

GTA Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (GTA ISHP)
Request for Proposal (RFP) and Information Session

Response to Questions
December 13, 2017

Q: Will 20 years of support service/housing assistance funding be available to proponents utilizing capital funding?

A: The first 3 years of supportive housing funding have been allocated to MBDC as described on Page 7, under Program Summary in the Program Guidelines. It is the intention of the Ministry of Housing (MHO) to provide on-going funding beyond 2020.

Also, see Page 17, 2nd paragraph under Affordability Criteria and Rents:

Approved capital projects must remain affordable for a minimum period of 20 years. Affordability is defined as having an average rent for the project that is at or below 80% of CMHC AMR at the time of occupancy. Rent supplements may be utilized to provide a greater depth of affordability to tenants.

Q: Can a proponent who already provides support services utilize funding to provide housing assistance to their support service recipients?

A: Yes. Supports in place must address one or more of the program priorities set out on Page 8, last two paragraphs under Program Summary of the Program Guidelines.

As well, a recipient in receipt of non-RGI housing assistance could be eligible for support services under the program.

Please see Page 10 bullet #5 under Capital and Operating Funding Components, Eligibility Criteria of the Program Guidelines:

- *Leverage other services/funding where possible/appropriate (e.g. other support services or municipal/private/charitable contributions);*

And Page 10, 1st paragraph under Eligible Use of Funds – Operating Funding of the Program Guidelines:

Operating funding is to be used to provide housing assistance and/or support services to help eligible Indigenous recipients obtain and retain stable housing.

Q: What is the definition of chronic homelessness?

A: Please see Page 5, point 3) Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness, Provincial Context of the Program Guidelines:

As per the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness (see <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=11038>), chronic homelessness refers to people, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, and/or substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e. have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation). Program Administrators are encouraged to prioritize recipients who are chronically homeless, and those who have endured the most difficulty in obtaining and retaining housing in the past.

Also please see Page 10, bullet #1 and #2 under Capital and Operating Funding Components, Eligibility Criteria:

- Focus on assisting those across the Provincial homelessness priority areas who have had significant challenges - including complex service/health needs - accessing and maintaining housing;*
- In the initial two fiscal years of 2017-18 and 2018-19, the GTA ISHP will make it a priority to fund supportive housing for persons in need of mental health and mental illness supports and persons in need of substance abuse supports.*

Q: Can operating funding be used for eviction prevention by way of a regular rent payment program (i.e. rent bank)?

A: Operating funding can be used for rent supplements or housing allowances, that is ongoing rent support. Since we're dealing with a population at risk of homelessness, then definitely the rent support would go toward eviction prevention. However, it wouldn't be a short-term payment, such as an emergency 2-months' worth of payments.

Q: Could the cost of transportation for a support worker to go to a recipient, or for a recipient to go to a support worker, be covered under operating funding?

A: Yes, as part of support services.

Q: What is the earliest we can enter into agreements for YR 2 funding?

A: Any time after March 31, 2018.