

FACT SHEET

Purpose

The Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP) is a capital program that aims to improve and preserve the quality of social housing and ensure its long term physical sustainability by:

- Responding to the urgent capital repair needs of existing social housing stock in the Niagara region
- Improving energy efficiency in social housing stock
- Delivering positive impacts to social housing residents at the earliest possible times

Funding

As part of the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) program announced in the Federal budget, NRH received \$6,079,500 in funding for capital repairs of existing social housing buildings/units.

Criteria

- Funded social housing projects must remain affordable for a 10 year period after the completion of the funded repair/retrofit, including a minimum of five years during which it will operate as social housing under the Housing Services Act, 2011
- All funding must be committed by December 31, 2016
- Approved renovation/retrofit repairs must start within three months of commitment
- Approved projects must be completed within two years of the commitment date



Eligible Projects

- Updates to mechanical heating and cooling systems, building envelopes and water fixtures and equipment will be encouraged
- Replacement or reconstruction of worn out or obsolete major building or site components, major building systems or services, basic facilities and equipment, kitchen and bathroom facilities, safety features, parking facilities and walkways

SOCIAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP)

Eligible Projects (continued)

- Work that improves energy efficiency or water conservation is strongly encouraged. Energy efficiency work is expected to achieve minimum standard, appropriate to the type of structure:
 - Low-rise building: 5 point increase on EnerGuide for Homes scale
 - High rise building: 15% improvement over the current baseline energy efficiency of the building/unit
- Substantial modifications to provide or improve accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Regeneration within the portfolio of existing eligible social housing including the conversion of units and demolition and reconstruction of all or part of a project
- Soft costs are permitted under the program. These include project-related expenses such as professional services (e.g. architect, engineer), preparation of tender documents, charges and fees required for municipal approvals (e.g. building permit fees), building condition assessments and energy efficient audits.

SHIP funding is not intended for regular maintenance work.

How to Apply

SHIP funding has been fully allocated and applications are no longer being accepted.

Reporting

Housing Providers approved for SHIP funding will be required to:

- Sign a Contribution Agreement which will describe the legal obligations and reporting requirement for the approved project
- Submit invoices to receive payment for approved work under SHIP
- Track and report SHIP funding received on their annual audited financial statements

Recovery of Funding

NRH will take all available remedies to recover funding if a Housing Provider is not in compliance with the program guidelines or fails to complete the approved work within the program timelines.

contact

For more information on the Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP), call 905-682-9201 ext. 3945

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