

Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)

General Information	
Lead Department	Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)
Partners	<p>HRDC's component of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) is anchored in the NHI's cornerstone program, the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Other HRDC elements include homelessness related enhancements to both the Youth Employment Strategy (YES)* and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)*, and Research, Reporting and Accountability. The National Secretariat on Homelessness (NSH) has the lead responsibility for implementing the NHI.</p> <p>Partners include: provinces/territories; municipalities; communities; public institutions (eg. Health care); non-governmental organizations (eg. service agencies); and the private sector.</p> <p>SCPI funding does not represent a fiscal transfer to the provinces.</p> <p>* Since April 5, 2001, the YES and UAS components of the NHI are governed, with minor variations, by SCPI terms and conditions. This change responds to community and regional desires to situate SCPI as the central instrument for the dedicated youth and Aboriginal funds announced at the time of the NHI's launch. However, where communities have decided in favour of an initiative that has clear labour market outcomes, it is still feasible to use program authorities under YES or the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Program.</p>
Effective Date	April 1, 2000
Expiry Date	March 31, 2003 (The Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative was approved as a 3 year initiative)
Web Site	http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness
Purpose	<p>The ultimate outcomes of SCPI, based on the accountability reporting model (developed with stakeholder consultation), are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the well-being of the homeless. • Reduce the number of people requiring shelter and transitional housing. • Help people move from homelessness through to self-sufficiency. • No individuals involuntarily homeless. • Strengthen community capacity. <p>The activities which will form the basis of SCPI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community capacity and partnership building. • Contribution program delivery.

Roles and Contributions	<p>SCPI funding is delivered directly to communities and not through social or intergovernmental transfers to the provinces and territories. Communities must match federal SCPI funding with other non-federal contributions, which can include those from provincial and territorial governments. The roles and contributions of all funding partners are publicly recognized in communications material released by the Government of Canada.</p>																				
Resources																					
Funding*	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2000-01</th> <th>2001-02</th> <th>2002-03</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SCPI</td> <td>\$102m</td> <td>\$102m</td> <td>\$101m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UAS</td> <td>\$18m</td> <td>\$18m</td> <td>\$18m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth</td> <td>\$20m</td> <td>\$20m</td> <td>\$18m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research, Reporting & Accountability</td> <td>\$2m</td> <td>\$2m</td> <td>\$2m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Figures comprise contributions and operating funds.</p>		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	SCPI	\$102m	\$102m	\$101m	UAS	\$18m	\$18m	\$18m	Youth	\$20m	\$20m	\$18m	Research, Reporting & Accountability	\$2m	\$2m	\$2m
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SCPI	\$102m	\$102m	\$101m																		
UAS	\$18m	\$18m	\$18m																		
Youth	\$20m	\$20m	\$18m																		
Research, Reporting & Accountability	\$2m	\$2m	\$2m																		
Tracking and Reporting	<p>Funding recipients must provide the Government of Canada an annual progress and audit report. This report will include a financial and performance audit report of the management of the contribution.</p> <p>The service providers are also responsible for a <i>Final Project Report</i>, which includes a summary of the outputs and the outcomes achieved by the project.</p> <p>Communities have a responsibility to publicize their annual report to their community via strategies identified in their community plan.</p> <p>The information on spending is publicly reported through the Departmental Performance Report.</p>																				

Measurement and Reporting

Outcomes

The most important planned **outputs** expected to be achieved for SCPI are:

- Community capacity development activities (facilitation, direct supports, guidelines, communication products).
- Partnership development activities (regional and community conferences, linkages with external partners).
- Contribution agreements for needs assessment and planning.
- Contribution agreements for urgent needs, projects and community entities.

The **short-term outcomes** of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), which will be part of the evaluation, are:

- New/strengthened partnerships and networks.
- Improved sharing of lessons learned and increased awareness of the planning process and projects.
- New/enhanced skills/knowledge within community planning structures.
- New/enhanced assessment of local needs and gaps.
- Development of community plan assessing needs, identifying gaps and setting priorities.
- Projects addressing priorities or urgent needs.
- Projects addressing research of local issues.

Expected **medium-term outcomes** of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) are:

- Increased/new funding/resource commitments by levels of government and other sectors.
- New/enhanced community planning, decision making and administrative capabilities.
- New/enhanced mobilization of stakeholders in participating communities.
- Progress in addressing gaps in continuum of supports.
- Revised/updated community plans.
- New/improved services/facilities (urgent needs or priority project).
- Increase community knowledge and capacity to target local conditions and emerging homeless sub-populations.

Expected **long-term outcomes** of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) include:

- Sustained community capacity to address local homelessness issues;
- Sustained partnerships/networks in participating communities;
- Full continuum of supports offered in participating communities;
- Fewer people suffering immediate hardship in participating communities;
- More effective and coordinated legislation, policies and programs to address homelessness.

	<p>As noted above, since April 2001, application of SCPI Terms and Conditions have been expanded, with minor variations, to include the YES and UAS components of the NHI. YES and UAS outcomes will be aligned accordingly.</p> <p>The communities have a responsibility to report back to their communities on a yearly basis. This report will be shared with the National Secretariat and publicized by the communities.</p>
Indicators	In progress ¹ – The SCPI is a community-based initiative. Consequently, communities must be consulted prior to the definition of indicators.
Comparable Indicators	In progress ¹ - A long-term research goal is the development of methodologies providing reliable and comparable data on the absolute homeless population. This will in part be accomplished through implementation of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), which will provide comparable and reliable data on shelter patrons. As well, the NSH is exploring cooperative research projects using some of the FCM Quality of Life indicators.
Evaluation/Third Party Assessments	<p>An evaluation of SCPI is being undertaken by the Evaluation and Data Development Unit of HRDC, in consultation with all federal partners.</p> <p>In progress¹ – A preliminary evaluation strategy for the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative has been developed. This strategy consists of the development of an evaluation framework, a formative evaluation study and an assessment of the feasibility of conducting a summative evaluation study.</p> <p>The <i>formative evaluation</i> will consist of a review of issues pertaining to the design, implementation and delivery (outputs) of the initiative. Data collection will take place on a number of levels: community service providers, communities entities/groups and the Government of Canada.</p>
Shared Information and Best Practices	The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative is a demonstration project. A number of different community plans and delivery models are emerging as methods of addressing the homelessness issue. Consequently, there will be a focus on examining the various models through a “lessons learned” approach and an assessment of best practices. This will be done through a number of forums including the “Lessons Learned” series conducted by Evaluation and Data Development, the evaluation of SCPI and third party assessments of best practices. This information would comprise part of the planned reporting process on the strategy.
Public Reporting	Web-based reporting on communities-in-action is planned.
Involving Canadians	
Provisions for Citizens to Participate in Developing Social Priorities and Reviewing Outcomes	The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative is a community-based and community driven initiative. As a result, it is the community that develops the continuum of supports plan, identifies priorities for addressing homelessness and recommends projects for funding. A public consultation process is pursued to help identify community priorities. Community plans are expected, among other things, to report on citizen input and related processes used in setting priorities. Service providers are actively involved in this development process.

Feedback Mechanisms to Public	<p>Web-based reporting on communities in action is planned.</p> <p>Community plans are developed through consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Reporting on the SCPI is included in the annual departmental reporting.</p>
Service Commitments	
Public Availability of Eligibility Criteria	In progress ¹ – Eligibility criteria are public and made available in communication packages. As well, federal facilitators assist communities in fully understanding the eligibility criteria and optimising the programs implemented.
Existence and Availability of Service Commitments	<p>In progress¹ – A federal facilitator is assigned to each community across Canada identified as eligible for SCPI funding. These facilitators have the broad responsibilities for co-ordination and consistency across the country.</p> <p>The facilitators are given a SCPI Operations Guide and the Elements of a Community Plan Guide, which are the combined equivalent of a facilitators guide. They are both publicly available on the NSH website.</p>
Measurement and Public Reporting	In progress ¹ – Contribution agreements with service providers specify some essential reporting requirements to HRDC. However, communities may define additional reporting requirements/indicators they wish to measure. A national reporting system will incorporate this community information for reference in the Departmental Performance Report. As well, an evaluation of SCPI and the monitoring of the YES and UAS enhancements will be conducted. This information will be incorporated in the reporting being proposed under the accountability framework.
Appeals and Complaints	
Existence, Availability and Communication of Mechanisms	To be determined ² – There are two levels of appeal mechanisms required; one complaint process for local decision making at the community level and one for Government of Canada decision making. A complaints and appeals process is being developed.
Tracking and Public Reporting	To be determined ² – A complaints and appeals process is being developed.
Mobility	
Existence of measures	The Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative does not incorporate or introduce any residency or labour-mobility barriers which constrain access to funding. However, funding eligibility for some components are limited to projects targeting specific communities.

¹**In progress:** when an approach or mechanism is being developed or is in the process of being implemented.

²**To be determined:** when an approach or process is still being considered or is in the initial planning stages.