



**REPORT TO HOSPITALS AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

SUBJECT **Reaching Home Program Agreement**

ISSUE

The Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Government of Canada need to negotiate and execute a new agreement to allow the CRD to act as Community Entity (CE), responsible for administering the Reaching Home Program, the Government of Canada's new program to support community-based solutions to homelessness.

BACKGROUND

For the past nine years, the CRD has acted as the CE responsible for administering the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). In March 2017, the Government of Canada announced it would be continuing its homelessness initiatives, and, with CRD Board approval, in October 2017, the CRD submitted a letter to the Minister responsible for Families, Children and Social Development indicating the CRD's interest in continuing its role in administering any future programs focusing on homelessness (attached as Appendix A). The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness acting as the Community Advisory Board (CAB), also submitted a letter indicating its interest in maintaining its role as CAB and endorsed the CRD as CE in any renewed program.

In March 2018, the Government of Canada announced a new 10-year homelessness initiative, the Reaching Home Program, which would replace the HPS starting April 1, 2019. In January 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) invited the CRD to apply to be the CE for the Designated Communities funding stream for a five-year term and the Indigenous Communities funding stream for a one-year term. The program elements that have been made available to the CEs and CABs are presented in Appendix B. The one-year limit on the Indigenous Communities funding stream will allow the Government of Canada to complete a consultation process with Indigenous communities in regions where the Indigenous funding stream is administered by non-Indigenous organizations. The consultations will be directed at determining how local Indigenous communities would like the delivery of the Indigenous funding stream to be structured beyond April 1, 2020.

On January 25, 2019, Reaching Home applications were submitted to the Government of Canada that included financial plans to support the administration and disbursement of funds to community programs and projects (see Appendix C). Once the applications are approved, ESDC will draft the agreements and send to the CRD for execution.

The Government of Canada has designated 2019-2020 as a transition year, during which ESDC has given CEs permission to renew HPS sub-project agreements for a one-year period from 2019-2020. A summary of the projects supported through the HPS program is presented in Appendix D.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1:

That the Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board that CRD staff be authorized to negotiate and execute agreements with the Government of Canada for both the Designated and Indigenous Community funding streams of the Reaching Home Program and do all things incidental to finalize such agreements.

Alternative 2:

That the Hospitals and Housing Committee provide Capital Regional District staff with alternate direction with respect to negotiating and executing these agreements.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

Entering into new agreements with the Government of Canada for both the Designated and Indigenous Communities funding streams of the Reaching Home Program will allow the CRD to continue to play a significant role in the delivery of services and programs that provide community-based solutions to homelessness.

Intergovernmental Implications

Entering into these agreements will sustain a partnership that has proven effective in addressing the Government of Canada and CRD's mutual interests in solving the problem of homelessness in Canada. The delivery of the program through a community-based approach also positions the CRD in an influential role in working with the provincial government and its agencies to address homelessness.

Financial Implications

Funding Stream	Annual Government of Canada Contribution					Total Budget
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	
Designated Communities	\$783,753	\$783,753	\$923,331	\$923,331	\$923,331	\$4,337,499
Indigenous Communities	\$337,256					\$337,256

See Appendix C for a more detailed summary of the financial plan to support program delivery.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has the opportunity to sustain its partnership with the Government of Canada to address issues related to homelessness by acting as CE for the Reaching Home Program. To better position itself to execute the agreements in a short time frame, staff recommend the CRD Board delegate the execution of the agreements to CRD staff.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board that CRD staff be authorized to negotiate and execute agreements with the Government of Canada for both the Designated and Indigenous Community funding streams of the Reaching Home Program and do all things incidental to finalize such agreements.

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Attachments: Appendix A - Letter to Minister Duclos, October 19, 2017
Appendix B - ESDC PowerPoint Presentation on Reaching Home Program
Appendix C - Reaching Home Financial Plan
Appendix D - HPS Program Allocations (2014-2019)