



Turning Possibilities into Reality

The Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI)

Meeting your community's needs and those of homeless people

Imagine if surplus federal land or buildings in your community could be acquired for a nominal amount, to provide housing or other facilities for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

It is possible, under the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI), a component of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, launched in 1999, to provide solutions to homelessness throughout Canada.

As of 2003, fifty properties worth over \$9 million were approved for transfer, to help with projects addressing homelessness. Between 2003 and 2006, the SFRPHI will help other governments and community organizations transform an additional \$9 million worth of surplus federal property into facilities that serve homeless people or those at risk of homelessness.

Who can apply?

Surplus federal real property is available to municipal, provincial or territorial governments, and to community-based organizations with valid non-profit charters.

Who is involved in the SFRPHI?

Three Government of Canada organizations—Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), the National Secretariat on Homelessness (NSH)/Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) — are collaborating on this initiative to help community organizations address homelessness across Canada.

What about construction or renovation costs?

The NSH and CMHC may be able to assist your organization in identifying sources of funding to help with construction and renovation costs. Possible sources include the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's response to homelessness. More information can be found at www.homelessness.gc.ca

CMHC programs that may help in developing a project include the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, the Shelter Enhancement Program and Mortgage Loan Insurance. Information on these programs is available at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

How are proposals evaluated?

Several basic questions are asked of every proposal.

1. *Does the proposal address the needs of the community?* (Is there a demonstrable and significant homeless population in the community, and will the proposal address specified needs?)
2. *Is the proposal supported by a recognized community plan to address the needs of homeless people?* (If there is no SCPI community plan, what community support has been demonstrated for the proposal?)
3. *Is the proposal financially viable?* (Are forecast costs and revenues reasonable? Does the organization have the internal financial resources or external financial support to develop, maintain and operate the project?)
4. *Does the applicant organization have the capacity to carry out the proposal?* (For example, has the organization or have its members successfully operated a similar project?)

5. *Has the applicant organization demonstrated that it can satisfy all relevant planning and environmental requirements?*

Applicant organizations must bear in mind that they may be competing with other organizations for the property. Therefore, it is critical to develop the best possible proposal.

What is the evaluation process?

1. Local/regional program officers make recommendations on the proposal to a national tripartite committee consisting of staff from the NSH, PWGSC and CMHC.
2. The national tripartite committee evaluates the proposal.
3. If the proposal meets the criteria for approval, the committee recommends that the Minister of PWGSC and the Minister of Labour and Minister responsible for Homelessness approve the transfer of the property for a nominal amount. In some cases, Treasury Board approval is required.

Your step-by-step guide

1. Find the property

Federal homelessness facilitators are kept aware of properties that are becoming surplus and will inform community partners before they are offered for public sale. If you have a particular property in mind, they can answer your questions about its current status and condition.

You can access a list of federal properties available for sale to the public by calling **1 888 govland** (1-888-468-5263) or by visiting the PWGSC Web site at: <http://pwgsc.gc.ca/govland/>

2. Draw up the proposal

Your local or regional federal homelessness facilitator will provide you with an application form, answer your questions and guide your organization through the application process. CMHC representatives may also be able to advise and assist you with information on residential development, including government assistance programs and the availability of CMHC mortgage insurance.

Contact Us:

To find the regional or local office of HRSDC nearest you:

1-800-O-Canada
(1-800-622-6232)

By mail: **National Secretariat on Homelessness**
165 Hotel de Ville Street, 8th Floor,
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0J2

www.homelessness.gc.ca

The buildings shown in this publication are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect reality in all parts of Canada.