

## **Service Delivery Background and Highlights**

### *Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region:*

In 2008, the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region (then known as the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness) formed with a mission to end homelessness in the capital region. The CRD has supported the Alliance's core operations since its formation. Initially contributing \$150,000, the CRD's contribution increased to \$225,000 in 2010 and has remained relatively steady until 2023. In response to the Alliance's notification that without increased funding, viability beyond 2024 is uncertain, the Board approved a one-time increase of \$120,000, raising the CRD contribution to \$345,000 for 2024-2025.

In total, the Alliance has received funding through both Service Agreements (\$3,880,000) and the Reaching Home Program (\$466,627). The CRD has also administered \$800,000 on behalf of the City of Victoria for Alliance Service Agreements, bringing the total Service Agreement funding to \$4,680,000 since 2008.

### *Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness:*

In 2016, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) formed as an Indigenous-led non-profit organization, registered charity, and housing provider operating on Lək wəŋən territory with a Vancouver Island-wide mandate to provide culturally supportive, affordable housing and services that work to address the disproportionate number of Indigenous Peoples experiencing homelessness.

Since 2019, the ACEH has received \$755,250 in funding through Service Agreements with the CRD and received \$695,859 in funding through the Reaching Home Program. This includes an initial four years of funding at \$150,000 per year. At its October 2023 meeting, the CRD Board committed to three years of additional funding starting at \$155,250, an amount which will increase annually based on the consumer price index for Victoria.

### *Regional Housing First Program:*

The Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) launched in 2016 as a \$120 million (M) housing supply partnership between the CRD, BC Housing and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The program model sets rent for 20% of units at the Government of BC's Income Assistance Rate Table Shelter Maximum (Shelter Rate) for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness who can live independently. At full build-out, the RHFP is expected to deliver up to almost 1,500 total units of affordable rental housing by 2028 (20% of which will be set at shelter rate).

As of September 2024, the RHFP has supported the completion of 1055 new affordable rental units across the capital region, of which 238 are set at the shelter rate.

### *Reaching Home Program:*

In 2019, the Government of Canada announced creation of the Reaching Home Program (RHP), which is intended to support the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable, and affordable housing and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally. The RHP provides funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs. The RHP aligns with the goals of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) to support the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable, and affordable housing and to reduce chronic

homelessness nationally by 50% by 2028.

The CRD entered into agreements with the Government of Canada in 2019 to fulfill the role of Community Entity in administering the RHP for the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness funding streams. Local priorities are set out in the 'Community Plan to End Homelessness', which is approved by a Community Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB supports the CRD, as the Community Entity, in implementing the RHP by undertaking a range of activities in critical community-based program delivery.

In November 2023, the Government of Canada informed the CRD of its plan to extend the RHP by two years beyond its original end date of March 31, 2024. In total, the CRD is on-track to manage approximately \$18.7M in funding between 2019 to 2026 on behalf of the federal government through the RHP. Key outcomes of the Reaching Home Program since 2019 include:

- 1101 individuals placed into more stable housing. Of those, 81.24% remained stably housed at the 12-month mark.
- 2628 individuals have benefitted from Core Prevention Services. Of those, 95.45% remained housed three months after having received those services.

Beyond these housing outcomes, RHP funding also supports activities relating to community inclusion, job training and skill development.

CRD staff have not received any confirmation of further funding for the RHP beyond 2026.

#### *Rapid Housing Initiative:*

In 2020, the CMHC announced the launch of the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) which focused on quickly creating new units of permanent affordable housing for people and populations who are vulnerable and targeted under the NHS. The CRD received a direct contribution in the initial round of funding through the Cities Stream, with additional funding received in 2022 and 2023 through subsequent rounds of the RHI program. In total, the CRD has administered over \$34.0M in RHI funding for 202 units across four supportive or below-market housing projects in the capital region.

Through the RHI, the CRD has worked with BC Housing and CMHC to administer approximately \$34.3M in funding in the capital region. This funding has supported the creation of four below-market developments, including:

- 52 units of supportive housing on Albina Street in Saanich
- 39 units of supportive housing on Prosser Road in Central Saanich
- 45 units of supportive housing on Catherine Street in Victoria
- 66 units of below-market rental housing on Admirals Road, located on Songhees Nation Land (currently under development)

#### *Strengthening Communities' Services Program:*

In August 2021, the Province announced that the CRD had received \$308,520 in funding through the Strengthening Communities' Services (SCS) Program to support the Salt Spring Island Homelessness COVID Response. The SCS program was designed to help local governments support unsheltered homeless populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding to the CRD supported vulnerable populations who were unsheltered on Salt Spring Island, while also providing short-term increases in bylaw services in order to ensure public spaces remained safe and inclusive spaces for all those wishing to use these spaces during high-use months of the year.