

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement



cmhc.ca

June 30, 2021

Janette Smith  
City of Hamilton  
City Hall  
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mrs. Smith,

**RE: Priority Allocation for Your Municipality from the Rapid Housing Initiative**

I am pleased to inform you that your municipality has been identified for immediate funding to create new permanent affordable housing under the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), for which additional funding was announced in Budget 2021.

Through Budget 2021, the Government of Canada is investing an additional \$1.5 billion for the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI). The additional funding will be divided into two streams as follows:

- \$500 million allocated to 30 pre-determined municipalities (Cities Stream), and
- \$1 billion to be allocated under the Projects Stream for eligible applications that were not (fully) funded during the first round

As part of the Cities Stream funding, your municipality has been identified for funding of \$12,945,935 to create a minimum of 49 units of new permanent affordable housing. Please keep this allocation confidential and do not release it publicly until a joint announcement had been made with your Municipality and our Minister.

While the parameters for RHI are largely the same, CMHC received feedback from stakeholders and we listened. I would like to bring the following changes to your attention:

- Municipalities in the Cities Stream will have until August 31, 2021 to submit their proposed projects through CMHC's online platform. This doubles the amount of time for due diligence by municipalities as compared to the first round of RHI. Proposing projects through CMHC's online platform for review and inclusion in the agreement will replace the separate Investment Plan and will help streamline processes.
- Funding will be transferred to your municipality in full upon the successful execution of an RHI agreement that includes your proposed projects, subject to CMHC approval. The application window opens today and CMHC will aim to review all proposed projects and execute an agreement to flow funding within 45 days of the submission deadline.
- While projects will still be required to be completed within 12 months, projects will be able to employ additional forms of new construction to deliver housing within the timeframe (not limited to modular).
- At least 25 per cent of RHI funding will go towards women-focused housing projects, including under the Cities Stream. As well, CMHC continues to ask that municipalities work with Indigenous-led organizations to target 15 per cent of funding for urban Indigenous peoples. We also ask that you take a community benefits approach.

If your municipality submitted an eligible application under the Projects Stream in the first round of RHI but was not selected, you will be able to revise and resubmit this application through CMHC's online portal.

Further details regarding updated RHI criteria, timelines, and process to submit your proposed projects for the Cities Stream or, if applicable, revise your submission to the Projects Stream, will be shared in the coming days. As immediate next steps, CMHC will be hosting a RHI Webinar on July 6 for all eligible applicants and multilateral calls on July 7 with all municipalities under the Cities Stream for which invitations will be sent shortly. Once you receive these invitations, I would ask that you immediately forward them to the key contact(s) on your team that will be leading the implementation of your RHI allocation. I understand this is very short notice; however, these events will provide important information to help coordinate with your municipality in rapidly delivering housing to the most vulnerable in your community.

In the cover email accompanying this letter, I have included important information for you and your team. I ask that you please ensure your key contact(s) connect with Glenn Furlong at [gfurlong@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:gfurlong@cmhc-schl.gc.ca) as soon as possible and copy [GovernmentRelationsGouvernementales@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:GovernmentRelationsGouvernementales@cmhc-schl.gc.ca) so we can start moving the process forward.

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the National Housing Strategy and contribute to its success. I was pleased that other orders of government provided financial support for projects under the first round of RHI. The results achieved would not have been possible without the support of the provincial, territorial and municipal governments as well as Indigenous governing bodies. I look forward to continued collaboration between all orders of government.

Congratulations on being selected for this important initiative. We look forward to working with you to help address urgent housing needs of people and populations who are vulnerable.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Hine", written in a cursive style.

Pam Hine  
Vice-President, Partnerships and Promotions  
Client Solutions

CC  
Glenn Furlong  
Craig Mitchell