Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund

CAEH Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

National Indigenous Homelessness Council

Information Session · October 22, 2026

CAEH



Land Acknowledgement

From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home. We recognize the historic and ongoing impacts of colonization and are committed to decolonization of our systems and ongoing reconciliation, guided in our work by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the TRC Calls to Action, MMIWG Calls to Justice and the principles of empowerment and self-determination.

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness is committed to equity, dignity, justice, and belonging. We are dedicated to serving equity-seeking communities as anti-racist, anti-oppressive and inclusive allies.

CAEH Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness works to prevent and end homelessness by helping to build effective community response systems and campaigning for the policy changes needed for everyone to have a place to call home.



Advocacy, Campaigns & Policy

To end homelessness, we need to change policy and public opinion. We work with communities and governments to develop effective policies, while building public support for ending homelessness.



Community Impact

We partner with and support communities to build local homeless response systems aimed at reducing and ending homelessness. Our approach includes coaching, training, systems development, peer learning, and ongoing tailored community support.



Data & Strategy

We work with local communities and partners to create solutions to reduce homelessness by providing data insights, tracking trends, creating resources and mobilizing knowledge towards ending homelessness.

National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Every year, the National Conference on Ending Homelessness brings together over 2000 people from across the sector to engage and learn from each other, accelerating the end of homelessness in their communities.

National Indigenous Homelessness Council

A national coalition of all

IHCEs and **ICABs** under Reaching Home.

They act as a voice & advocate for Indigenous peoples & Indigenous organizations working to help those experiencing homelessness.

Indigenous Homelessness Community Entities can contact NIHC for HRIF project support at LisaS@nihc-cnasa.ca.

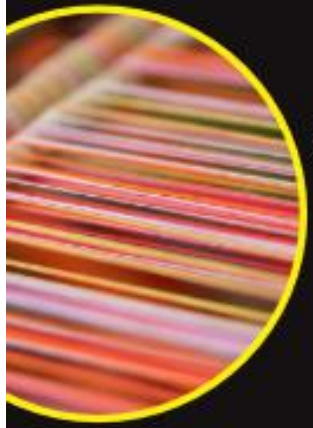
www.nihc-cnasa.ca

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Canada



THE PATH PROCESS

An Indigenous-led approach, rooted in community, that reshapes Coordinated Access through relationships.



COMMUNITY FACILITATION

Supporting Indigenous-led Organizations to provide housing & healing services rooted in culture, care, and belonging.



NATIONAL COORDINATION

Supporting Indigenous Communities in the delivery of culturally appropriate services for our relatives in need.

Webinar Sessions

22 Oct. 2026, 2:00 PM

English: October 22, 2026 at 2 PM ET (this session)

French: October 29, 2026 at 2 PM ET – Register here

29 Oct. 2026, 2:00 PM

- *All sessions will be recorded and put up on CAEH website. Check back Oct 30th for all recordings.*

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Today's Agenda

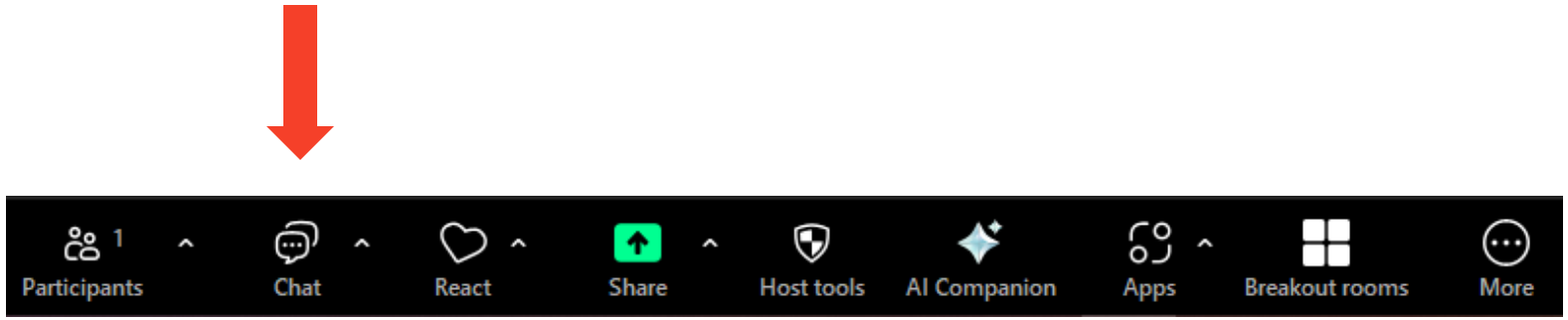
Introduction	5 Minutes
HRIF Overview	15 Minutes
What Makes a Strong HRIF Project	10 Minutes
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	5 Minutes
Q&A session	10 minutes

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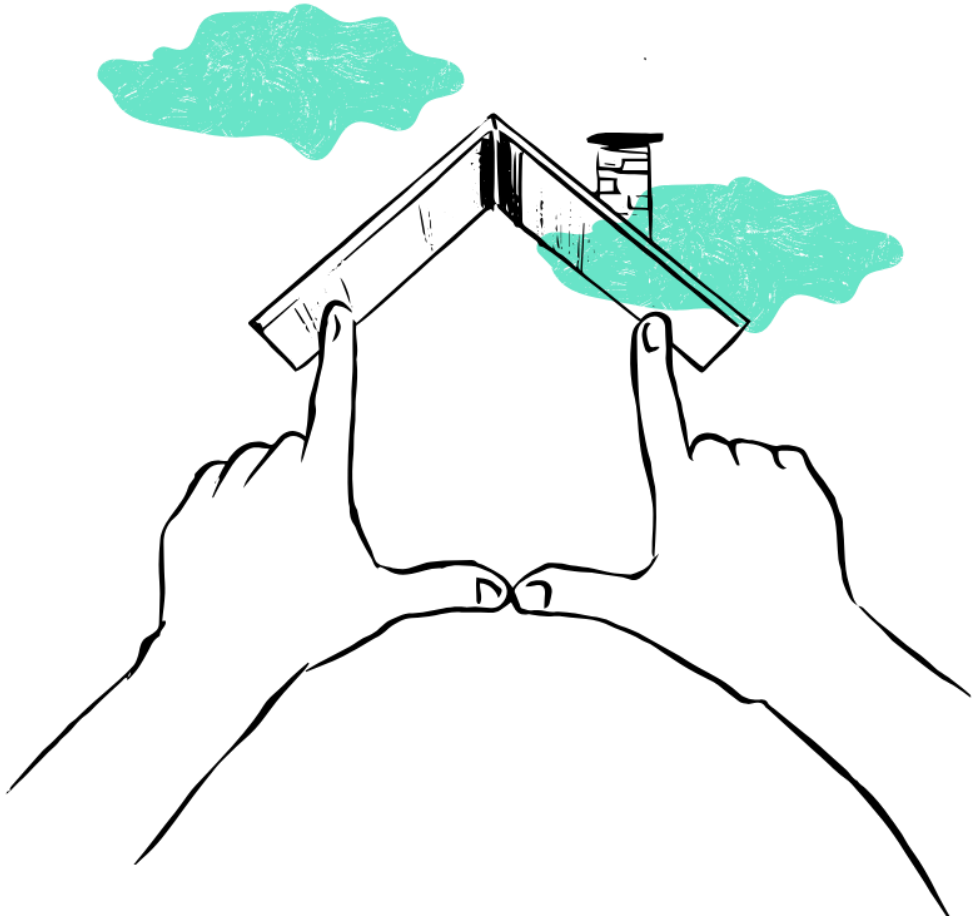
Housekeeping

- Session will be recorded and made available afterward
- Everyone is muted
- Use Q&A or chat for questions



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Purpose of this Session



- Help you determine if HRIF is a good fit for your community and understand what makes a strong HRIF Project.
- Walk through the application process, key requirements and address common questions.
- Provide answers to your questions during a live Q&A

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Who’s in the room?

If you’re comfortable, introduce yourself in the chat.

Your name

And your role if you’d like to share it.

Your organization

Who you work with or represent.

Your community

Where you are joining from today.

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HRIF webpage

Scan to visit the HRIF webpage

Updates coming soon!

Check back for the latest information and resources. FAQs remain available on the webpage.

See Frequently Asked Questions

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HRIF Overview



What is the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund (HRIF)?

- Administered by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, HRIF is a strategic funding partnership with communities that supports targeted, data-driven projects aimed at achieving measurable reductions in homelessness. CAEH, in partnership with the National Indigenous Homelessness Council (NIHC), will provide one-on-one project guidance and coaching to communities on their initiatives, and share learnings and successes from funded projects with other communities across the country.

HRIF is part of the federal government's commitment to Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, as announced in Budget 2024.

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Eligibility

To be eligible for the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund (HRIF), applicants (outside Quebec)* must be:

- the Reaching Home Community Entity (CE) for:
  - the Designated Community (DC) stream, or
  - the Indigenous Homelessness (IH) stream, or
  - the Territorial Homelessness (TH) stream
- or the community lead organization participating in Built for Zero – Canada (BFZ-C)

How eligibility is assessed

- Interested communities must first complete a Pre-Application Check to assess eligibility and project fit. Based on responses, communities may be invited to complete a full application.

* Organizations in Quebec are not eligible to apply for the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund. Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will collaborate with the Government of Quebec to put in place this funding in recognition of the jurisdictions and priorities of both governments in the prevention and reduction of homelessness.

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Eligibility

In addition to the eligibility criteria already noted applicants must also be able to demonstrate:

- An **improvement project** aimed at reducing homelessness by increasing move-ins to housing or decreasing inflow to homelessness for the chosen target population
- **Quality By-Name Data (QBND)** for their project's target population, confirmed by CAEH

- CAEH will share learnings and successes from funded projects with other communities across the country. Funded projects commit to sharing their learnings, outcomes, and project data with CAEH. Communities must be able and willing to share QBND with CAEH monthly (at minimum)

- CAEH will work with communities to support local project announcements and to profile promising practices and success stories through our website, emails, and social media

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Target Populations

Priority populations for HRIF projects are:

- Unsheltered Homelessness (strongly encouraged)
- Chronic Homelessness
- Veteran Homelessness
- All Homelessness

Key Dates

30 Oct. 2026

Pre Application Check (or EOI) submission period opens

9 Nov. 2026

Pre Application Check (or EOI) submission period closes (4 PM ET)

12 Nov. 2026

Invitations to complete an application. Communities will also be informed if they are not selected to receive an application.

2 Dec. 2026

Applications due (4pm ET)

18 Dec. 2026

Applicants will be informed of decision

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What Makes a Strong HRIF Project?



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What makes a strong HRIF project?

- Projects must aim to reduce homelessness by **increasing outflow** to housing or **decreasing inflow** into homelessness. Projects must have the potential to reduce active homelessness in a priority population.

- Projects should:
  - ✓ Set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound (SMART) aims
  - ✓ Use data to drive project design, measure outcomes, and identify solutions for system inequities
  - ✓ Follow short, iterative improvement cycles
  - ✓ Be innovative for your community
  - ✓ Present opportunities to share findings to spread reductions across the country



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How to devise an HRIF project

- Start with your local context and data – what's happening in your community?
- Design a test – what could you change to create a reduction in homelessness in your community?
- Use a quality improvement lens – where could change make the biggest difference?
- Check alignment with HRIF – does this align with HRIF's intent of possibly achieving a reduction in a key population group?

Your community will work with an assigned CAEH Improvement Advisor or NIHC to support the development of an HRIF project that reduces homelessness in your community.

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Strong Partnerships

Pro tip: The folks closest to the frontline will often be able to tell you where there is room for improvement

- Local CEs (the eligible lead organization(s) to apply for HRIF) should collaborate with other service organizations that can support project implementation
- Consider how to partner with local organizations that have specific expertise or mandates to support the target population
- Collaborate with Indigenous-led organizations for (un)learnings related to all phases of project development and design
- Center lived experience and client voices in project development and design

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Resource

Here is a short, practical resource to help you build a strong application.

CAEH - What makes a strong Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund project application

Frequently Asked Questions



How will projects be selected?

A Pre-Application Check will be used to assess eligibility and project suitability

CAEH Improvement Advisor(s) will work with those invited to develop a full application. The National Indigenous Homelessness Council (NIHC) may also provide support

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of representatives from CAEH with support from NIHC and other outside experts

Current BFZ Membership Communities do NOT need to complete the Pre-Application Check. Please connect with your Improvement Advisor to begin development on a project application

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How much funding is available?

- There is no set cap per project. Funding for each project is decided on a **case-by-case basis** and depends on what resources each community requires to achieve their project aim
- HRIF is intended to provide **one-time funding** for innovative projects to obtain “proof of concept”
- Applicants must consider the sustainability of projects & project impact beyond the funding term (12 months)

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Eligible Expenses

- **Project expenses must align with Reaching Home directives**
- Projects must focus on system-level interventions, ideally which can be sustained beyond the HRIF funding period
- HRIF does not fund capital projects such as buying property, constructing new buildings, or major renovations
- Small capital expenses (up to $50,000 and in alignment with eligible expenses under Reaching Home Directives) *may* be considered, and only if they clearly support a system-level improvement that decreases inflow or increases outflow. These are reviewed on a case-by-case basis

For more details, see the FAQs. If you're unsure about eligibility, check with your Improvement Advisor or contact HRIF@caeh.ca

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Can a community that received funding in a previous round of HRIF apply again?

- ***Yes***, but not for the purpose of sustaining an existing project.
- Communities that have previously received HRIF funding may also apply for a new project that targets a different population or data point, or that builds upon a previous project by testing a new approach/change

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Next Steps

Consider what innovative change might result in an active homelessness reduction in your community.

- Learn more about CAEH - What makes a strong Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund project application

Complete the Pre-Application Check between October 30 to November 9, 2026.

- The Pre-Application Check will be available on the CAEH website at CAEH - Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund on **October 30, 2026**
- Current BFZ Membership Communities do NOT need to complete the Pre-Application Check. Please connect with your Improvement Advisor to begin development on a project application

When will I know if I've been invited to apply?

- All who submit a Pre-Application Check will be notified by email whether they are invited to submit a full application by **November 12, 2026**

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Questions?

Please use the Q&A or chat function in Zoom

Homelessness Reduction

Innovation Fund

HRIF@caeh.ca