

## Homelessness Partnering Strategy Renewal – 2011-2014

The government of Canada is pleased to announce that the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) has been renewed for another three years at the current funding level of \$134.8 million per year.

The continuation of the HPS from 2011 to 2014 will ensure the continuity of services for clients who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and allow us to build upon 10 years of federal government investments to address homelessness in Canadian communities.

Please note that the “Call for proposals”, based on Community Plans in each of the designated regions, will go out in the new year.

### ***On the HPS enhancements***

- Last fall, the federal government consulted provinces and territories and stakeholders on how its current approach to housing and homelessness could be improved.
- Participants expressed a great deal of support for the community-based approach of HPS and confirmed the importance of working in partnership with provinces and territories (P/Ts), especially in terms of aligning priorities. The federal government will seek to further strengthen relationships with P/Ts, building on the successful partnerships to date.
- In the short term bilateral meetings will be held with P/Ts to discuss how our relationships could be strengthened.
- The communities will continue to play a central role in the delivery of funding for designated communities, and the department will continue to develop tools to them in this regard.
- In consideration of various recommendations heard during the consultations, the government of Canada has introduced a number of program and policy enhancements as part of the renewed Strategy, in order to help communities’ better address homelessness issues.

### ***Program enhancements***

- *Rural and remote homelessness*: A new Rural and Remote Homelessness funding stream will replace the *Outreach Communities* funding stream and will be more focused on small communities to better respond to underserved communities in rural and outlying areas. Under this stream, communities with populations of 25,000 or less are identified as *Tier 1* and will be prioritized for funding. Should funding remain available, applications for activities in non-designated *Tier 2* communities will be considered (those with populations over 25,000).

- The *Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream* will replace the *Aboriginal Communities* funding. Preference will be given to Aboriginal organizations to deliver projects that address the needs of Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Tools will be updated to include this criterion in the selection of projects.
- *More responsive research agenda*: Under the national Homelessness Knowledge Development funding stream, measures have been introduced to strengthen the relevance and accessibility of research to communities' knowledge needs concerning homelessness.
- *Expanding the Community Entity model (CE)*: The CE model has been the preferred model since the inception of the program. Over the last 10 years the program has matured and it is now time to move more fully to the CE model. Regional staff will support the transition to the CE model over the next three years to deliver the Designated Communities funding, the Aboriginal Homelessness funding and the Rural and Remote Homelessness funding streams. The CE model enhances the community-based approach and contributes to the direct outcomes of the program, by providing communities with more direct control. Discussions related to moving to the CE model in your community will begin shortly to identify the steps to move forward.
- *Creating linkages with the Mental Health Commission*: In 2008, the Mental Health Commission received funding to support five demonstration projects designed to test "housing first" approaches to provide evidence of the best practices and services for helping homeless people with mental illness. Given that the Mental Health Commission's At Home/Chez Soi five demonstration projects (in Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver) are half-way point, linkages will be created between HPS and these projects. This includes connecting Mental Health Commission of Canada local advisory committees with HPS Community Advisory Boards (CABs), and exchanging and sharing research information on mental health and homelessness, as well as best practices in the field.
- *Labour Market*: The renewed HPS will incorporate a greater emphasis on labour market integration activities. Communities will be encouraged to include and emphasize the funding of projects with activities that support labour market integration within their community planning and related priorities.
- *Reinforce accountability*: Accountability will be improved through better data collection, analysis, and data-sharing. More information on how we expect to proceed on this will be forthcoming.

### ***Funding allocations***

Funding allocations for 2011-14 will remain the same for each designated community as for 2009-2011. For more details, visit the HPS website at [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/index.shtml)