

Canadian Housing Infrastructure Fund – Direct Delivery Stream

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Application Process

What is the difference between the two Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) funding streams?

Budget 2024 created the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) to invest in effective and reliable drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure to unlock more housing, faster.

The direct delivery stream has an envelope of \$1 billion administered by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). This funding is available directly to municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other eligible recipients to support pressing infrastructure needs that will directly enable housing supply.

The provincial and territorial agreement stream has an envelope of \$5 billion, which will be provided to the provinces and territories via agreements to support long-term priorities. The respective allocations under this envelope will be administered by the provinces and territories themselves. Under the provincial and territorial agreement stream, the provinces and territories will be responsible for identifying, prioritizing and submitting projects to HICC for consideration.

Projects receiving funding under one stream are not eligible to receive funding from the other stream.

How does an organization apply for CHIF Direct Delivery stream funding?

Applications to the direct delivery stream are made on the [HICC Funding Portal](#). Eligible applicants wanting to submit a project should read the [Applicant Guide](#) to ensure that their project is eligible. It is the responsibility of applicants to demonstrate how their projects meet the CHIF's project eligibility and merit criteria.

Is there a limit to the number of applications that an organization can submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of applications that an applicant can submit. However, to be eligible, a project needs to be able to achieve its intended outcomes on its own, independently of any other project.

What types of information or data must be included in an application?

Applications must include data that support project eligibility and merit criteria, including, but not limited to, number of housing units enabled by the project, pressing nature of the need for housing and its enabling infrastructure, densification, and ability to advance other national priorities (e.g., climate-change mitigation, resilience, etc.). For more information, please consult the [Applicant Guide](#).

Does an organization have to apply using HICC Funding Portal or can it submit a proposal using another method (e.g., Canada Post, email, etc.)?

HICC will only accept applications submitted via its HICC Funding Portal. For any applicants facing a challenge with that approach, please contact the CHIF team at chif-fcil@infcc.gc.ca to discuss options.

Project Eligibility

What types of projects does CHIF fund?

CHIF will fund either capital or planning projects aimed at building new, or expanding or rehabilitating existing, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater or solid waste infrastructure in order to enable more housing.

Are projects that use natural infrastructure eligible under CHIF?

Yes. Natural infrastructure projects that increase capacity of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, or solid waste systems could also be eligible for funding. For example, the following components would be eligible: naturalized stormwater retention ponds, vegetated swales, or urban parks and wetlands that can manage stormwater and improve water quality by filtering harmful pollutants.

Does CHIF support projects whose focus is on operating and maintaining existing water-related infrastructure?

No. Costs associated with ongoing operating expenses and regularly scheduled maintenance are not eligible under CHIF.

Will funding recipients be required to implement environmental requirements related to climate change?

Yes. CHIF has environmental requirements related to climate change, namely with respect to climate resilience and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on climate-related requirements, please consult the [‘Federal requirements and reporting’ section of the Applicant Guide](#).

For additional guidance and advice on the climate-related requirements of the CHIF program, please contact HICC's new [Climate Toolkit Helpdesk](#).

Are “Community Employment Benefits” a requirement under CHIF?

No. Community employment benefits are not a requirement under CHIF.

Are “planning projects” eligible under the Program?

Yes. Planning projects are eligible if the planning is for a capital project that would otherwise be eligible under CHIF. Planning costs for eligible planning projects may include feasibility studies, housing needs assessments, risk assessments, climate assessments, engineering reports, environmental impact assessments, as well as other planning work needed to advance a future capital project that would align with CHIF objectives.

Is the acquisition of land eligible under CHIF?

Land acquisition can be an eligible expense under CHIF, but only if it is for the development of natural infrastructure.

For land acquisition expenses to be eligible, the land must be privately owned and not the sole component of the project. Applicants must also demonstrate the need to acquire the land as an integral part of the project for the purposes of natural infrastructure.

Note: Funding recipients will have to demonstrate 1) that the land will remain protected for 40 years after the project is substantially completed, and 2) that the purchase price is at or below fair market value.

When is the deadline for projects to be completed?

Under the direct delivery stream, projects must be substantially completed by September 2031, while under the provincial and territorial agreement stream, projects must be substantially completed by September 2033. “Substantially completed” means that the project infrastructure can be used for its intended purpose (i.e., as described in the contribution agreement between the Government of Canada and the funding recipient).

Housing Conditions

What is meant by “enabling housing”?

Under CHIF, “enabling housing” refers to increasing the capacity of communities to build more housing—by investing in the infrastructure needed to provide reliable drinking water, as well as to treat wastewater, stormwater and solid waste.

For example, if development in an area of a city is currently limited to 200 units because of capacity constraints of the existing wastewater system, upgrading that wastewater system, with CHIF funds to a system that can process wastewater for 500 units, then that project would “enable” the development of an additional 300 units.

Are projects required to build new houses?

No. Projects are not required to build new houses, but they must demonstrate that they will enable more housing to be built. CHIF has been created to accelerate the construction and upgrading of essential infrastructure to support housing development, but it will not provide funding for the construction of housing units.

How many housing units need to be enabled to be able to apply for CHIF funding?

There is no set number of new housing units that must be enabled by a CHIF-funded project. However, applications are expected to demonstrate that projects will directly enable increased housing supply and projects will be assessed on how well they support answering the housing needs of the community. For more information on how housing criteria factor in the assessment, please consult the [‘How will my application be assessed’ section of the Applicant Guide](#).

Do the housing conditions apply under the direct delivery stream?

Yes. There are two housing conditions that must be implemented for a community to receive funding under the direct delivery stream. Communities with a population of 30,000 or more and situated in one of the provinces, must implement zoning changes to allow for four units as-of-right. Municipalities and regions with a population of 300,000 or more, must also freeze Development Charges at the rates that were in place on or before April 2, 2024. See the [‘Housing conditions’ section of the Applicant Guide](#) for more information.

Funding

How much CHIF funding can a recipient receive?

Under the direct delivery stream, maximum total eligible cost for a given project should not exceed \$100 million. However, there is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted by an applicant. Projects above \$100 million in total eligible costs will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, so please contact the CHIF team at chif-fcil@infcc.gc.ca to discuss the project before submitting an application. For more information on federal cost sharing, please consult the '[Project finances](#)' section of the Applicant Guide.

Under the provincial and territorial agreement stream, there is no maximum to the total eligible cost for a project; subject to the remaining available funds.

Is there a minimum total eligible cost for projects under CHIF?

Under both streams, the minimum total eligible cost for the project is at least \$1 million. To provide more flexibility for Indigenous communities, the \$1 million threshold does not apply to Indigenous-led projects. For more information on eligible costs, please consult the '[Budgeting for project expenses](#)' section of the Applicant Guide.

How is the project's federal contribution determined?

Funding amounts for projects will be determined through an assessment of the information submitted in the application and related project budget. Funding amounts are subject to cost sharing and stacking limits, as well as other sources of funding available to the recipient. See the '[Federal contribution](#)' section of the Applicant Guide for more information.

Is CHIF funding stackable with other funding sources (e.g., federal, provincial and municipal)?

Yes. CHIF funding is stackable with other funding sources, including federal, provincial and municipal ones. However, total funding from all levels of government (including municipal, provincial, territorial and federal) cannot exceed 100% of total project costs, and total federal government funding cannot exceed 100% of total eligible project costs under this program.

Applicants are responsible for considering the eligibility criteria and funding limits from all HICC (and other) funding programs, as project costs cannot be duplicated across multiple programs and the lowest stacking limits of other programs may apply to the project.

Project Selection and Approval

When can applicants expect to find out if their projects have been chosen to receive funding?

Once funding decisions are available, all applicants will be informed of the results of their respective applications. The CHIF team will be available to provide feedback should an applicant request it. HICC cannot provide precise timelines as to when applicants will be informed of funding decisions.

When can successful applicants begin incurring costs?

Eligible project expenditures will only be reimbursed if they are incurred after the project has been approved. There are some exceptions, please consult the ['Budgeting for project expenses' section of the Applicant Guide](#) to learn more.

Will successful applicants receive funding as soon as their project is approved?

Successful applicants will begin to receive funding once funding agreements (i.e., contribution agreements) are in place (i.e., signed by both parties) and, where applicable, once environmental assessment requirements and Indigenous consultation obligations have been met and continue to be met.