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REPORT TO HOSPITALS AND HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

SUBJECT Reaching Home Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

An information report is being provided to update the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on the ongoing implementation of the Reaching Home Program – Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (RHP) and Reaching Home – COVID-19 Emergency Response Program (RHP-COVID).

BACKGROUND

In March 2019, the CRD entered into two agreements with the Government of Canada to fulfill the role of Community Entity (CE) in administering \$7.3 million (M) through the RHP for the Designated Funding Stream and \$2.3M through the Indigenous Funding Stream. In April 2020, the CRD entered into a third agreement with the Government of Canada to fulfil the role of CE in administering \$3.2M through RHP-COVID. This agreement includes both a Designated Funding Stream - COVID and an Indigenous Funding Stream - COVID. As of September 2021, the CRD is working to administer a total of \$12.8M on behalf of the Government of Canada through all funding streams associated with the Reaching Home Program.

The CRD, through its agreements with the Government of Canada, is assigned the role of CE responsible for the administration of funding and the provision of financial contributions through sub-project agreements to non-profit organizations based on a community plan, which is approved by a Community Advisory Board (CAB).

The CAB supports the implementation of Reaching Home through undertaking the following activities:

- Helps to guide the development of the community plan and provide official approval;
- Assesses and recommends projects for funding to the CE;
- Is representative of the community;
- Supports CE in the planning and implementation of coordinated access; and
- Approves the Community Homelessness Report as required by the Government of Canada.

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH), as outlined in the CAB Terms of Reference, is responsible for:

- Coordinating government agencies, non-profits, health services and community organizations around the delivery of housing and services directed toward efforts to reduce homelessness in the region, and report to the CAB through the GVCEH Executive Director;
- Supporting engagement in the development of a Community Plan that includes outcomes and indicators to be used to guide action and monitor progress toward effectively addressing issues related to homelessness in the Greater Victoria area;
- Engaging with key community organizations and individuals, including Indigenous, in the community beyond the homeless serving sector and gather all available information related to the community’s local homelessness priorities, and develop a coordinated approach to addressing homelessness in the region;

- Receiving and report on quantitative and qualitative data that outlines progress toward the achievement of the goals of the regional Community Plan to End Homelessness; and
- Providing advice and feedback on any plans or strategies required by the Government of Canada related to the CE's delivery of the Reaching Home Program.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Reaching Home Update report be received for information.

Alternative 2

That the Reaching Home Update report be referred back to staff for additional information based on Hospitals and Housing Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

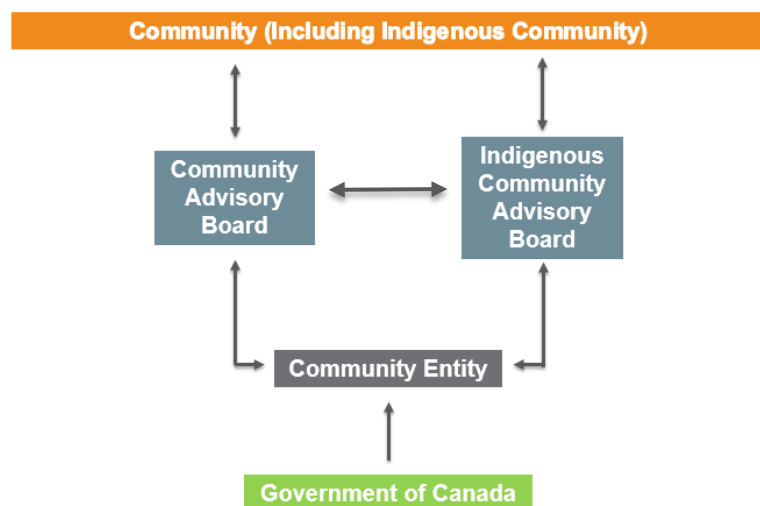
Governance

Historically, the Board of Directors of the GVCEH has fulfilled the function of CAB. In January of 2021, the Board approved the formation of a new Designated Communities CAB with the purpose of aligning the CAB with the CRD and supporting its role as CE for administering the Reaching Home Program. The Designated Communities CAB meets quarterly, with recent meetings occurring on February 11 and May 27, 2021. At these meetings the CAB provided direction to the CE on future funding and how to direct an upcoming call for proposals closing September 17, 2021.

As an outcome of consultation with Indigenous stakeholders, the Government of Canada convened the first meeting of an Indigenous CAB on May 28, 2021. The Indigenous CAB continues conversations on the future of Reaching Home funding in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area including giving direction on a call for proposals for new sub-projects closing September 10, 2021.

An overview of the governance structure can be found in Figure 1.

Figure 1:



Financial

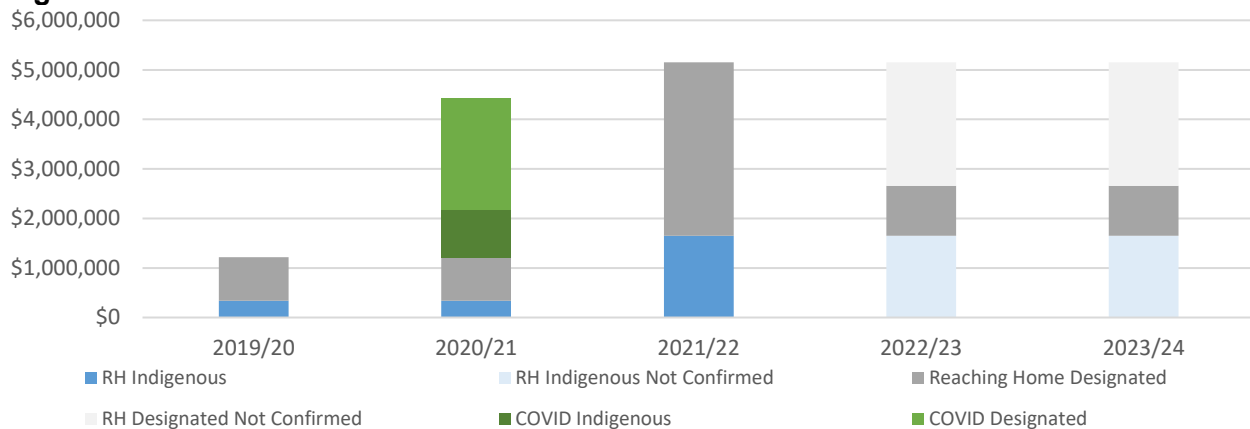
As of September 1, 2021, the CRD is administering a total of \$12.8M in Reaching Home funds through a total of four funding streams. Chart 1 shows a total of \$8.3M in unconfirmed funding that is anticipated to be available starting April 1, 2022 through to the end of the current contribution agreement. If the CRD does receive these additional funds, the CRD can expect to be responsible for the administration of a total of \$21.1M on behalf of the Government of Canada from 2019 – 2024.

Chart 1:

Funding Stream	Confirmed Funding		Unconfirmed Funding	
	Date Range	Funding Amount	Date Range	Funding Amount
Designated	Apr 1, 2019 – Mar 31, 2024	\$7.3M	Apr 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2024	\$5.0M
Indigenous	Apr 1, 2019 – Mar 31, 2022	\$2.3M	Apr 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2024	\$3.3M
Designated (COVID)	Apr 1, 2020 – Aug 31, 2021	\$2.3M		
Indigenous (COVID)	Apr 1, 2020 – Aug 31, 2021	\$972K		
Total		\$12.8M		\$8.3M

Figure 2 shows the total confirmed and unconfirmed funds expected to be available through Reaching Home by year from 2019 through to 2024.

Figure 2:



Social Implications

Reaching Home funding supported a number of community outputs and is arranged in the following three streams:

Designated Funding Stream

Six sub-projects currently underway, include:

1. Streets to Homes
2. Housing Outreach and Support
3. Youth Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stabilization
4. Indigenous Tenant and Cultural Supports
5. Homelessness Prevention Fund
6. Positive Flow Client Service Worker

On August 16, 2021 the CRD issued a Call for Proposals for a total of \$1.8M through the Designated Funding Stream seeking sub-projects up to March 31, 2022. The call closes on September 17, 2021.

Indigenous Funding Stream

Three sub-projects currently underway, include:

1. Advocacy and System Improvements
2. Aboriginal Housing Advocate
3. Siem Lelum/Fernwood House

On August 10, 2021 the CRD issued a Call for Proposals for a total of \$1.2M through the Indigenous Funding Stream seeking sub-projects up to March 31, 2022. The call closes on September 10, 2021.

COVID-19 Funding Stream

25 community-based sub-projects supported through COVID-19 Funds

- Specific to temporarily supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The COVID Funding Stream has been fully expended with no slippage and the final report submitted to the Government of Canada on August 31, 2021.

In addition to the specific sub-projects funded through Reaching Home, the community, with support from the CRD, is also undertaking the following project:

Coordinated Access and Assessment

Reaching Home funded communities must use a common assessment tool for all population groups so there is a shared approach to understanding people's depth of need. To support this work, a Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) Advisory Group, with leadership from Island Health, BC Housing and the CRD, has set up two working groups (CAA, and Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)) that are supported by the CRD community planner. The intention of these working groups is to develop, document and implement integrated, streamlined processes and policies to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness to access housing and supports, using an outcomes based approach. The CAA working group has met twice and is reviewing best practices and the system resource map. The HIFIS working group will be meeting in the fall.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has established a CAB and Indigenous CAB to support the Reaching Home Program in order to fulfill its obligations to the Government of Canada. The CAB and Indigenous CAB are providing direction on a call for proposals for new sub-projects closing September 10, 2021 for the Indigenous Funding Stream and September 17, 2021 for the Designated Funding Stream.

RECOMMENDATION

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Reaching Home Update report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Don Elliott, MUP, Senior Manager, Regional Housing
Concurrence:	Michael Barnes, MPP, Acting General Manager Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Acting Chief Administrative Officer