

For Immediate Release

13<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

**Whitehorse-Reaching Home federal funding program provides over \$4.7 million to fund 15 new initiatives in the Yukon for 2022-2024.**

The Reaching Home program has awarded a total of \$4,700,487 for 15 new initiatives across the Yukon for the fiscal years 2022-2024. The federally funded, community-based program to eliminate chronic and Indigenous homelessness, as well as prevent returns to homelessness, has financed numerous initiatives in the Yukon since the summer of 2020.

Projects were selected for funding following a competitive call for proposals in December 2021, based on recommendations from the Community Advisory Board which is made up of organizations and government that serve people who are homeless across the territory. Reaching Home funding is administered by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition.

“Canadians who experience homelessness face more uncertainty and instability than many others across the country,” said Dr. Brendan Hanley, Member of Parliament for Yukon, on behalf of the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion. “Through the Government of Canada’s Reaching Home investment for 15 initiatives across the Yukon, we are ensuring that our territory’s most vulnerable individuals have access to a roof over their heads and that no one is left behind.”

The projects receiving funds address issues like housing placement, housing set-ups, emergency housing, prevention and shelter diversion, client support services (e.g. employment and education assistance, job-training assistance and clinical and treatment services), capital investments (e.g. renovations and repairs to existing facilities, developing new facilities, and operational equipment and supplies), and the coordination of resources and data collection.

There are also some active projects from the previous years. The total allocation of Reaching Home funds for the territory in the 5-year agreement with the Government of Canada is \$9,482,687.

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*See attached addendum for a list of the new projects.*

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The list of new projects includes:

**Council of Yukon First Nations-Client Housing Supports \$140,140** This funding will cover rent costs for CYFN clients and provide financial assistance to avoid potential evictions of CYFN clients

**Blood Ties Four Directions Centre -\$256,613.72 -Housing, After Hours Supports & Housing Loss Prevention-**This project seeks to eliminate barriers to safe and affordable housing for marginalized populations and create opportunities for people to have equal access to safe, affordable, and sustainable housing.

**Queer Yukon-Pride at Home \$331,265.60** The goal is to offer targeted support to LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners and to assist in preventing inflows to homelessness.

**Yukon Women's Transition Home Society -Housing Needs for Women Resisting Violence \$360,000 Emergency Housing Funding-** Funding goes towards emergency housing, housing set-up and coordination of safe housing for women resisting violence

**Help and Hope for Families Society- \$242,000-Supported Living and Housing**

Help and Hope for families will support women and families in Watson Lake, allowing them to remain in their homes and find sustainable housing. This project will provide support for families transitioning out of violent or trauma related situations. Funding will also go towards the development and implementation of a data collection program in order to make informed decisions within the community.

**Tr'ondëk Hwëchin Men's Shelter \$218,000- Shelter Staff Wage-** Funding will support staff wages to operate Tr'ondek Hwech'in Men's Shelter in Dawson City.

**Safe at Home Society \$523,917- Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Housing Stability-** Activities will include supporting service users to understand and have a stable intake point for the By-Name List (BNL), facilitation of emergency housing stays, addressing income shortfalls related to damage deposits, and leveraging both wraparound supports and income that will increase the likelihood of a successful tenancy. There will also be work with public systems to facilitate stronger discharge planning for individuals who may otherwise become homeless. Funding will also support move-ins and ongoing eviction prevention work as well as coordinating individual and families needs related to settling in to a new home.

**Safe at Home Society \$518,584- Coordinated Access and HIFIS Implementation-** The project will drive the full implementation of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), continue work towards refining Whitehorse's Coordinated Access system, and conduct a Point-in-Time Count in 2023. To this extent, project activities will include implementing and aligning HIFIS with By-Name List, coordinating, training, and onboarding/engaging service providers and resources to configure and implement HIFIS.

**Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon (FASSY) Whitehorse \$209,153.08-Cultural and Housing Support-** Funding goes towards a part-time 'Elder in House' position. The Elder will support people daily with cultural connection and staff with knowledge creating cultural competency and incorporating cultural awareness into their day-to-day interactions with indigenous people. Funding is also for housing placement, housing setup, emergency housing, shelter diversion services and other client support services for those with FASD or who think they may have FASD.

**Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon (FASSY) Watson Lake -\$202,062.86 -Systems Navigation and Outreach.** This program helps people with neuro diversity to access services that they require by direct individual support. Funding goes towards emergency housing, housing set up, basic needs and client support services. This includes accessing housing that is available, support applying for social and/or FN housing or becoming housing ready. FASSY proposes to help create access to housing and support the development of a coordinated access approach to housing within Watson Lake.

**Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) \$385,000-Support Building for 195 Olive May Way Development-**Capital Project for the design of a non-residential building on site at 195 Olive May Way which would provide offices and resident space to make use of counseling programs and group programs such as SMART Recovery, AA Meetings and trauma-healing circles. Funding goes towards completion of approved building designs and the construction of the building.

**Liard First Nation \$889,779.95- Building Resiliency and Tackling Homelessness in the Watson Lake Community-** To purchase, renovate and equip a property with four two-bedroom units, one three-bedroom unit and 3 office spaces in the center of Watson Lake. This space will be used as transitional housing for individuals who are coming back to their traditional territories after spending time in treatment or members who do not have a safe space in their community. The offices will be used to provide health resources and life skills training.

**Tr'ondëk Hwëchin Men's Shelter- \$249,180 Dawson City Men's Shelter Furniture and Equipment-** The funds will be used to purchase facility equipment, furniture, and fixtures. Also, these funds will assist with outfitting the building to be culturally relevant and pay respects to the people who access the facility.

**Teslin Tlingit Council \$120,000-TTC Vulnerable Men's Housing** The funded activities will include creating schematic drawings and finalizing architectural/ engineering plans for 4 units for vulnerable men.

**The Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre \$54,791.25- Housing Coordinator** the Housing Program offered a Coordinator who is a support person to help women find and retain appropriate and affordable housing, assist clients with the basic steps in finding housing, including: housing searches, building relationships with landlords and providing transportation to view houses. This project was completed in September 2022.