



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
research·insights·solutions

February 8, 2022

To Whom it May Concern

RE: An Invitation to Become a Municipal Partner in the Housing Poverty and Affordability Solutions Project - UBCM Poverty Reduction Funding

There is an opportunity of UBCM funding for local government collaborations on poverty reduction with a focus on housing affordability. In response, a regional partnership has emerged to explore this opportunity with municipal government partners. The proposal is being supported by the Community Social Planning Council. The City of Colwood has proposed taking the lead (Approval is pending). Colwood is proposing to host the project and partner with at least two other municipalities that share similar challenges. You are receiving this letter because you are one of the municipalities selected to participate and/or staff have indicated support for participating. This invitation clarifies the project scope and the role of a participating municipality. Please let us know when we can meet to discuss this opportunity and next steps.

This project will profile local challenges around housing poverty and housing affordability solutions. It will broaden the evidence base supporting and informing municipal action through:

- A literature review and case studies from other jurisdictions.
- A sharing of best practices from within the region and outside it.
- A data driven profile of vulnerable households, housing poverty and risk factors.
- An inventory of local policy practices in participating municipalities and shared learnings.
- Capacity building workshops for local governments through workshops on the research (housing profile and best practices/case studies).
- Community engagement with municipal, business and community partners as well as individuals with lived experience.
- An ongoing community of practice for local governments to share learnings and promising practices on housing poverty and affordability solutions with research support from the Community Council.

This project will build on the existing base of housing needs reports, recovery and prosperity strategies and indexes to bring the focus onto housing poverty and pathways to affordability. It will support economic development by supporting affordability. Finally, it will build a cross municipal network and community of practice around municipal action for housing affordability.

UBCM Grant Opportunity

The Union of BC Municipalities is administering funds provided by the Province of British Columbia to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and to support the Province's poverty reduction strategy (*TogetherBC*). The 2022 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program provides two streams of funding. Regional projects may receive up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$150,000 under either stream. This project is a proposal for \$150,000 in funding under Stream 1.

216-852 Fort Street, in the Joseph Building, Victoria, BC, V8W1H8
www.CommunityCouncil.ca Tel: 250-383-6166 diana@communitycouncil.ca

Municipal Partners

Municipal partners will have the opportunity to participate in the following project activities (we recognize that capacity is limited and participation would be customized to meet the needs of each partner municipality):

- Representation on the Steering Committee to help finalize the project plan and review deliverables.
- Research support and in-service workshops for staff and Council on current local and international best practices.
- Contribute to and receive the housing vulnerability profile.
- Participate in the survey/key informant interview to inventory local housing affordability practices and focus group to engage on survey results.
- Participate in community engagement around housing affordability challenges and solutions.

Resources can be made available to participating municipalities and community partners where staff time release would be helpful to support this partnership.

Council Resolution

To participate we will need a Council resolution that supports the project and clearly indicates support for the City of Colwood to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

We look forward to discussing this opportunity with you.

Sincerely,

Diana Gibson
Executive Director
Community Social Planning Council