Information Session · February 18, 2026

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

We are a national coalition of all **IHCEs** and **ICABs** under Reaching Home.
We act as a voice & advocate for Indigenous peoples & Indigenous organizations working to help those experiencing homelessness.

www.nihc-cnasa.ca

THE PATH PROCESS
An Indigenous-led approach, rooted in community, that reshapes Coordinated Access through relationships.
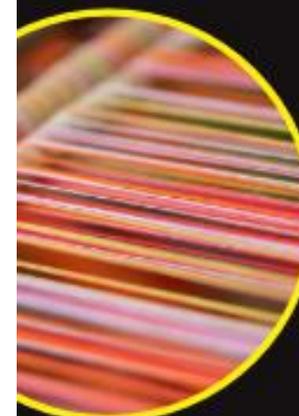
COMMUNITY FACILITATION
Supporting Indigenous-led Organizations to provide housing & healing services rooted in culture, care, and belonging.

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

Info Sessions

- **English:** February 18, 2026 at 2 PM ET (this session)

- **French:** February 19, 2026 at 2 PM ET – Register here

- **Indigenous-led Community Organizations & IH CEs:** February 25, 2026 at 2 PM ET

  Email: lisaS@nihc-cnasa.ca for a meeting link/invite. *Please Note: those previously registered will receive an invite*

  This information session is for all Indigenous-led organizations and CEs funded through Reaching Home's Indigenous Homelessness stream (including CEs that receive both IH & DC funding). Led by the National Indigenous Homelessness Council (NIHC), this will be a chance to learn about the opportunities and implications of being funded through HRIF, including topics related to QBND and data governance, project design and evaluation, as well as narrative sovereignty and knowledge sharing. Please bring your questions!
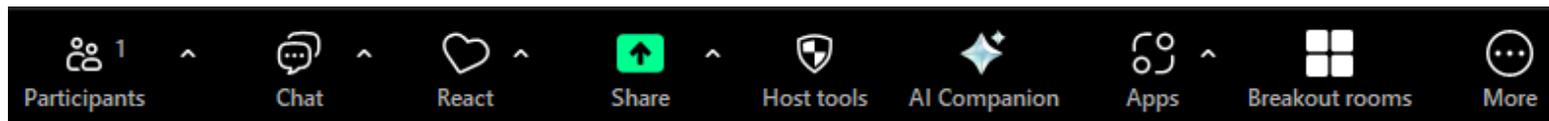
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Today's Agenda

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

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Housekeeping

- Session will be recorded and made available afterward

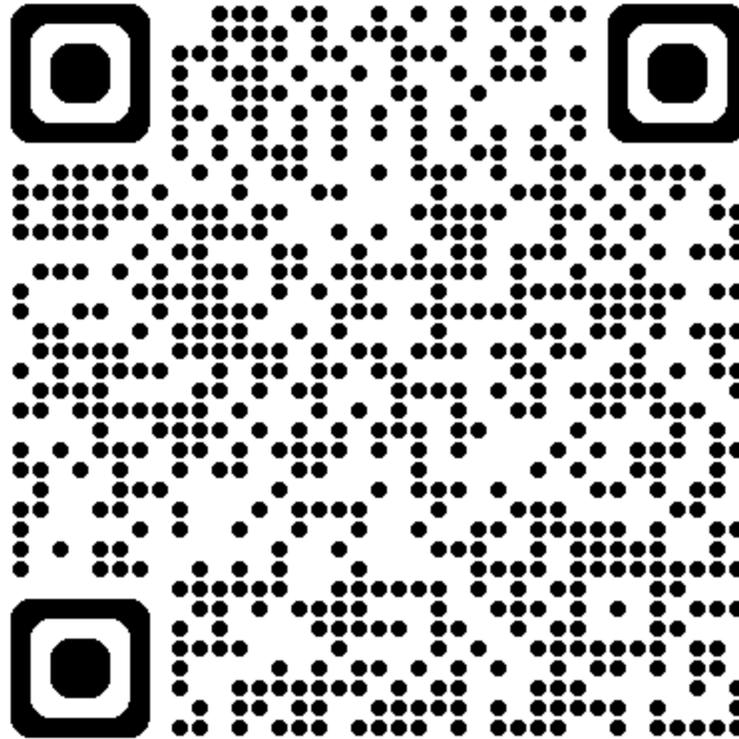- Everyone is muted

- Use Q&A or chat for questions

Purpose of this Session

- Help you determine if HRIF is a good fit for your community and highlight what makes a strong HRIF project

- Walk through the application process and address common questions

- Provide answers to your questions during a live Q&A

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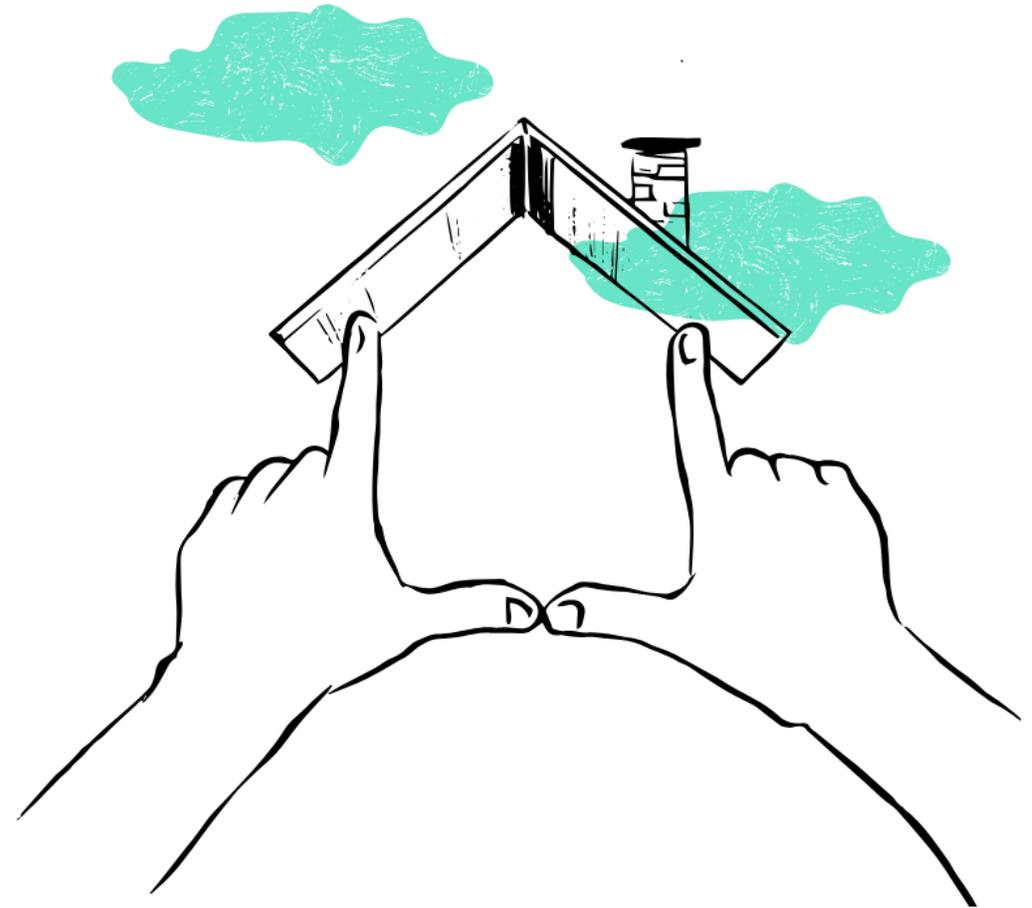
HRIF webpage

Includes updated Frequently Asked Questions

HRIF Overview

What is the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund (HRIF)?

- Administered by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, HRIF provides one-time grants for innovative, 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)

An Expression of Interest (EOI) will be used to assess eligibility and project suitability for HRIF. Based on EOI responses, communities may be invited to complete an 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 above, 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

Note: Communities that don't currently meet all the eligibility criteria are still invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). Use the space provided in the EOI to share additional context about your efforts and plans. Projects that aren't ready may receive guidance and support to strengthen applications. Your EOI may also be shared with the NIHC for review and additional support.

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Eligibility

- 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
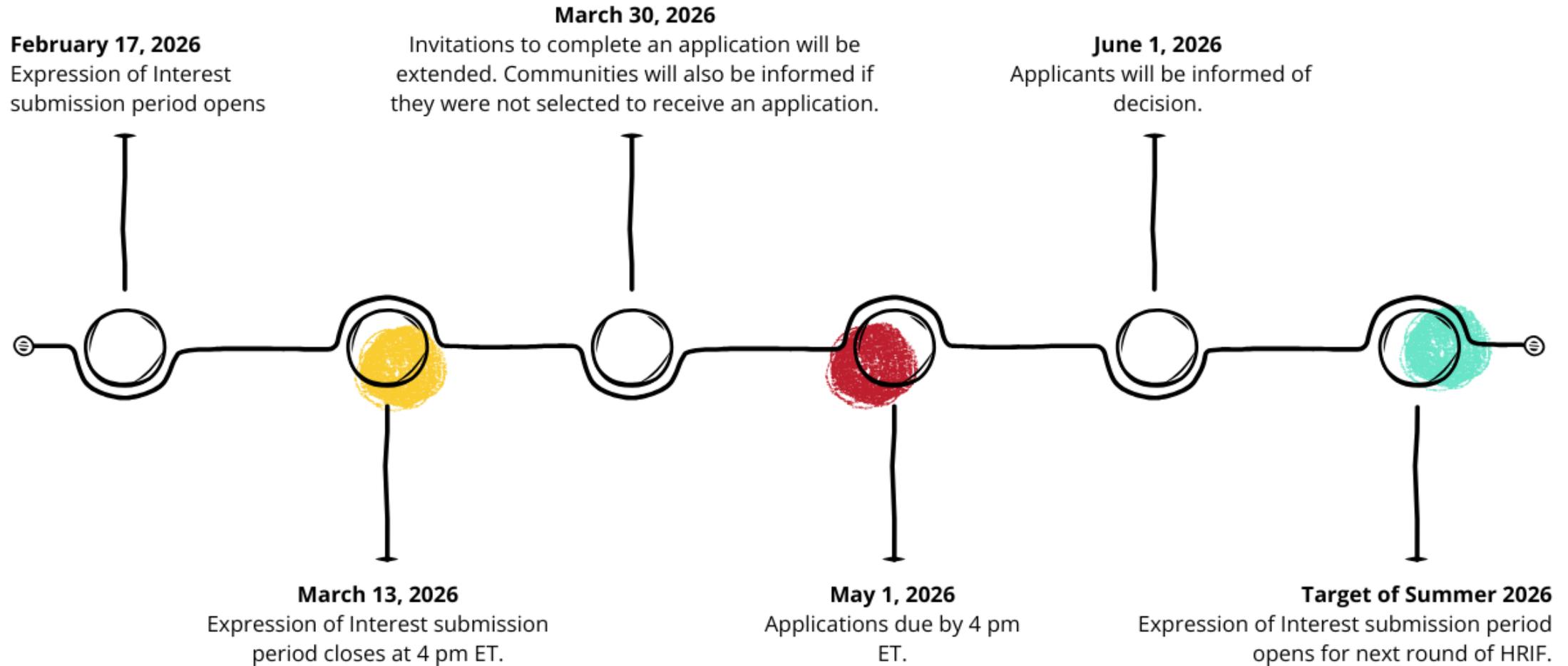
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Target Populations

Priority populations for HRIF projects are:

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

Note: You can choose to target any population for which you have Quality By-Name Data (QBND) confirmed by CAEH. However, HRIF projects that target the above priority populations are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized for funding

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Key Dates

February 17, 2026
Expression of Interest submission period opens

March 30, 2026
Invitations to complete an application will be extended. Communities will also be informed if they were not selected to receive an application.

June 1, 2026
Applicants will be informed of decision.

March 13, 2026
Expression of Interest submission period closes at 4 pm ET.

May 1, 2026
Applications due by 4 pm ET.

Target of Summer 2026
Expression of Interest submission period opens for next round of HRIF.

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What Makes a Strong HRIF Project?

What makes a strong HRIF project?

- Projects must aim to reduce homelessness by **increasing outflow** to housing or **decreasing inflow** into homelessness.

- 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 try that's different?

- Use a quality improvement lens – where could change make the biggest difference?

- Check alignment with HRIF – does this align with HRIF's intent?

You are strongly encouraged to connect with your CAEH Improvement Advisor or NIHC. We want to hear from you and support the development of an HRIF project that reduces homelessness in your community!

Not sure who to connect with? E-mail hrif@caeh.ca
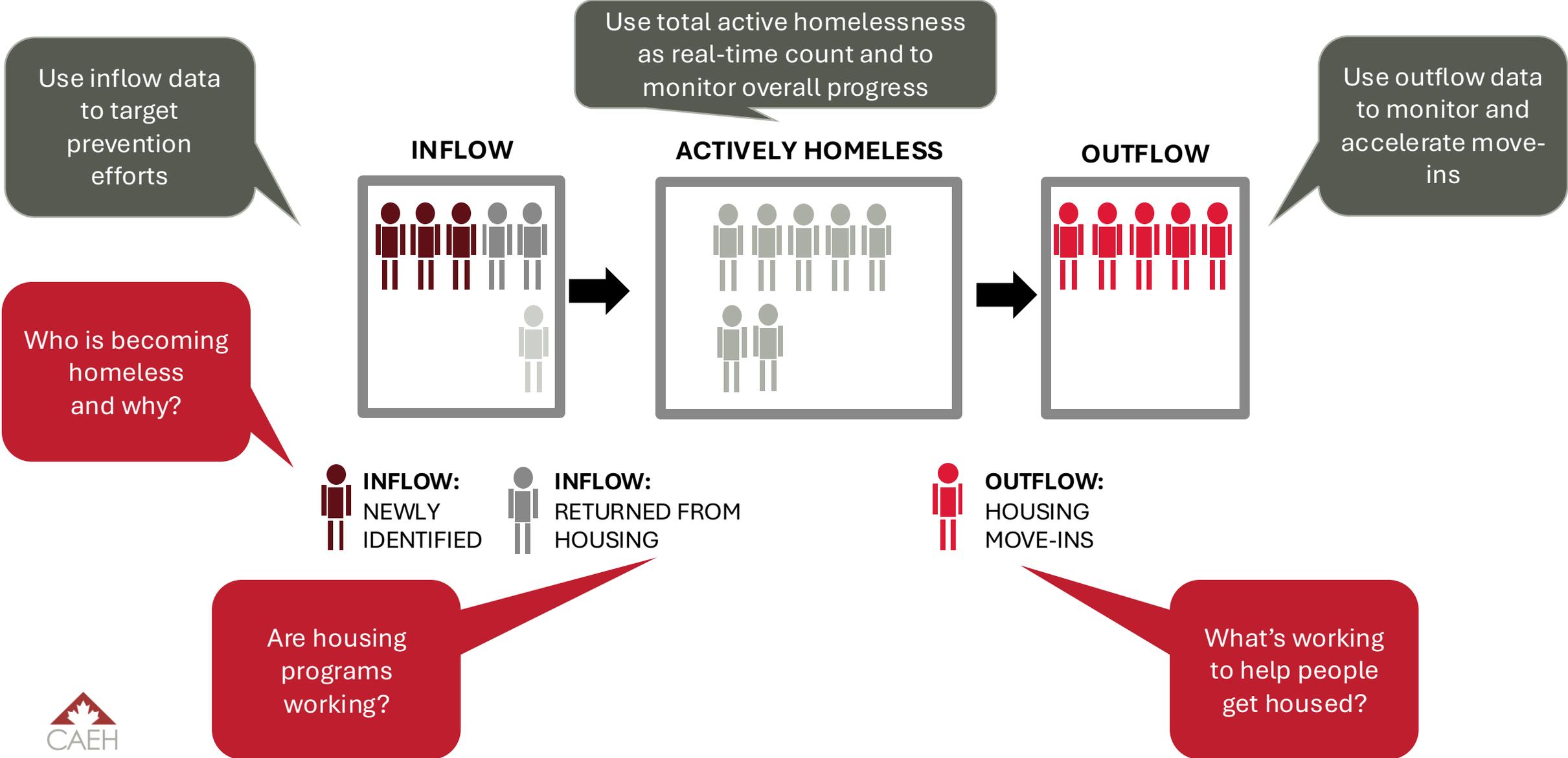
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Strong Partnerships

- 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

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Frequently Asked Questions

How will projects be selected?

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are 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

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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 grants** 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 <u>Reaching Home directives</u>**

- 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 <u>FAQs</u>. 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 receiving additional funding to sustain 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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What is By-Name Data?

Real-time data of all known people experiencing homelessness in a community

Includes a robust set of data points that support coordinated access, prioritization at a household/individual level, and an understanding of homeless inflow and outflow at a systems level

Supports triage to services, evaluation of system performance, and advocacy for the policies and resources necessary to end homelessness

BND is a subtle but important shift away from the term By-Name List, which was sometimes interpreted as stand-alone data

BND refers to the dynamic universe of person-specific homelessness data contained within an overall community-wide homelessness database or data system

Further information and resources can be found on the BFZ-C By-Name Data webpage.

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The Canadian Methodology

If your organization is funded under Reaching Home, please note that communities are required to adopt the Canadian Methodology developed by Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC), which requires use of the Community Outcomes Report (COR).

As part of the EOI and application process, CAEH may assess a community's current Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and COR usage, readiness, or transition plans.

Please contact your Improvement Advisor(s) or e-mail HRIF@caeh.ca for any questions related to adoption of the Canadian Methodology.

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Next Steps

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

- All who submit an Expression of Interest will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application by **March 30, 2026**

If I am unsuccessful, can I apply again in future rounds?

- Yes, unsuccessful applicants are invited to re-apply in later rounds, and can receive support from CAEH to improve their project proposals

**When will I be able to express interest/apply for the next round of HRIF?**

- Round 4 of HRIF will tentatively launch in Summer 2026. All updated information will be available on HRIF webpage

Do I need to submit a new EOI if I already submitted one in a previous round but was not invited to apply?

- If you have been working with the CAEH team to refine your project, you may not need to submit a new EOI. Please check with your Improvement Advisor(s) or hrif@caeh.ca to confirm

HRIF Readiness Checklist

This checklist is a reference tool to help you prepare before submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI). It DOES NOT need to be submitted to CAEH. You only need to complete and submit the EOI, which will be used to assess eligibility.

Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund
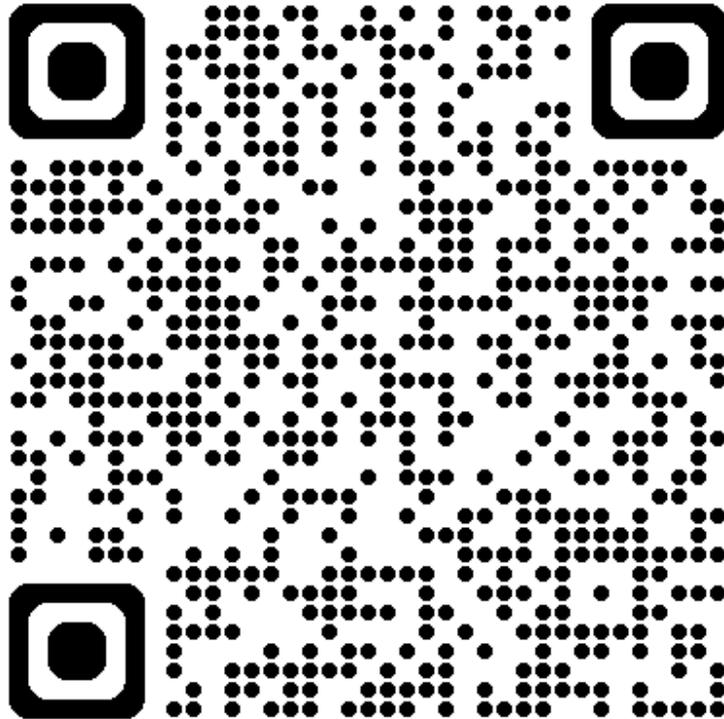
HRIF Readiness Checklist

	The following checklist contains readiness criteria that you can reference to prepare before submitting an EOI.

No.	ACTIVITIES	☑
1	You are the Reaching Home Community Entity (CE) for the Designated Community, Indigenous Homelessness, or Territorial Homelessness stream, *OR* are the community lead organization participating in Built for Zero – Canada (BFZ-C) • If you are not one of these, you have connected with the appropriate CE or BFZ-C lead organization in your community to collaborate on a project (*Note: the lead organization must be the organization submitting the EOI*)	☐
2	You have reviewed your community's data and can identify a needed improvement that you believe will have the greatest impact on reducing homelessness	☐
3	You have identified an eligible population (*Reminder of priority populations: Unsheltered, Chronic, and Veteran homelessness*)	☐
4	You have Quality By-Name Data (QBND) confirmed by CAEH for your target population. Note: Communities without QBND are still welcome to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to share context & plan. While eligibility is required for funding, projects not yet ready can receive guidance to strengthen future applications. EOIs may also be shared with the NIHC for review and support.	☐
5	Partner organizations that will be named in the application have been consulted, are aware they are being named, and you have had meaningful conversations about working together. This *is particularly important for Indigenous-led organizations and service providers*	☐

Info Sessions

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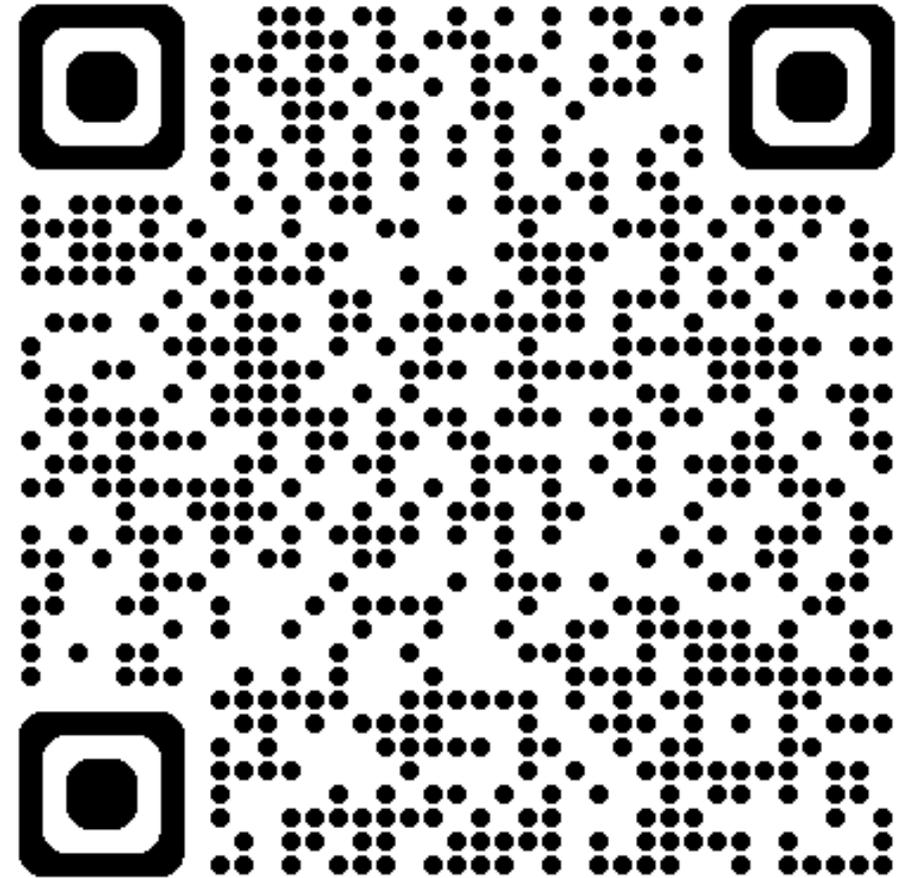
CAEH

Questions?

Please use the Q&A or chat
function in Zoom

Homelessness
Reduction

Innovation Fund

HRIF@caeh.ca