

# Veteran Homelessness Program

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# Overview

- The Veteran Homelessness Program (VHP) is a standalone initiative, and part of National Housing Strategy.
- VHP is modelled after the United States' HUD-VASH Program:
  - Takes a housing-first approach and combines rental assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development with case management and clinical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - HUD-VASH moves people experiencing homelessness rapidly from the streets or emergency shelters into stable and long-term housing, with medical and social service supports
- VHP builds on the Reaching Home approach and is intended to leverage existing partnerships and INFC relationships with community service providers.

# Overview – cont'd

- Veterans are typically recognized as a federal population, but housing and homelessness are shared responsibilities between FPTMs.
- INFC is the federal lead on housing and homelessness policy, but VHP uses a whole-of-government approach.
- INFC has partnered with VAC and the CMHC to design and implement the program.
  - Leverages VAC's expertise and relationships with Veteran-serving organizations.
  - Leverages CMHC housing policy expertise.

# Program Design

- VHP provides **\$79.1** million in funding over five years, through two streams:
  - **Services and Supports Stream (\$72.9M):** rent supplements and “wrap-around” services such as counselling and substance use treatment.
    - Maximum funding request was \$6.5M per recipient.
  - **Capacity Building Stream(\$6.2M):** research/ improved data collection; increased capacity of organizations to deliver tailored initiatives
    - Maximum funding request was \$1.5M per recipient.

# Program Design

- For the purposes of the VHP, “Veterans” will be considered former members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
- Eligible recipients include:
  - Not-for-profit organizations,
  - Veteran-serving organizations,
  - Municipalities, Indigenous organizations
  - Public health, research organizations, educational institutions
  - Provincial and Territorial Governments and their entities, including departments, agencies and Crown Corporations.
- Program recipients can provide services directly, or flow funding to other organizations.

# Program Design – Services and Support Stream

- Rent supplements bridge the gap between what an individual can afford to pay and the actual cost of housing.
- Allows for housing choice among Veterans, as rent supplements are portable and can be combined with other supports.
- Expands existing services to support Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness with wrap-around supports such as:
  - General health and medical services (e.g. counselling and substance use support)
  - Life skills (e.g. budgeting, job interview training);

# Program Design – Capacity Building Stream

- Veterans include Indigenous peoples, women and LGBTQ2S community members, and each may require tailored approaches.
- Supporting research on Veteran Homelessness:
  - Example: A research project interviewing Veterans who have lived experience with homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to understand barriers, challenges, successes.
- Building capacity in the Veteran/Homeless-serving sector:
  - Example: A pilot project to develop partnerships within a region to develop innovative housing solutions for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
  - Developing and facilitating training across your region



# Call for Proposals

- The program launched in April 2023, with a national call for proposals.
- The call for proposals attracted significant interest, and INFC is currently reviewing applications.
- Funding determinations are expected to be communicated shortly.
- Project announcements are anticipated in early 2024.



# Questions