

Campbell River Homelessness Coalition



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

GUIDELINES

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Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

The Campbell River Homelessness Coalition is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for pilot projects to address homelessness in Campbell River. The Coalition supports a *Housing First* approach: *Housing First* emphasizes client choice and is based on the idea that housing is central to recovery from homelessness. Individuals (adult) experiencing homelessness/at risk of homelessness have been identified as a priority.

EOI must include:

1. Brief description of your organization's mandate;
2. How your organization proposes to address one or more of the identified priority areas;
3. A clear reflection of your partnership arrangements; and
4. Plan for ongoing financial sustainability beyond the one year funding period.

This is an EOI only and does not require a full proposal.

EOI must be between two and five pages. EOI must be received at the City of Campbell River, (301 St. Ann's Road, Campbell River, BC, V9W 4C7) no later than February 29, 2012 at 4:30pm.

For guidelines for the submission of EOI visit the City of Campbell River website at www.campbellriver.ca and click on What's New or contact the Chair of the Campbell River Homeless Coalition at crhomelessnesscoalition@gmail.com.

Information meetings to review the guidelines will be as follows:

February 10, 2012 3pm – 4:30pm - City Hall Committee Room, 301 St. Ann's Rd

February 16, 2012 7pm – 8pm – Community Centre, Room 2, 401 11th Ave

Background

In March 2011 Campbell River Homeless Coalition was appointed. This was in response to recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness of 2009.

<http://www.campbellriver.ca/Residents/NewResidents/Documents/Homelessness%20Report%20September%202009.pdf>

The Homelessness Coalition is made up of a diverse group of individuals who bring a wide array of skills, knowledge and experience

The Mayor's Task force adopted a housing first lens, which continues to inform the work of the CR Homelessness Coalition.

Housing first is a harm reduction approach to breaking the cycle of mental illness, substance use and homelessness. It starts with helping homeless people where they are at the moment. *Housing first* prioritizes placing people in secure housing options that are appropriate to the individual or family circumstances and not contingent on sobriety or willingness to accept treatment. It seeks to foster a sense of home, self-determination and social inclusion. Once housed, client-centered supports can vary from a little support to assist an individual or family in stabilizing in their new housing, to ongoing assertive support to ensure that individuals or families remain housed. In other words, *housing first* separates treatment from housing, considering the former voluntary and the latter a fundamental need and human right (Padgett, Gulcur & Tsemberis, 2006, p. 75). *Housing first* emphasizes client choice and is based on the assumption that housing is central to recovery from homelessness. From: A Housing and Harm Reduction Action Plan for Greater Victoria 2010, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, <http://www.solvehomelessness.ca>

In keeping with the housing first lens, the CR Homelessness coalition has identified the following priority for a pilot project:

Adults who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. These individuals may or may not have mental health and/or addiction challenges and difficulty maintaining tenancy.

Funding for projects is made possible by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, The Strathcona Regional District and The City of Campbell River. Projects with budgets of \$40,000 to \$70,000 will be considered.

General Guidelines for Expressions of Interest

1. The submission must not exceed five pages in length and be a minimum of 2 pages in length.
2. There is to be no supplementary information attached to the submission.
3. The Expression of Interest must be typed and signed off by two persons with signing authority for the specific organization and must be delivered to The Homelessness Coalition c/o Ross Blackwell, City of Campbell River, 301 St. Ann's St., Campbell River, BC, V9W 4C7 no later than 4:30 pm, February 29th 2012.
4. In addition, an electronic copy of the Expression of Interest is to be sent to crhomelessnesscoalition@gmail.com
5. The Campbell River Homelessness Coalition has the absolute discretion to accept or reject any submission or any portion of item thereof.
6. The Campbell River Homelessness Coalition reserves the right to request clarification from any or all organizations submitting an Expression of Interest.
7. Organizations, submitting an Expression of Interest acknowledge and agree that the Campbell River Homelessness Coalition will not be responsible for any costs, expenses, damages or liabilities by any organization as a result of, or arising out of, submitting an Expression of Interest; requesting clarification, the communication of any information contained in an Expression of Interest to any party, including the public, or due to the Campbell River Homelessness Coalition's acceptance of one or none of the submissions received as a result of this Expression of Interest.
8. Organizations are responsible for ensuring the completeness and accuracy of all information.
9. Information submitted by organizations may only be released with the agreement of the organization if properly requested, and if the information is not exempt from disclosure from any Act. If respondents consider any information submitted in response to this Expression of Interest to contain proprietary or confidential information, such information must be placed in a separate sealed envelope clearly marked "CONFIDENTIAL".

Specific Guidelines for Expressions of Interest

Pilot projects may include but are not limited to: satellite apartments; tenancy support programs; shared accommodation programs; low-barrier accommodation or apartments; capital projects which increase capacity (units/beds) to serve clients. Support services and programs should provide direct services to people who are homeless or at risk of being homelessness. See appendix one for a housing glossary.

Submissions must contain the following information:

1. name of organization, address, telephone and fax number
2. principal contact person, telephone number & email address
3. brief description of the organization's mandate and history
4. brief overview of the organization's ability and capacity to manage projects including how the organization operates administratively and financially
5. detailed outline of your organization proposes to address identified priorities.
6. target group(s) (please see Appendix 1 for definitions)
7. specific activities aimed at target group(s)
8. outcomes(change in target group as a result of each specific activity)
9. how activities and outcomes will help meet overall Housing First objectives
10. preliminary budget including amount requested
11. sources of other funding including partnerships
12. clear outline of any partnership arrangements
13. the financial and accounting practices to be used in the management of the funds
14. time-frame for project (if project proposals are for more than one year, the project will be approved for one year only subject to further review and availability of funds at which time the project may be extended for another year).

Appendix 1

Housing Glossary

(City of Campbell River Homelessness Task Force Report, Sept 2009)

Abstinence-Based or Dry Housing: Housing where tenants are not allowed to drink alcohol or use other drugs while in **tenancy**. Tenants are expected to be "clean" before moving in and actively working on their recovery while living there. Tenants may be discharged from the program if they refuse treatment or relapse.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT): Is a service-delivery model for providing comprehensive community-based treatment to persons with severe and persistent mental illness and now is the accepted strategy for providing services to homeless persons including those with substance abuse.

Damp Housing: Housing where tenants do not need to be "clean" when entering the program, but are expected to be actively working on recovery from substance use problems.

Dedicated Site: Housing units that are placed in a common building, where all the tenants are part of the program.

Emergency: Short-term shelter for people in crisis. Some emergency shelters also provide meals and support services to the people who stay there.

Group Home: A home that is shared by a number of tenants who are generally expected to participate in shared living arrangements and activities. There is usually 24-hour support staff on site.

Hardest to House: Refers to people with more complex needs and multiple challenges when it comes to housing, such as mental illness(es), addiction(s), other conditions or disabilities, justice-system histories, etc.

Harm Reduction: Harm reduction is a pragmatic response that focuses on keeping people safe and minimizing death, disease and injury associated with higher risk behaviour, while recognizing that the behaviour may continue despite the risks. At the conceptual level, harm reduction maintains a value neutral and humanistic view of drug use and the drug user. It focuses on the harms from drug use rather than on the use itself. It does not insist on or object to abstinence and acknowledges the active role of the drug user in harm reduction programs.

Low Barrier Housing: Housing where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to live there. The aim is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more people access to services. In housing this often means that tenants are not expected to abstain

from using alcohol or other drugs, or from carrying on with street activities while living on-site, so long as they do not engage in these activities in common areas of the house and are respectful of other tenants and staff. Low-barrier facilities follow a harm reduction philosophy.

Non-Profit or Community Housing: Housing that is run by a community organization.

Permanent: Long-term housing with no maximum length of stay.

Private Market: Traditional rental housing that is run by private landlords rather than a housing program.

Public Housing: Housing that is owned by the government.

Scattered Site: Housing units are spread out in apartments in various locations around the city rather than all in one common building. These apartments may be either market or social housing.

Second Stage Housing: Housing that is supported, time-limited and affordable. People may come to second stage housing from a transition house, shelter or a supportive recovery house.

Single Room Occupancy (SRO): Small, one-room apartments that are rented on a monthly or weekly basis. Tenants share common bathrooms and sometimes also share kitchen facilities.

Social Housing: Housing provided by the government (public housing) or a community organization (non-profit housing).

Subsidized: Housing that receives funding from the government or a community organization. Tenants who live in subsidized housing pay rent that is less than market value.

Supported: Affordable housing where the tenants have access to support services in addition to housing. These services vary and can include:

Life skills training: income management, job training, medication management;

Medical care;

Social activities;

Problem substance use rehabilitation programs;

Case management.

Transitional: Time-limited, affordable, supported or independent housing. Tenants can usually remain in transitional housing for up to 2 or 3 years.

Wet Housing: Housing where tenants are not expected to abstain from using alcohol and other drugs and where entering rehabilitation program is not a requirement. Tenants have access to recovery services and get to decide if and when they use these services. Wet housing programs follow a harm reduction philosophy.

Appendix 2

Expression of Interest Rating Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points
History of organization	10
Ability & capacity to manage project	10
Ability of project to address identified CR Homelessness priority including target group, activities outcomes within prescribed time frame	30
Identified partnerships	20
Demonstrated ongoing financial sustainability beyond funding period	20
Other relevant considerations not captured elsewhere (creativity, local relevance)	10
Total points	100