Request for Proposals

Reaching Home Non-Designated Indigenous

Reaching Home Rural and Remote

Application guide

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S)
310-20th Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7
306.343.8391
metisnationsk.com

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy
Province of Saskatchewan

We will be accepting applications until November 27, 2026:

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan
#300 – 310 20th Street East
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0A7
Email: reachinghome@mns.ca
Telephone (306) 343-8240 Fax (306) 343-1700

Information within the guide is subject to change pending updates to Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Proposals submitted after November 27, 2026 may not be considered.

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

What is it?

The Government of Canada has established the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to support projects promoting strategic partnerships and structures, including housing solutions and supports, to stabilize the lives of individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness and assist them in moving toward self-sufficiency.

The Government of Canada has granted Métis Nation–Saskatchewan as the Community Entity to administer the Saskatchewan Non-Designated Indigenous, the Non-Designated Rural and Remote, and the Metis Distinction funding streams to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Through this Call for Proposals (CFP), Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S) in partnership with the Saskatchewan Homelessness Advisory Board (SHAB) solicits applications specific to the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (Reaching Home) to meet the needs of homeless and people at imminent risk of homelessness in the province of Saskatchewan.

How much funding is available, and what is the deadline?

The total amount of funding available is **$2,764,664.53** under the Reaching Home Non-Designated Indigenous Homelessness funding stream and **$683,459.50** under the Rural and Remote stream to fund projects between April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2028. The total number of projects funded and the amount of funding per project will be determined based on the number and strength of proposals received. Applications are due November 27, 2026.

Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organizations; individuals; municipal governments; for-profit enterprises; research organizations and institutes; public health and educational institutions; Band/tribal councils; and other Indigenous organizations are eligible to receive funding.

The Non-designated Indigenous stream will give preference to Indigenous service delivery organizations, as this contributes to the development of an integrated, culturally appropriate and community-driven service delivery system to address Indigenous homelessness needs. **Activities cannot take place in Saskatoon or Regina (Designated Communities) nor on reserve.**

For the Non-designated Rural and Remote stream, any qualified organization may apply; however, preference is given to service delivery organizations. This contributes to the development of an integrated, culturally appropriate and community-driven service delivery system to address homelessness or at risk of homelessness. **Activities cannot take place in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, or Regina.**

This funding stream does not require cost matching; however, partnerships are strongly encouraged and vital to the success of the project. Applicants must demonstrate:

- how their projects meet the overall objectives of Reaching Home;
- a need for a particular client group or service to address homeless population issues;
- Community support; and, where possible, the inclusion of other partners in the project.

MN–S is under no obligation to approve any application through this process and reserves the right to accept proposals separate from this call. MN–S, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Homelessness Advisory Board (SHAB), has identified a need for proposals that address one or more Reaching Home priorities, which are:

We will accept proposals that address ONE of the following:

Priority	Definition and examples
Housing ☐	Eligible activities include: **Housing Placement** -Determining an individual's or family's preferences and needs for housing and type of supports. -Securing housing for individuals and families by working with private and public local real estate, landlord associations, home communities (band), etc. to identify available housing units. -Time-limited rental assistance in the context of a rapid rehousing project. -Providing landlord-tenant services, which includes providing landlord mediation and training on roles and responsibilities of tenants and landlords. -Re-housing (if required). **Emergency Housing Funding** -Funding to help cover housing costs in the short term while awaiting access to longer-term housing supports, including the Canadian Housing Benefit or benefits from provincial, territorial or municipal programs. **Housing Set-up** -Activities, which cover costs, associated with setting up a housing unit, including insurance, damage deposit, first and last months' rent, maintenance, furniture, kitchen, basic groceries and supplies at move-in, etc. • If a provincial social assistance or other program offers first and last month's rent or damage deposits this funding should be exhausted first before Reaching Home funding is used for these purposes.

Prevention and Shelter Diversion ☐	Eligible activities include: -Discharge planning for people being released from public systems (e.g., health, corrections, and child welfare). -Help obtaining or retaining housing, including shared housing to reduce costs. -Landlord liaison and intervention to avert eviction and preserve tenancy. -Budgeting, credit counseling and debt consolidation. -Legal advice, advocacy and representation in order to avert eviction. -Emergency assistance to help avert eviction (e.g., food, clothing, transportation vouchers, cleaning/repair of damage to a rental unit). -Short-term financial assistance with rent, including rental arrears, (up to 3 months), utility deposits or moving costs.
Support Services ☐	***Basic needs services*** Funding for basic needs services support outcomes that contribute to a reduction in homelessness. It is important that these support services are connected to broader services/strategies to help individuals and families move towards more stable living arrangements (short, medium or long term) or conditions (e.g., enhanced social integration). For Indigenous individuals and families, funding could support culturally appropriate services and connection with community (e.g., local and/or home community, including First Nation band, Métis settlement, etc.). ***Clinical and Treatment Services*** Clinical and treatment services are activities that seek to improve the physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. ***Economic Integration Services*** Income assistance – services directed towards individuals and families to help them access income benefits (e.g., provincial/territorial social assistance, child benefits, disability benefits, veterans' allowance, old age security, or employment insurance). -Employment assistance – pre- and post-employment services that bridge individuals and families to the labor market and assist them to maintain employment and build self-sufficiency. -Education and Training assistance – services to support essential skills development (e.g. reading, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, thinking, computer use and continuous learning), services to connect individuals and families to education and training programs and services to support the successful participation in these programs (e.g., bus passes, clothing or equipment, food and non-alcoholic beverages). ***Social and community integration services*** -Supports to improve social integration, for example, costs of participation or provision of recreational/sports activities. -Indigenous Elder consultation, gathering and preparation of traditional foods. -Culturally relevant responses to help Indigenous individuals and families

Capital Investments ☐	Eligible activities include -Renovation of emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or non-residential facilities, including: - Renovating an existing facility for upgrades and to meet building standards. - Removing asbestos. - Repurposing an existing property to create transitional housing or permanent supportive housing, and expanding an existing facility. -Repairs of damages resulting from housing placements (includes private market housing. - New construction of transitional or permanent supportive housing, or nonresidential facilities (e.g., drop-in center, food bank, etc.), including if applicable tearing down an existing facility to build a new one. -Purchase of transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing, and nonresidential facilities to create new space or units. -Eligible costs related to professional fees, such as consultants, audit, technical expertise, facilitation, legal, and construction contractors, and capital costs of the purchase of land or a building. -Purchase or construction of new emergency shelters using funding from Indigenous, Territorial and Rural and Remote streams. -Purchase of furniture, appliances, machinery, electronic equipment and vehicles.

Direct Outcomes (Subject to change)

By March 31, 2028, Reaching Home will contribute to the achievement of the following direct outcomes:

- **Partners are engaged:** Through community and strategic partnership development, as well as knowledge development and dissemination, Reaching Home serves as a catalyst for partnerships at the community level, between governments and across the federal government.
- Through its role as a catalyst, Reaching Home increases partners' involvement in Reaching Home-related activities, aligns efforts and priorities, and maximizes the contributions of all stakeholders. Through the engagement of partners, Reaching Home facilitates the development of a seamless continuum of supports and services. Partners include key stakeholders within communities, municipalities, Indigenous organizations, provincial and territorial governments, federal government departments and agencies, and research bodies, among others.
- **Communities have the means to address homelessness:** Through the Reaching Home support of community planning and priority setting, data development and coordination, partnership development, as well as through ensuring that funded projects meet identified priorities, communities have the resources and understanding to target homelessness supports and services to the areas of greatest need based on local circumstances.

- **Investments are strategic and aligned:** Through the administration of grants and contributions, development of partnerships and associated tools, Reaching Home invests funds in a manner that targets the greatest needs and affected client groups while ensuring that those investments complement those of other stakeholders and partners.
- **Enhanced understanding of homelessness:** Through results reporting and analysis, and knowledge development and dissemination, the federal government, partners and stakeholders will have access to the information required to: increase understanding of the causes of homelessness; the increased capacity to correlate factors impacting housing stability; a better understanding of the services required and available to address homelessness; and innovative approaches and best practices to address the unique needs of homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

Projects must be completed on or before March 31, 2028. For capital projects, a sustainability plan demonstrating how the benefits of the project will be sustainable after Reaching Home funding ends is required.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible Applicants

Not-for-profit organizations; individuals; municipal governments; for-profit enterprises; research organizations and institutes; public health and educational institutions; Band/tribal councils; and other Indigenous organizations are eligible to receive funding and act as coordinators for activities. Please note: Through the Non-designated Indigenous stream, preference will be given to Indigenous organizations to deliver projects, where feasible, in cases where a project's objectives and activities specifically target off-reserve Indigenous people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

For-profit enterprises are eligible for funding provided that the nature and intent of the activity is non-commercial, does not generate profit, and fits within the community plan or identified local need where plans are not required. Individuals, for-profit enterprises, research organizations and institutes may also receive funding to carry out research that aims to help communities understand and address homelessness issues.

Eligible Projects

Reaching Home funds activities that contribute to its objectives, while reflecting local realities. Projects must focus on activities that help ensure people who are homeless and/or at imminent risk of becoming homeless are able to stabilize their living arrangements and circumstances and move beyond emergency needs. A strong emphasis is placed on supporting the coordinated delivery of services to prevent and break the cycle of homelessness and on establishing sustainable, longer-term solutions. Federal funds are targeted, but not limited to services that support employment

readiness, transitional and supportive housing and related services to help homeless individuals gain and maintain stable living arrangements.

3. ELIGIBLE FINANCIAL COSTS

Financial Assistance may be provided for the following:

1) **"Staff wages"** include *Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs)* which refer to payments an employer is required by law to make in respect of its employees such as EI and CPP/QPP premiums, workers' compensation premiums, vacation pay and Employer Health Tax; and *Benefits* which refer to payments an employer is required to make in respect of its employees by virtue of company policy or a collective agreement. Examples of *Benefits* include contributions to a group pension plan or premiums towards a group insurance plan.

2) **"Professional fees"** means contracting for goods or services such as bookkeeping, janitorial services, information technology, equipment maintenance services, security, if contracted specifically to support the project, audit costs and legal fees.

   Reaching Home projects may also include under professional fees the hiring of a consultant for services such as facilitating the community planning process, consultations and focus group meetings; drafting the plan under the community's direction; assessing the needs of clients; training front line staff; shelter usage data collection; local research on homelessness; data management;

3) **"Travel"** includes travel costs set out in the National Joint Council of Canada's Travel Directive that are incurred in respect of project staff and volunteers and contracted professionals, if the latter costs are not included in the professional fees expenditure category. (http://www.njc-cnm.gc.ca)

4) **"Capital Assets"** over $1,000, excluding taxes, **with the exception of Facilities**. Under Reaching Home, this includes furniture, appliances, and fixtures for the facilities used to carry out project activities;

5) **"Facilities"** includes the cost of purchasing, building, renovating or making additions to shelter space, supportive or transitional housing facilities; including:

   - the cost of purchasing land or a building for a facility
   - refundable deposits to put aside land, a building or a capital asset
   - fees paid to general contractors or labourers to build or renovate a facility
   - the cost of materials for construction or renovation of a facility

- pre-development costs in respect of a facility, including property zoning and/or property assessment fees; environmental assessments (in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act); architectural and engineering fees for inspections, assessments, architectural drawings; building permits, licenses and taxes

6) **"Other Activity Related Project Costs"** include direct costs explicitly related to the project activities that are not included in any other expenditure category, such as:

- Rented space to hold meetings, consultations, or to provide emergency shelter, including applicant owned premises
- Food, clothing, personal and household items that remain with the participant;
- Furniture costing $1,000 or less, before taxes
- Materials and supplies for the facility: food, laundry and cleaning supplies;
- Printing costs, meter charge for photocopies, translation
- Emergency rent and utilities payments made to the property owner or utility companies (these payments are not to be disbursed directly to individuals)
- Participant related costs such as living allowance while participating in training activity
- Vouchers for living expenses for individuals (e.g. vouchers for food, clothing, grocery, baby diapers, eye glasses)
- Dependent care (while the client is participating in project activities)
- Travel (bus tickets)

7) **"Administrative costs"** include the costs of administrative staff for activities such as accounting, reporting and human resource management, and general administrative costs normally incurred by any organization to ensure the effective delivery of the project. These include costs such as rental of office space, office equipment rental, insurance, office supplies, internet/website, bank charges, office moving expenses, office cleaning, security system, computer software and license renewals, garbage removal/recycling, disability needs, staff professional development (health and safety, CPR, sensitivity training, conflict resolution, etc.), staff travel to meetings, membership fees. Must be less than 15% of total project costs.

8) **"Organizational Infrastructure Costs"** are expenses incurred for services rendered to the Applicant or Recipient by a "main office", "head office" or "administration office" of the Applicant or Recipient. These are costs related to functions which, although they guide and enable effective project delivery, are not Project specific and are usually charged on a "prorated" basis.

4. INELIGIBLE FINANCIAL COSTS

Ineligible costs under Reaching Home include but are not limited to:

- Costs associated with activities or supports that take place on-reserve;
- Costs associated with the direct purchase, rental, leasing or the operations of social or affordable housing that is not supportive or transitional in nature;
- Employability activities normally provided by other HRSDC or provincial programs
  - (i.e., Youth Employment Initiatives, and Employment Benefits and Support Measures);
- Direct cash payments to people who are homeless or at imminent of homelessness;
- Software development and/or the purchase of hardware for the collection and management of homelessness data that constitutes a redundant use of funds and duplicates activities already offered through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) software; and
- Software development and/or the purchase of hardware for the collection and/or management of homelessness data that results in an inability to participate in the National Homelessness Information System. For example, costs for:
  - Purchasing alternative software that performs similar functions to the HIFIS software
  - Purchasing alternative software that is unable to export shelter data to the National Homelessness Information System initiative.

5. REACHING HOME FUNDING AND OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Reaching Home contribution for a specific project may be up to 100% of the cost however, partnerships through in-kind and/or cash contributions from the community and other funding partners are encouraged at the project level. These contributions will be considered as part of the proposal review and evaluation process. Other contributing partners could include other federal departments, provincial and local governments, health agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and private foundations or corporations. **Letters confirming the nature and amount of each partner commitment are required.**

6. CAPITAL PROJECTS

Under Reaching Home, we refer to capital projects when the proposed activities include the purchase of land and/or a building and the renovation or construction of real property.

The desired outcome of Reaching Home capital investments is to increase the quantity or improve the quality of facilities that address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness (for both residential and non-residential facilities).

Capital projects include large capital assets that are related to the purchase of land or a building and the renovation or construction of a real property. These obligations are covered by funding agreement clauses. Depending on the amount of the investment in a capital project, an appropriate monitoring period occurs after the funding agreement ends, to ensure these requirements are met.

Developing Capital Project Proposals

A capital project proposal should consider the following:

- description of the activities and work schedule;
- involvement of specialists in the development of the project such as architects, engineers and lawyers;
- description of how the project meets the organization's mandate and mission;
- impact on the current activities and services;
- Identification of confirmed and/or proposed financial resources. Include funding partners in planning, carrying out the project and ongoing operations. Funding confirmation letters are required.
- identification and justification of the choice of a building and/or land;
- include proof of the fair market value of the property;
- confirmation that the project complies with zoning regulations and city plans (if not, state the proposed steps and timelines);
- strategy for occupancy of rooms/units;
- plan for relocation of existing tenants, if applicable;
- required permits;
- include a written sustainability plan that clearly demonstrates how ongoing operational costs (including mortgage loans), after construction, will be managed. Funding partnership confirmation letters are required.
- required environmental protection measures, standards and rules relating to the project activity.

For more information on developing a capital project, you may wish to refer to CMHC'swebsite:

http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/tore/lere/lere_004.cfm

Sustainability Requirements for Capital Projects

Sustainability under RH is defined as maintaining the benefits of the projects, partnerships and community processes beyond the project end date. A focus on sustainability ensures ongoing benefits at the community level and project level will result from RH investments. A sustainability plan of no less than 5 years will be required.

Recipients must demonstrate the sustainability of the activities proposed after RH funding ends, if they will be not be completed by March 31, 2023, or if there are ongoing costs associated with the project.

Recipients must complete the attached Sustainability Checklist provided to ensure applications and sustainability plan address all the key elements of sustainability.

Service Projects

Projects providing direct services to clients are required to provide either a sustainability plan or an exit strategy, whichever is applicable to the circumstances surrounding the project activities. The sustainability plan must demonstrate how the benefits of the project will be sustainable and activities maintained after RH funding ends.

If an exit strategy forms part of the sustainability plan, then the exit strategy must demonstrate that a minimum amount of disruption to clients will occur and how the benefits to the clients outweigh any potential concerns resulting from the project ending.

Please note:

- Métis Nation–Saskatchewan reserves the right to reject some or all proposals if applications are incomplete and/or missing information
- Métis Nation–Saskatchewan reserves the right to contact organizations for additional information

7. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

Submissions will be evaluated in each of the following areas:

Indigenous Organization	Is your organization a recognized Indigenous organization? An Indigenous organization has a majority representation of Indigenous individuals on their Board of Directors and staff, as wll as provides services or proposes projects on or off-reserve that include addressing homelessness among individuals who are experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.
Capacity of the applicant	What is the capacity of the applicant and the people involved in carrying out the project activities in terms of experience, resources, and to ensure the project will be successfully implemented?
Meets Reaching Home objectives	Does your proposal meet the Reaching Home objectives – Housing, Prevention and Shelter Diversion, Support Services, Capital Investments.
Meets community needs/priorities	How well does the proposal advance the objectives of the CHS and the priorities identified by the Saskatchewan Homelessness Advisory Board? How well does it respond to community needs? The proposal must provide sufficient evidence to prove a community need.
Partnerships and community support	Does the submission include letters of support or show involvement of homeless people, people at imminent risk of homelessness, or other homelessness service providers in proposal development and planning? Have agencies collaborated and coordinated to provide a project or activity for the homeless people? Does the project demonstrate linkages to other agencies for the provision of services?
Measurable and achievable outcomes	Does the proposed project or activity have measurable and achievable benefits or outcomes to meet the needs of the homeless population (e.g. numbers to be served or housed, number of beds)? What will be the impact in the short term and in the longer term?
Value for money	Are the benefits of the project commensurate with the scope of the investment? Are costs reasonable compared to the anticipated outcomes of the project? Are costs reasonable and aligned with the value of the proposed activities at prevailing market rates in the community? Are costs necessary to carry out the activities successfully (e.g., is it necessary to cover travel costs for an international conference?) Are costs eligible and directly related to the proposed activities?
Realistic timeframe	Does your proposal have a realistic timeframe to complete your project before the end date of the contract.

Appropriate location	Is the project eligible based on their location for the applicable stream ? Is the location appropriate for the intended clientele? Is the project or service located close to complementary facilities and/or services (including public transit)?
Process to measure success	What evaluation and monitoring processes will be put in place to measure performance of the project?
Cultural appropriateness	If services are being offered to address the needs of Indigenous people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, has preference been given to Indigenous organizations to deliver these services? Does the applicant demonstrate the capacity to respond to the unique challenges that face homelessness for Indigenous peoples, youth at risk, people with disabilities, people with mental illness and those chronically addicted?
Wrap-around service priority	How is your organization going to provide wrap around services to those with complex needs during the duration of the contract, and going forward.
Sustainability of the benefits of the project	Evidence that the homeless-serving facility affected by the proposed activity has funds in place to be operational for a five-year period after the end of the Reaching Home funded project.

8. INQUIRIES REGARDING SUBMISSIONS

All inquiries related to submissions of proposals for funding are to be directed to:

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan
Reaching Home
(306) 343-8240
reachinghome@mns.ca
Information obtained from any other source is not official and may be inaccurate

9. DEFINITIONS

1. **Homelessness:** The situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence; the living situation of an individual or family who does not have stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is often the result of what are known as systemic or societal barriers, including a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioral or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

2. **Chronic Homelessness:** Refers to individuals who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months (180 days) or more over the past year, AND/OR who have experienced a total of at least one year of homelessness over the past three years. Chronic homelessness includes time spent in following contexts:
   Staying in **unsheltered locations**, that is public or private spaces without consent or contract, or places not intended for permanent human habitation (COH Typology: 1.1 and 1.2).
   Staying in **emergency shelters**, including overnight shelters for people experiencing homelessness (including those for specific populations, such as youth, families, and newcomers), shelters for people impacted by family violence, and emergency shelters for people fleeing a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation (COH Typology: 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).
   Staying **temporarily with others** without guarantee of continued residency or the immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing, or **short-term rental accommodations** (e.g. motels) without security of tenure (COH typology: 3.2 and 3.3).
   It does not include situations where individuals have access to **secure, permanent housing**, whether subsidized or not. The definition also does not include time spent in **transitional housing** or in **public institutions** (e.g. health and corrections), although individuals who are discharged into homelessness from transitional housing or public institutions can be considered chronically homeless if they were experiencing chronic homelessness upon entry to transitional housing or the public institution.

3. **Indigenous Homelessness:** For the purposes of Reaching Home, and subject to revision based on ongoing engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples, 4 Indigenous homelessness refers to "Indigenous Peoples who are in the state of having no home due to colonization, trauma and/or whose social, cultural, economic, and political conditions place them in poverty. Having no home includes: those who alternate between shelter and unsheltered, living on the street, couch surfing, using emergency shelters, living in unaffordable,

inadequate, substandard and unsafe accommodations or living without the security of tenure; anyone regardless of age, released from facilities (such as hospitals, mental health and addiction treatment centers, prisons, transition houses), fleeing unsafe homes as a result of abuse in all its definitions, and any youth transitioning from all forms of care".

4. **Indigenous People(s):** Refers to Indian (i.e., First Nations), Inuit, and Métis in Canada, as consistent with the terminology of Indigenous peoples in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Note: these Directives also use the term Indigenous people, in reference to Indigenous individuals and families in a more personal rather than legal/Constitutional sense.