violence;
- Increased transition housing (second stage shelters) options;
- Increased family and community safety; and
- Through the development and/or renovation of off-reserve Women's Emergency Shelters and transition housing (second stage shelter) spaces, women and children who have experienced family violence will be supported.

### Expression of Interest

Alberta Human Services has developed an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in order to identify potential projects and support the allocation of the \$6.15 million over two years. This EOI invites the submission of proposals from not-for-profit organizations, which currently operate or propose to operate an off-reserve shelter or transition house (second stage shelter) for victims of family violence.

EOIs received by Alberta Human Services will be reviewed by the Housing and Homeless Supports Branch and a recommendation of successful applicants will be made based on eligibility and assessment criteria noted below and available funding.

### **Eligibility and Assessment Criteria**

Proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

- Be from a not-for-profit organization which currently operates or proposes to operate an off-reserve shelter or transition house (second stage shelter) for victims of family violence;
- Be used for the renovation or construction of shelters and transition housing (second stage shelter) for victims of family violence;
- Provide a written proposal, detailing the new construction or renovation and include a detailed budget with a minimum of two quotes of proposed project costs (consideration for one quote given where there is a limited rural market) and proponent contribution to the project;

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<sup>1</sup> Social Infrastructure Spending Strengthens Communities and Grows the Economy in Alberta <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2016/2016-10-21-1300.cfm>

- Proposal must be signed by the person with designated authority for the not-for-profit organization;
- Proposals must demonstrate capacity to commence within three months of project commitment announcements by the Government of Alberta; and
- Proposals must demonstrate ability to complete renovation or construction within two years.

Proposals will be evaluated against the following in order of priority:

1. Organizations that demonstrate the capacity to deliver women shelter and/or family violence prevention programming in Alberta;
2. Renovations and repairs which address fire, health and safety issues in existing facilities. This is to ensure the number of available spaces is maintained, and facilities are safe and appropriate for both the clients served and for staff; and
3. In the case of construction of a new facility, business case demonstrating need, evidence of community engagement and consultation, appropriate municipal approvals and zoning so that construction can commence as per the timelines noted above, and approved source of funding to address operating costs.

**Proposal Deadline:** 2:00 pm MT on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017.**

Proposals can be forwarded by email or by hard copy to the attention of either:

**CHRISTINE FERBEY, Director**

Housing and Homeless Supports - North Region

**Human Services**

3rd floor, 10044 - 108 Street

Edmonton, AB

T5J 5E6

Phone: (780) 422-6492

Cell : (780) 910-3915

[Christine.Ferbey@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Christine.Ferbey@gov.ab.ca)

**SHARON BLACKWELL, Director**

Housing and Homeless Supports - South Region

**Human Services**

301, 7015 MacLeod Trail South

Calgary, AB

T2H 2K6

Phone: (403) 297-3196

Cell : (403) 815-2379

[Sharon.Blackwell@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Sharon.Blackwell@gov.ab.ca)

Receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged within 24 hours.

Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Applicants who have questions or require areas of clarification, can contact us directly by phone or by email using the contact information above.

## **Grants**

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by Alberta Human Services using the eligibility assessment criteria identified.

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their proposal.

Proposals are subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA, 2000 c. F-25. The evaluations shall be confidential, and the proposals and evaluations will not be released to any party.

Funding will be distributed in the form of a grant agreement, which will define the conditions of the funding, scope of the project, expected outcomes and reporting requirements.