

COMOX VALLEY HOUSING TASK FORCE

BUILDING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Background

With funding provided by Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Comox Valley building community capacity to address homelessness program offers financial assistance to registered non-profit organizations to deliver projects or programs within the Comox Valley that build community capacity to address homelessness. The program is being administered through the Comox Valley Housing Task Force.

What is capacity building?

Capacity building refers to efforts made to improve a distinct group's effectiveness in achieving its mission and making it sustainable for the future. Rather than directly increasing the number of services provided or individuals served, capacity building activities focus resources on those areas that support and maintain service provision. Communities are enabled to see what skills they have and to identify the kind of problems they want to resolve through common action, which may have the capacity to bring these skills together and enable them further.

Who can apply?

- Registered non-profit organizations including charitable organizations and registered societies, or a community group sponsored by or partnered with a registered non-profit organization.
- Organizations who meet the above criteria and are based in the Comox Valley.
- Ineligible organizations: Non-registered organizations, private sector businesses and individuals.

Project Criteria

Capacity building and coordination programs or projects addressing issues and gaps related to homelessness and access to housing and are based in and provide direct benefits to the Comox Valley. Projects or programs include:

- Programs that work towards more affordable housing and improving conditions for the homeless.
- Programs that create increased efficiencies through service coordination among organizations.
- Programs that promote collaboration to leverage increased funding from other sources
- Programs that deliver tangible results to those who are homeless and/or to those who are working with the homeless.

Project Criteria Continued

- Programs that enable improved or new services to one or more of the following target groups:
 1. Mentally ill and addicted, including those individuals who cannot remain substance-free
 2. Women who have left abusive relationships
 3. Families, including those who want to remain together
 4. Youth who have left foster care (especially those 15 years of age and up)
 5. Seniors, particularly lower income seniors who may live alone.
- Programs that facilitate increased community participation in pursuing homelessness and housing solutions for the Comox Valley.
- Programs that provide resources (such as research, public education material) that will directly support the capacity of the Comox Valley community to address homelessness and housing.

Also, the projects or programs must:

- Be completed within a year from grant approval
- Have clear performance measurement
- Identify the target population and need
- Demonstrate long-term sustainability and financial viability
- Demonstrate collaboration and thorough consultation with stakeholders
- Demonstrate support from and/or partnerships with other service providers and organizations in the community
- Present results of grant awards to the community at a public forum coordinated by the task force

Additionally, the programs or project are encouraged to leverage additional funding from other sources.

Ineligible projects:

- Fundraising activities, conferences
- Deficit funding and core-operational funding
- Ongoing program funding
- Administration

Grant Amount

Although there is not a set minimum or maximum per project the total amount of funding available for the Comox Valley building capacity to address homelessness program is \$75,000.

Application Deadline

Application deadline is 4:00 pm, Tuesday, **January 31, 2012.**

Application and Information

For more information or to request an application, please contact Shannon Pickering, via email at shannonpickering@shaw.ca