



March 12, 2021

To: Chief Administrative Officers

Re: Strengthening Communities Services Program and Local Government Development Approvals Program funding

Dear CAOs:

As you may be aware, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada signed a Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement to help B.C. communities address local challenges compounded by COVID-19. Through the Safe Restart funding, the Province is providing \$270 million in matched funding towards a \$540 million federal/provincial funding package for local governments.

As part of this agreement, two application-based funding programs launched in Spring 2021: the [Strengthening Communities' Services Program](#); and the [Local Government Development Approvals Program](#) (previously referred to as the Development Services Program). Both Programs are administered on behalf of the Province by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Strengthening Communities' Services Program:

Under the Strengthening Communities' Services Program, \$100 million in grants is available to help local governments and modern Treaty First Nations address the impacts of homelessness, support people and strengthen community health and safety.

Launched on Feb 18, 2021, the Program will accept applications until April 16, 2021, with approvals expected later in spring 2021.

Applicants must show their projects respond to a demonstrated need in the community and are a temporary-surge response to immediate needs. Evaluators will also be looking for demonstrated partnership and engagement with Indigenous partners, collaboration with community stakeholders, and plans to include perspectives of people with lived experience. Funding requests from two or more eligible applicants for regional projects may be submitted as a single application for eligible collaborative projects.

Local governments and Treaty First Nations are encouraged to learn more about the program, direct questions and submit applications for this funding through UBCM's [website](#).

Local Government Development Approvals Program:

The \$15 million Local Government Development Approvals Program is intended to support local governments in implementing established best practices and testing innovative approaches to improve development approvals processes. In addition to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of development approvals while meeting local government planning and policy objectives, the outcomes from the Program will support non-profit housing organizations, developers, and other stakeholders to deliver the different types of housing people need across the province.

Launched on March 5, 2021, the Program will accept applications until May 7, 2021, with approvals expected in summer 2021.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals in a range of areas that would result in improvements to the development approvals process, including conducting internal reviews of current development processes, updating internal approvals procedures, facilitating collaboration or coordination with external partners, or improving information technology to facilitate development application processing.

Local governments and the Islands Trust are encouraged to learn more about the program, direct questions and submit applications for this funding through UBCM's [website](#).

Thank you,

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Faganello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister