

Affordable Housing Development

Expression of Interest

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Why is Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) asking organizations for an Expression of Interest (EOI) rather than an application?

A By having organizations submit a high-level Expression of Interest (EOI), SHC can identify and prioritize projects it believes will best address housing needs in the province without requiring organizations to prepare a detailed application. SHC will provide one-on-one assistance to organizations selected to apply for funding.

Q Why is the funding only available to communities within the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District (NSAD)?

A SHC currently has limited funding, and is targeting funding for this EOI to communities within the NSAD. No northern communities were prioritized for funding in the 2022 EOI. SHC hopes to issue another Request for EOIs for all communities later in 2024.

Q What can we use the funding for?

A The funding can be used to acquire and renovate existing housing, convert a building from non residential to residential, or construct new housing units. Projects can be mixed market (i.e., market and affordable rents), but units built with the funding must serve eligible households as defined by SHC. Funding can be used for eligible capital costs only and cannot be used for other expenses including support services, staffing costs, furniture and fixtures, and ongoing operating costs.

Q Our organization serves clients with a housing need, but we do not have experience developing or managing housing. Can we still apply?

A Yes, but we recommend partnering with another organization, such as a housing developer that has experience managing housing construction projects and properties, and submitting a joint EOI proposal.

Q Which households are eligible to rent the units we build and how much rent can we charge?

A All households in rental projects must have incomes within the Saskatchewan Household Income Maximum (SHIM) - Low. Please refer to the application for the current SHIM rates. Rent must be affordable for your targeted household while ensuring the long-term financial viability of your project.

Q What type of support services are required as part of the proposal?

A Support services that help tenants maintain occupancy and meet the requirements of a lease agreement are a funding requirement of Rental Development Program (RDP). Examples of support services include counselling, addictions management, life-skills training, and supports for mental health. Proposals for housing for people who require barrier-free and accessible housing do not need to include support services.

Organizations will need to consider the cost of providing support services as part of their proposal.

Q What is “demonstrated housing need”?

A Organizations must demonstrate need for their project by providing evidence that the current supply of comparable housing does not meet the demand in the community. Evidence like program waitlists, statistics, housing market trends, and availability of similar housing in the community can be referenced. Organizations should also include information about the long-term financial viability of the project by considering operational costs and revenue based on affordable rent levels.

Q How will successful EOI proposals be selected? How will we know if our proposal has been selected?

A SHC will review and score project proposals. Preference will be given to projects that:

- Align with provincial strategies and action plans including *Saskatchewan's Disability Strategy, Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, and Poverty Reduction Strategy*;
- Are located in communities within the **Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District (NSAD)**;
- Create affordable housing for people who have the greatest difficulty obtaining or maintaining suitable, adequate, or affordable housing;
- Come from applicants with demonstrated capacity;
- Maximize government funding; and
- Include support services for tenants and/or barrier-free and accessible units.

Proposals will be reviewed in Spring 2024. Organizations selected to apply for funding will be sent a letter outlining the application process.