



March 16, 2021

UBCM COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments
Strengthening Communities' Services 2021 Program

The Covid-19 Vulnerable Populations Cowichan Task Force is seeking to partner with all the local governments in the CVRD to submit a funding application to the **UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services** funding program. Only local governments and Treaty First Nations are eligible to apply for the funding, and the deadline for submission is April 16, 2021.

The intent of the funding is to assist local governments with

- Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people living in public or private spaces
- Reducing community concerns about public health and safety in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking shelter or services

The development of the application would be undertaken by Cowichan Task Force members (inclusive of Cowichan Tribes and other First nations in the region) and if the application is successful the funded activities would be undertaken by Cowichan Housing Association and its partners from the Task Force.

The amount of funding available is based on population, and if the CVRD applies as a region the potential award is \$2.5 million dollars. For regional projects it is required that a resolution be provided from each partnering applicant (Town of Lake Cowichan, Regional Municipality of North Cowichan, Town of Ladysmith, City of Duncan) that clearly states approval for the primary applicant (CVRD) to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

For partnering applicants an appropriate resolution might read;

That the Town of Lake Cowichan approve the submission of a regional application by the CVRD to the UBCM Strengthening Communities Fund 2021;

And that further that the Town of Lake Cowichan approves the CVRD as the primary applicant that will apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

For the primary applicant (the CVRD) the appropriate resolution might read;

That the CVRD approve the submission of an application to the UBCM Strengthening Communities Fund on behalf of the region and that the CVRD will receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf.



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Proposed activities;

The Covid-19 Vulnerable Populations Cowichan Task Force proposes to focus on two of the four identified activities that are eligible for funding;

1. Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people living in public or private spaces, including reduced risk of Covid-19 or other disease transmission.
2. Reduced community concerns about public health and safety in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter.

Within that the Task Force proposes to;

- Temporarily increase shelter capacity and services – for Town of Lake Cowichan – to add 8 (eight) temporary accommodation units (sleeping cabins) similar to the ones currently in place in Duncan, and incremental services including food and water, bathroom facilities, cleaning and waste management, harm reduction, security, fire safety and outreach support to connect clients to resources and support programs.
- For the Town of Ladysmith -to add incremental services including outreach support to the existing shelter facility
- For the Duncan area - to add a third site to the two existing temporary accommodation cabin sites at St Julien Street and at the Cowichan Tribes site known as the Mound. The additional site would be the Koksilah school property on Boals road (based on a successful leasing arrangement being reached with the School Board) and it is proposed to add 20 units of temporary accommodations to the site, as well as additional staff and ancillary costs (bathrooms, water, security etc.)
- Additionally to enhance and maintain the current temporary accommodation sites at St Julien and the Mound for the 12 month frame identified in the UBCM funding program that would in effect extend the funding currently provided by BC Housing for those projects.
- To develop and implement peer based programs to address community concerns about discarded syringes, litter, anti-social activities occurring in the public realm, graffiti and other related issues. This activity will be done in partnership with existing peer based programs in the region and in collaboration with local service providers, local government and those business/residential communities affected by homelessness.