

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

2026-2028 Indigenous Application Guide

For Alberta's rural, remote, First Nation, Métis Settlement and Métis communities



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RDN acknowledges that our physical office is located on amiskwaciwâskahikan ᐱᑦᓴᕈᖅᓴᕋᔭᐤ, known as Beaver Hills House or Edmonton, the historical land of Treaty 6 Territory and homeland of Métis Nation of Alberta District 9. We would like to thank our hosts the Nehiyawak (Cree), Saulteaux, Niisitapi (Blackfoot), Métis and Īyāhé Nakón (Stoney) whose traditional land in which we live and work. As a national organization, we also acknowledge and respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Turtle Island whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

RDN recognizes the ways in which settler relationships to both the land and the Peoples of this land have been broken and misused, causing and contributing to houselessness among First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples. In an ongoing effort to support First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities in addressing housing, houselessness, and service needs, we are committed to working alongside our Indigenous Advisors to work towards decolonizing the administration of funding, houselessness research and advocating to funders for Indigenous self-determination in the housing and social sectors.

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Key Information

- **Where to Apply:** [Reaching Home Call for Proposals 2026-2028 Application](#)
- **Indigenous Letter of Intent Application:** Indigenous Organizations and Communities are eligible to submit an application via a letter of intent
- **Application Deadline:** December 8, 2025, at 1:00 pm MST
- **Maximum Project Funding Request:** \$100,000/year (\$200,000 over two years)
- **Total Available Funding:** \$4.8 million (2026–2028)
- **Eligible Project Types:** Operational or Capital
- **Earliest Project Start Date:** April 1, 2026
- **Latest Project Completion Date:** March 31, 2028
- **Eligible Applicants:** Communities and organizations operating outside of Alberta's Seven Cities (Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray). Rural, remote, First Nation, Métis Settlements and Communities are eligible. Projects on-reserve are eligible.
- **Priority:** Projects that are Indigenous-led and/or Indigenous-serving
- **Eligible Activities:** Must serve individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness
- **Indigenous Information Session Dates:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm MST, Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10:00 am - 11:30 am MST
- **General Information Session Dates:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 10:00 - 11:30 am MST, Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm MST
- **Contact for Any Questions:** rhapplications@ruraldevelopment.ca
- **Funding Decisions and Notification:** Oral interviews will take place in January. Decisions will be made by the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) and successful applicants will be notified in February 2026



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Overview of Reaching Home Call for Proposal

Reaching Home is the federal government's homelessness strategy aimed at reducing and preventing homelessness across Canada. The Rural Development Network (RDN), as the Reaching Home Community Entity for Rural & Remote Alberta, is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals to distribute \$4.8 million in new federal funding allocated by the Government of Canada through the Reaching Home program. This funding is intended to support projects addressing homelessness in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities across Alberta, including First Nation, Métis Settlement, and Métis Communities. Projects may be funded for up to two years, beginning as early as April 1, 2026, and must be completed by March 31, 2028.

Recognizing that Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island are disproportionately impacted by homelessness, RDN and the Regional Advisory Board are committed to prioritizing funding requests that are Indigenous led and/or Indigenous serving. Indigenous Communities and Organizations are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent Application that align with local needs and demonstrates their organizational capacity to deliver services within the funding timeline. You can learn more about the Reaching Home program [here](#).

Who is RDN?

RDN is a non-profit organization focused on community and social development in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities across Canada. Our mission is to highlight local issues, build community capacity, and develop local solutions in collaboration with communities. RDN is also the Community Entity responsible for administering this federal homelessness funding.

RDN firmly believes in the importance of Reconciliation, acknowledging our collective responsibility as Treaty people to work alongside First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples and communities in developing community-led solutions. To support our Reconciliation journey, RDN engages Indigenous Advisors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. We are grateful for their knowledge and teachings, as our team continues to learn about the history and ongoing impact of colonization.



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Who is Eligible?

Eligible Organizations:

- Indigenous communities and organizations¹
- Not-for-profit organizations;
- For-profit organizations;
- Municipalities;
- Public health and educational institutions; and
- Provincial and territorial governments and their entities²

What Activities are Eligible?

Eligible Activities and Priorities:

Priority will be given to projects that:

- address a demonstrated need;
- clearly outline capacity to deliver identified project activities;
- demonstrate innovative approaches to ending homelessness and strong partnerships;
- develop responses to Indigenous Homelessness (e.g., culturally appropriate mental health supports);
- develop a coordinated community response to address the spectrum of homelessness such as a task force;
- identify opportunities for integration of services and supports;

¹ Indigenous organizations may include, but are not limited to, incorporated for-profit and not-for-profit Indigenous controlled organizations, Indigenous controlled unincorporated associations, Indian Act Bands, Tribal Councils and Indigenous self-government

² including institutions, agencies and Crown Corporations



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- respond to emergency situations (wildfires, floods) that directly support folks experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness;
- provide basic need services (e.g. food, transportation, hygiene, clothing) and supplies to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- support the operation of shelters/mat programs;
- connect clients to housing placements and supports;
- focus on prevention and shelter diversion services, such as the provision of short-term financial assistance; (e.g. rental arrears, utility payments). Please note support with mortgage payments is ineligible;
- support clients with housing start-up costs (e.g., damage deposits, furnishings);
- navigate mental health and addiction supports and systems. Please note expenses associated with the provision of counselling services are no longer eligible;
- connect clients to clinical and treatment services, economic integration services (e.g. income assistance, employment, job training, education) and social and community integration services;
- enhance coordination and navigation of services that will shift towards a regional "Coordinated Access" system;
- collect data to support decision-making and a comprehensive understanding of homelessness in a community;
- Capital projects are also eligible. The purchasing of land, buildings, vehicles and renovations, including the construction or renovation of emergency shelters, transitional or permanent supportive housing and non-residential facilities (e.g. resource centres) are examples of capital projects that will be considered. Please refer to the [Capital Project Application Guidelines & Sustainability Checklist](#) for more information on capital project requirements.

Examples of Previous Projects:

- Transition beds for people with addictions waiting to get into inpatient treatment
- Youth outreach, community navigators and housing support workers to assist folks experiencing or at risk of homelessness access housing and support services
- Shelter pods - purchase and retrofitting of trailers to provide emergency shelter



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- Operational costs associated with temporary emergency mat programs/shelters
- Site preparations and renovations for Indigenous led supportive housing project
- Land for a second-stage transitional shelter for women fleeing domestic violence
- Data collection and community action plans

This list is by no means exhaustive.

What Activities are Not Eligible?

Ineligible Activities:

Reaching Home funding is not eligible to be used for the following items :

- Providing landlords with an incentive or bonus (financial or non-financial) to rent to people exiting homelessness.
- Covering housing set-up costs before other funding sources have been exhausted (i.e., provincial, territorial or municipal social assistance or other programs that cover first and last month's rent or damage deposits must be used first).
- Rent-to-own programs.
- Providing Short-term Rental Assistance to individuals or families already receiving provincial, territorial or municipal social assistance or rental assistance programs for the same purpose.
- The level of funding provided for Short-term Rental Assistance by the service provider must not exceed the amount of financial assistance available from provincial, territorial or municipal rental assistance programs.
- Providing long-term rental assistance
- Supports for low-income individuals or families who are not at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Down payments and mortgage payments or repairs to privately owned property.
- The creation of a rent bank to provide loans.
- Professional or other fees for clinical, health and treatment services and supports (e.g., nursing support services, medical assessments, and mental health and addictions supports.)



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- Job wages for individuals participating in an education, training, or pre-employment program.
- Direct provision of wages to program participants for casual work (e.g., paying a participant or person staying in a shelter to do odd jobs).
- Construction and renovation of housing units not exclusively intended for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness, including those funded through the bilateral Housing Partnership Framework agreement
- Renovation or repairs to private personal property or social housing / community housing that is not solely intended for people experiencing homelessness and paired with wrap-around supports.
- Information gathered or refocused primarily for the purpose of advocacy, public education or awareness. This includes funding for any advocacy, public education or awareness campaign.
- International travel costs.
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Costs associated with traffic and parking fines and penalties.

You can find more information about the Reaching Home program here: [Reaching Home Directives](#).

We welcome you to share your project ideas with our Reaching Home team if you are unsure if your project would be eligible under the Reaching Home program. You can connect with our team by email at rhapplications@ruraldevelopment.ca or phone 780-964-2736 ext. 2.

What are the Reporting Requirements for this Funding?

Reimbursement Program

Reaching Home is a reimbursement program. As a non-profit RDN receives advances from the federal government and then distributes funding out to projects after expenses occur. We understand that a reimbursement approach does not work for all projects. In turn, we are able to offer advance payments upon request to support project expenses.



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All organizations are required to:

- Submit monthly or quarterly financial expense claims, including receipts and back up documentation
- Submit quarterly activity reports
- Collect annual and quarterly project specific data

Oral Activity Report

We are committed to working with Indigenous projects to discuss flexibilities with regards to reporting requirements to ensure reporting is culturally appropriate and safe. We welcome Indigenous communities and organizations to complete a written or oral activity report. During an oral activity report, our team will work with you to find a time to meet virtually or in person to talk about your project. At this time, we will invite projects to share information and stories on how their project is going. We also welcome opportunities to discuss and learn about alternative and culturally appropriate approaches to reporting.

How much Funding can Communities Apply for?

This funding cycle, the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) has implemented a maximum amount of funding that projects can apply for. Both operational and capital projects can apply for up to \$100,000/year (maximum of \$200,000 over the 2-year funding cycle). While there is a maximum amount of funding any single project can request, it is important to note that there is no guarantee that all successful projects will receive their full funding request. Due to the volume of funding applications we expect to receive and the RAB's decision to spread the funding across a number of communities, we will be unable to fund all applications and may not be able to approve full budget requests.

We recognize that the maximum funding amounts will not be sufficient for communities to implement all of the desired solutions and responses to address homelessness in their communities. In the application form you will notice we have added an option to provide how much funding your project or community would need to effectively respond to homelessness..



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This number will have no influence on your application; however, we will utilize these numbers to advocate for additional funding for rural, remote and Indigenous communities in Alberta.

Communities and organizations are not prohibited from submitting more than one funding application. However, we ask everyone to consider the limited funding that is available for rural, remote and Indigenous communities in Alberta and prioritize funding requests.. We encourage collaboration within communities and regionally whenever possible.

How can Communities Apply?

All Letter of Intent applications are to be submitted through the [Reaching Home Call for Proposals 2026-2028 Google Form](#). In this form, applicants will first be asked to provide some general information regarding their organization and then prompted to select the type of application they want to complete. Based on this selection, the form will then direct the applicant to the questions that apply to them. Indigenous led organizations, First Nations (including on-reserve), Métis Settlements and Communities are eligible to select the Indigenous application stream where they will be invited to attach and submit a letter of intent and budget.

Letter of Intent

Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Intent in the form of an application. The Letter of Intent application has been informed by feedback from our Indigenous Partners and Advisors. Selected applicants will then be invited for follow-up interviews or phone calls to discuss their projects further. While we may not be able to interview all applicants due to the volume of applications, all applicants will be informed of their application status once the review process is complete.

For the Letter of Intent, please include the following details:

- **Community Story:** Tell us about your community. What does homelessness look like in your community?

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- **Project Overview:** Describe your project activities, funding request, and timeline.
 - a. Earliest project start date: April 1, 2026
 - b. Latest project finish date: March 31, 2028
 - c. Tell us about your project. How will this funding support community members who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness? What services and supports would you provide?
 - d. When would your project start and end?
- **Signature:** Ensure your letter is signed by the appropriate signing authority.
- **Budget:** Attach a copy of the proposed budget for your project. We welcome you to use our budget template or use your own template. To support communities, we have drafted an example of a project budget.

Indigenous Capital Projects

For capital projects selected for interviews or phone calls, a sustainability plan will be required at a later stage to be considered for funding. Please review the [Capital Project Application Guidelines & Sustainability Checklist](#) in advance to understand these requirements.

Where can Communities learn more?

Application Information Sessions:

Four live virtual Q&A Sessions will be taking place on the following dates with RDN's Reaching Home team:

General Application Info Session	Indigenous Letter of Intent Application Info Session
Wednesday, November 12, 2025, @ 10:00 - 11:30 am MST	Wednesday, November 12, 2025, @ 2:30 - 4:00 pm MST
Tuesday, December 2, 2025, @ 1:00 - 2:30 pm MST	Tuesday, December 2, 2025, @ 10:00 - 11:30 am MST



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Please register through Eventbrite in order to receive a Zoom link. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/reaching-home-2026-28-application-info-sessions-4704363>

While we have two sessions specifically for Indigenous communities and organizations, Indigenous applicants are welcome to attend any session. We strongly encourage interested applicants to attend one of the sessions to ask questions and learn more about the application processes, funding priorities, eligible projects/activities and reporting requirements. If your organization or community submitted a Reaching Home Letter of Intent Application in a previous call for proposals and was not successful in receiving funding, we welcome you to reach out to us to discuss your previous application.

Additional Resources

[Capital Project Application Guidelines & Sustainability Checklist](#)

[2026-2028 Reaching Home Budget Template](#)

[Reaching Home Budget Example](#)

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Appendix A: Indigenous Letter of Intent Application Questions

We are providing these questions to support Indigenous Communities and Organizations with the completion of this application. These questions will appear in this order on the google form for the Indigenous Letter of Intent Application. We recommend keeping a copy of your answers to all the questions in a separate document, as well as saved copies of the Letter of Intent and Budget on your computer before submitting your application on the google form to protect you against any potential computer problems and losing your work before you are able to submit it.

Project Information Section

Regardless of the type of application your project is submitting, all projects will be required to complete the first section of the Google Form application.

Contact Information

Signing Authority: Please provide the information of the signing authority for your organization. This person would be listed on the contract if your project is successful in receiving Reaching Home funding. (i.e. CEO, Director, Chair etc.)

Primary Contact: Please provide the information of the person who will be responsible for communications, including application questions and reporting submissions.

Secondary Contact: Please provide the information of a second person who will be responsible for communications, including application questions and reporting submissions.

Signing Authority: Full Name

Signing Authority: Job Title

Signing Authority: Email

Signing Authority: Phone Number

Primary Contact: Full Name

Primary Contact: Job Title



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Primary Contact: Email

Primary Contact: Phone Number

Secondary Contact: Full Name

Secondary Contact: Job Title

Secondary Contact: Email

Secondary Contact: Phone Number

Organization Information

Organization Name

Organization Address

Organization Type

- Not-for-profit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Municipalities
- Public health and educational institutions
- Provincial and territorial governments and their entities
- Indigenous Nation or Organization
- Organization Year of Incorporation

Organization Mission/Vision

Application Type

Select the Indigenous application type of the three options:

- General Application (my organization does not currently receive Reaching Home funding or my organization is applying for a new project through Reaching Home)
- Current Project Application (my organization currently receives Reaching Home funding and would like to request additional funding for the same project)



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- Indigenous Application (I am an Indigenous organization/community, or I am applying on behalf of one)

Indigenous Application

Application for Indigenous Communities - Letter of Intent

Please upload your letter of intent in PDF or Word format.

Include the following information in your letter of intent:

Community Story: Tell us about your community. What does homelessness look like in your community?

Project Overview: Describe your project activities, funding request, and timeline.

Earliest project start date: April 1, 2026

Latest project finish date: March 31, 2028

Tell us about your project. How will this funding support community members who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness? What services and supports would you provide?

When would your project start and end?

Signature: Ensure your letter is signed by the appropriate signing authority.

Please upload a detailed project budget in Excel file format.

Attach a copy of the proposed budget for your project. We welcome you to use our budget template or use your own template. To support communities, we have drafted an example of a project budget.

Our template can be downloaded here: 2026-2028 Reaching Home Project Budget. Within the Project Budget excel file, break down your funding requests for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 & tell us how you plan to spend the funds.



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Funding Request for 2026/2027 (April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027)

Please note the maximum annual funding amount you can request is \$100,000 for this year

Funding Request for 2027/2028 (April 1, 2027 - March 31, 2028)

Please note the maximum annual funding amount you can request is \$100,000 for this year

Total Funding Request (April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2028)

Please note the maximum annual funding you can request over the 2 years is \$200,000

Funding Advocacy:

Assuming there was no maximum funding amount, how much funding would you need to address homelessness in your community annually? Please note this question will not impact your application in any way. *Max: 150 words*

Submission Agreement

Note: All projects will be asked to complete this section

Confirmation Signing Authority Approves Submission

- I confirm that the submission of this application has been approved by the appropriate signing authority in my organization.

Confirmation Not All Projects Will Receive Funding

- I understand that due to limited funding, not all organizations will be able to receive Reaching Home funding.



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Electronic Signature

Typing your name below signifies that you are completing this form using an electronic signature. By signing electronically, you are certifying that you are the appropriate signing authority for your organization.

If you are having any technical difficulties with this form and are unable to submit, please email your complete application and attachments to rhapplications@ruraldevelopment.ca