

Homelessness Community Action Grants Ministry Update

A Way Home Kamloops Society

Kamloops

Amount: \$40,000

A Way Home Kamloops Society will engage the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH) in the development of a B.C. made Provincial plan for addressing youth homelessness. Key activities will include co-ordination and organization of five (5) bi-monthly “think tanks” to engage homeless youth with lived experience working to identify potential gaps in the current system of services and supports for vulnerable and at-risk youth along with the organization of a youth-led homelessness conference.

A Way Home Kamloops

Kamloops

Amount: \$45,720

A Way Home Kamloops is seeking to plan and conduct a conference designed specifically to highlight the voices of youth with lived experience to support a dialogue around solutions to end youth homelessness. In addition to youth, the conference will engage policy-makers and decision-makers with a focus on working together to support the development of solutions that can be included in a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. Key results will be collected and shared including actionable items from the discussions. Through funding this initiative, the goal is to ensure that the voices of youth with lived/living experience of homelessness are central to discussion on solutions for ending youth homelessness.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society will examine the impact of the label “homeless” and what it means in terms of the perceptions and experiences of individuals experiencing homelessness. This research will deepen the understanding of the social and psychological consequences that come with being labeled homeless and will put forward recommendations for developing a more person-centred and inclusive approach when looking at the issues of homelessness and the types of strategies and approaches needed to ensure that everyone is given a chance to fully succeed and to realize their full potential. This initiative will include a specific focus on the experiences of Indigenous people in Canada and the specific challenges and experiences that they face. The results will be shared as part of a larger community of practice focussed on de-stigmatizing homelessness.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

Victoria

Amount: \$50,000

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society will examine the specific needs of the Indigenous street community, which includes looking at housing and support through an Indigenous lens with a focus on creating culturally responsive approaches to responding to the needs of the Indigenous street community in their search for safe, secure, stable and appropriate housing. This focus is a pressing issue in that Indigenous people experiencing homelessness not only face additional barriers such as prejudice, racism and the disenfranchisement of rights but the enduring effects of colonialism and the forced acculturation and assimilation which has resulted in Indigenous people being over-represented in homeless counts across Canada.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness – Nourishment Boxes

Victoria

Amount: \$15,000

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society is seeking to develop and distribute nourishment baskets that include individualized and cultural supplies to more than 40 to 50 individuals weekly to honour the experiences and voices of individuals who are experiencing homelessness and to work toward building a sense of inclusion and a sense of home. This will include creating care packages that recognize individuals' unique circumstances including specific health/dietary needs, spiritual/cultural needs, promoting and supporting individual creativity and a sense of connection, and detailing the findings in a report evaluating the impact of the program.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness – Decolonizing Harm Reduction

Victoria

Amount: \$50,000

Through this initiative, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society seeks to better understand the unique circumstances and experiences of Indigenous people in Canada and how these experiences have so often affected their life course. This initiative will look at different models and approaches to harm reduction and will include the development and publication of a harm reduction framework that takes into consideration the spiritual, cultural, and historical needs of Indigenous people. This research will include engagement with stakeholders and partners from across the homelessness-serving and health care systems and will include engagement with Indigenous people experiencing homelessness, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. In understanding this research, the goal is to create a toolkit that can be used to understand more fully the underlying principles and practices around approaches to harm reduction.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness – Gathering of Community Leaders

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society completed the initial phase of outreach with the Indigenous street community, while also working together in a cross-organizational/cross-sectoral gathering of community leaders to share the findings of their work and to explore opportunities to build new pathways forward.

Aboriginal Front Door Society

Vancouver DTES

Amount: \$25,000

The Aboriginal Front Door Society will address the needs of clients by examining how to connect existing Indigenous Food Sovereignty efforts Province-wide to Indigenous food security needs in the DTES, a neighbourhood lacking in the provision of Indigenous-specific food provision services. This will include the creation of agreements to share data, best practices and resources with key partners, conducting interviews and compiling best practices from partners further along the food sovereignty journey, meeting with Indigenous elders to discuss food security issues and concerns, and convening an Indigenous feast to review and share results and to facilitate knowledge transfer in the DTES. It will also involve the preparation of a position paper examining the links and connections between Food Insecurity and Indigenous Homelessness.

Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)

Province-wide

Amount: \$50,000

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) is looking to create a Strategic Framework to ensure Indigenous community engagement in the development of Provincial initiatives to address homelessness through initiatives which include extensive community mapping, consultation, engagement and data analysis. Specific activities will include a needs assessment to identify existing services, needs/gaps, and resiliencies/opportunities, recruiting, orientation and training of a project consultant, data analyst, and 5 peer research assistants, data collection through key informant interviews, focus groups, online survey and community/social gatherings, analysis and evaluation of data using Indigenous- and gender-based framework which engaging in continuous quality improvement processes within the evaluation process. It will also involve the presentation of data findings and recommendations, and the articulation of a strategic plan for full Strategy implementation.

Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)

Province-wide

Amount: \$50,000

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) will engage the wider Indigenous community in the development of Provincial initiatives to address homelessness while addressing the over-representation of Indigenous people among populations experiencing homelessness. Achieving this goal will involve activities which will include conducting community events and feasts, convening focus groups, and holding informant interviews to explore diverse perspectives of affected populations, service providers and intersecting drivers/determinants of risk and resiliency in the Indigenous homelessness landscape. It will also involve consultations with Elders/Knowledge keepers including the lived experience of participants who share their stories and experiences.

Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George

Prince George

Amount: \$50,000

The Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George will conduct a community-based research project that will fund the Community Voice Mail program which will provide phone numbers to 500 impoverished and homeless residents to ensure service provision, communication, self-sufficiency while reducing and preventing homelessness. This will involve working closely with community agencies to facilitate awareness, distribution, and reporting of outcomes, while ensuring that CVM providers are trained.

ADAPS Youth and Family Services

Port Alberni

Amount: \$35,000

ADAPS Youth and Family Services Society is seeking to support the work of the Youth Servers Roundtable on Housing and Homelessness with a focus on building a deeper understanding of the experiences of systemic and absolute homelessness to work together with community partners to develop community response protocols and solutions to address the issues of youth homelessness, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous across the Alberni-Clayoquot region, Port Alberni, the Alberni Valley and the wider region.

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

Province

Amount: \$50,000

The BC Non-Profit Housing Association will develop an on-line platform to ‘match’ housing providers who have identified serious staffing needs in the face of COVID-19 with individuals from across different sectors who may have lost employment because of COVID-19 and who wish to help vulnerable and precariously housed populations. A number of measures and indicators will be developed and reported on including the number of submissions made by potential employees and employers, matches made, location, types of jobs secured and duration. There will also be follow-up with and feedback from those who are linked together through this initiative to help determine the success and challenges that occur, assisting in further adapting and refining the delivery of this service.

Canadian Mental Health Association – Port Alberni

Port Alberni

Amount: \$50,000

The Canadian Mental Health Association in Port Alberni will use this funding to create a low barrier work program where individuals experiencing homelessness can access income through drop-in employment. This initiative will be delivered in partnership with key community partners including the City of Port Alberni, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Port Alberni Shelter Society, and the local Friendship Centre. Funding will cover program management and coordination, wages, the purchase of safety equipment/clothing and insurance and other program related fees and will help to extend a pilot project started with funding made available through UBCM.

Canadian Mental Health Association – Shuswap/Revelstoke

Salmon Arm

Amount: \$25,000

This project will use regional asset mapping, knowledge transfer and data collection and sharing through a series of design labs and community summits to cultivate strong cross-community interagency relationships, deepen the understanding of existing resources, build on the strengths and address the gaps in service provision with the goal being to create homefulness for all Shuswap residents. Specific steps will include liaising with community stakeholders, collection of data, convening of a two (2) day summit, the conduct, compilation and sharing of results of asset mapping with stakeholders, hosting a series of design labs to build on strengths and gaps in services including sharing results with participants, and the compilation of the results of process into a report to be shared with the community.

Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness

Campbell River

Amount: \$50,000

The Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness will be seeking to support the creation and implementation of a 5 year Strategic Plan to alleviate homelessness while increasing affordable housing through a range of strategies including the creation of a housing brief, creation of communications initiatives and campaigns to reduce stigma and increase awareness, provide advocacy including around addressing bylaws and encouraging greater housing supply, and supporting dialogue between stakeholders through workshops and other events.

Campbell River Nurturing Society

Campbell River

Amount: \$25,000

The Campbell River Nurturing Society will use this funding to address the needs of clients falling through the cracks by way of a creative approach to food security and homelessness as a mental health challenge in which the Society will provide opportunities and build proactive skills for clients to address their wellness in a constructive, developmental manner. Specific actions will include the creation and distribution of Me-Nourish Medicine Cards to help foster learning and engagement, outreach to homeless including to outlying, underserved areas such as Gold River, regular delivery of food security boxes to elders, community workshops with elders to mutually share wisdom of mental wellness and recipes, the creation of a wellness journal group to help build habits through nurturing and nourishing practices for women affected by trauma and homelessness, and the convening of an event combining an Art Show with homeless education and community inclusion.

Castlegar & District Community Services Society

Castlegar

Amount: \$25,000

The Castlegar & District Community Services Society is seeking to support the development of a community-based homelessness plan and strategy to address the issue of homelessness for Castlegar and the surrounding area. Specific steps will include the development of a preliminary report that sets out the inventory of services and supports available within the Castlegar region for addressing homelessness, a review of the range of services, supports and resources available through the Federal and Provincial government as well as local resources and supports, the identification of local partners and stakeholders engaged in working on the issue of homelessness including research into understanding the scope and nature of the needs across the different population and sub-populations, documentation of the findings including consideration of the types of strategies and approaches that have been adopted elsewhere.

Castlegar and District Community Services Society

Castlegar

Amount: \$25,000

The Castlegar & District Community Services Society is exploring opportunities for the Society to leverage the Rent Bank of B.C. funding that has been received to put into place a collaborative regional model for addressing housing insecurity for low income and vulnerable households throughout the Kootenay Boundary region. This will include working to establish a network of partnerships across the region to ensure that the needs of low income and vulnerable families can be met.

Castlegar & District Community Services Society

Castlegar

Amount: \$25,000

Castlegar & District Community Services Society will explore opportunities to study the housing histories and household composition of individuals and families who are at risk of economic eviction and who are compelled to apply for rent bank assistance and other types of supports to maintain their housing. It is felt that a clearer understanding of who becomes at risk of economic eviction and the kinds of reasons and triggering events which precipitate such a crisis can help inform the types of policies and actions needed to provide these families and individuals with a greater level of housing stability and security.

Central Okanagan Foundation/Journey Home Society

Kelowna

Amount: \$25,000

The Central Okanagan Journey Home Society is working in partnership with the Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative and the Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness to establish and support a “first person lived experience perspective” about homelessness and the types of housing, health, and other supports that can help to make a difference to those experiencing homelessness including the provision of wraparound health and other types of services.

Central Okanagan Journey Home Society

Kelowna

Amount: \$35,000

The Central Okanagan Journey Home Society, in partnership with Urban Matters, will explore ways to break down barriers and address the issue of stigma towards Persons with Lived and Living Experience of Homelessness. In undertaking this research, the goal will be to work together to address the negative attitudes and perceptions which fuel community and neighbourhood level resistance with a focus on building increased awareness and support for the development of new supportive housing projects in the City of Kelowna and elsewhere.

Cheam First Nation Band

Rosedale

Amount: \$50,000

The Cheam First Nation is looking to increase staff capacity and strengthen the housing services system while building capacity in the community to better address issues of chronic homelessness. These goals will involve retaining 2 PTE emergency shelter workers, building capacity among emergency shelter staff via training and mentorship opportunities, and providing hygiene, first aid, harm reduction and PPE supplies for shelter clients.

Chilliwack Overdose Prevention Society

Chilliwack

Amount \$15,000

The Chilliwack Overdose Prevention Society will provide access to cell phones (including tech support, continued engagement and wrap around peer support) for residents and clients living in rural and remote communities in BC, particularly vulnerable individuals at risk of, or currently, experiencing homelessness and people who use drugs or engage in sex work and other high-risk activities, while also providing qualitative analysis of the impacts of cell phone access in combination with peer support. This will also involve the creation of materials such as flyers, and promotional and operational materials for phone distribution, engagement with partners to facilitate understanding, preparation of a distribution chain for the cellphones including distribution of phones to eligible parties, partners and participants. It will also include the provision of tech support, regular check in with parties to address concerns while gathering data for the qualitative analysis, and the preparation of a qualitative analysis on the impacts of cell phone access in combination with peer support.

Christ Church Cathedral

Vancouver

Amount: \$25,000

Christ Church Cathedral will use this funding to hire an outreach worker to identify specific gaps in services and needs amongst people who are homeless or who are precariously housed in the downtown and West End of Vancouver. Once the gaps have been identified, it will be possible to work to better target and address these gaps.

Chrysalis Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$15,000

The Chrysalis Society will offer specific training opportunities for marginalized women including Workplace Safety, Food Safe and First Aid certifications as well as resume building, budget management and life skills management in order to help them build the skills and confidence they need to re-enter the workforce while healing from trauma.

City of Abbotsford Housing and Homelessness Prevention and Response System

Abbotsford

Amount: \$25,000

With this funding opportunity, the City of Abbotsford will be able to create an update to the AHPRS Community Homelessness Action Plan adopted in 2014 by way of a Challenge Dialogue process which will consult with and draw upon the expertise and recommendations of key stakeholders, partners and clients in the community.

City of Courtenay

Courtenay

Amount: \$50,000

The City of Courtenay will use this funding to provide coordination support for the Region's street outreach team (the Comox Valley Homelessness Response Team--HRT) through a range of initiatives and actions. These will include the establishment of a Terms of Reference and protocols for the HRT, the conducting of regular meetings among HRT partners, ongoing efforts to address anti-stigma/discrimination of individuals experiencing homelessness, and a range of community engagement/education activities.

City of Kelowna

Kelowna

Amount: \$25,000

This initiative recognizes that municipalities are increasingly on the front lines of the homelessness response, and yet participation and leadership on this issue is relatively new to local governments. Identifying different types of housing and support models designed to respond to the needs of individuals with complex housing and health needs will be a central area of focus for this research. While various agencies including BC Housing, the Interior Health Authority and various Provincial and Federal Ministries are engaged in addressing some of the needs of this population, none offer specific programming, while little funding is earmarked for this unique population.

City of Penticton

Penticton

Amount: \$25,000

This project seeks to conduct a community-based research project that will analyze the current situation of youth homelessness and coordinate the efforts of local organizations and community partners through the creation of an implementation strategy to allow the City of Penticton to address and mitigate the challenges facing homeless and at-risk youth, both in the City as well as the surrounding communities.

City of Surrey - The SUILC's Skookum Lab

Surrey

Amount: \$25,000

The SUILC's Skookum Lab of the City of Surrey wishes to evaluate the Indigenous Partnership Pilot Program (IPPP) to address gaps in services to ensure that it continues to provide culturally safe and trauma informed access to services for the Surrey Indigenous community who are homeless or at risk of homelessness while addressing systemic barriers and gaps, and building greater local capacity. This will be accomplished by way of the development of an Indigenous evaluation framework, the collection of Indigenous and community-based knowledge, the sharing and analysis of the knowledge gathered, the development and validation of the Evaluation report. The preparation of a final project report will detail the key milestones, achievements and challenges faced in undertaking this study.

City of Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group

Surrey

Amount: \$50,000

The City of Surrey is looking to work with the Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group in the City of Surrey towards the implementation of a collaborative research project designed to build a better understanding of the service and housing needs of vulnerable women and girls in Surrey. This will include engagement in a strategic planning exercise with the SVWG including the development and presentation of a Strategic Plan, completion of an updated housing and service inventory and gaps analysis including arts-based engagement of women and youth with lived experience, coordination of a community leaders forum to invite input and feedback from community leaders, and completion of the gap analysis report as well as research into best practices in meeting the needs of vulnerable women and girls with a focus on both housing and services including the production of updated women's resource cards.

City of Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group

Surrey

Amount: \$25,000

The City of Surrey is looking to conduct a community-based research project with the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group towards the implementation of a research project which would engage directly with vulnerable women and girls in Surrey to understand the positive and negative impacts they are experiencing, both from the new housing development and supports that have been introduced for vulnerable women and girls, as well as the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic and the ongoing opioid crisis, and to make recommendations based on the findings of these conversations. The project will result in a better understanding of the barriers to and gaps in service provision, current and anticipated housing needs, and the greater enhancement of safety for vulnerable women and girls with the resulting report being used by Surrey service providers when seeking support and funding for their own initiatives.

City of West Kelowna

West Kelowna

Amount: \$50,000

Working in partnership with the Salvation Army, The City of West Kelowna will use this funding to provide a mobile washroom and shower facility for the unhoused population. This includes those living in their vehicles. In addition to working to improve their comfort and safety, this initiative will also allow for improved hygiene and health among those experiencing homelessness. This initiative will also contribute to greater opportunities for employment as well as a greater sense of dignity and inclusion. The City will work closely with community partners including the Salvation Army in the running of the operations.

Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria seeks to conduct a Neighbour-to-Neighbour Demonstration project designed to build on the community-based response to homelessness by providing street outreach and emergency supplies to those living outdoors, and to document the types of supplies and services needed to help to provide an effective community/neighbourhood-based response to ending street homelessness. This will involve the formation of partnerships and support committees for the Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN), the conduct of training and capacity building for staff, the convening of workshops including the sharing of stories within the community, the creation and conduct of an evaluation framework and the provision of basic needs and housing supports for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness

Courtenay

Amount: \$50,000

The Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness is undertaking a community-based research project that will establish a warming centre that will provide a safe, warm and welcoming space for those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and which will provide access to a range of supports and services which will assist in the pursuit of self-sufficiency.

Comox Valley Transition Society

Courtenay

Amount: \$50,000

The Comox Valley Transition Society is looking to conduct a community-based research project that will support a range of community partners in the Comox Valley in the provision of outreach and support to those who are homeless and 'at risk' of homelessness including support for individuals with complex housing and support needs such as mental illness and addictions-related challenges.

Comox Valley Transition Society

Courtenay

Amount: \$50,000

The Comox Valley Transition Society will undertake the planning and implementation of projects through the 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness including provision of supports, homelessness prevention, education, community capacity building and the conduct of the 2020 Comox Valley Homeless Point in Time Count.

Cover the Coast Alliance for Affordable Housing

Gibsons

Amount: \$25,000

Cover the Coast Alliance for Affordable Housing wishes to develop a community level homelessness action plan by deepening their understanding of community demand, available resources, and weaknesses within the current system including gaps in services and client barriers through data-driven insights related to services, target populations and funding sources. This work will involve the identification and prioritization of competency questions via data discovery sessions, alignment of community-based activities and service mapping to identify key network actors and to help prioritize community needs and future actions.

Cover the Coast Alliance for Affordable Housing

Gibsons

Amount: \$25,000

Through the initial phase of service mapping, Cover the Coast Alliance for Affordable Housing will use the insights gained to help inform the development of a community level homelessness needs assessment and action plan. This work will focus on convening a series of stakeholder interviews and community dialogues to share information. Key work program elements will include the design and analysis of a community survey that will help to measure waiting lists and map referral connections. This initiative will also include the preparation and delivery of a session reviewing and validating the findings.

Cyrus Centre

Chilliwack

Amount: \$50,000

Cyrus Centre will support the development of a strategy to respond to the experiences and circumstances contributing to youth homelessness including youth involved in the criminal justice and foster care systems as well as those using illicit substances. The research will address the current discourse that can criminalize at risk-youth while causing misunderstanding and alienation which typically serve to further entrench the problems and challenges they face.

Dawn to Dawn: Action on Homelessness Society

Comox

Amount: \$10,000

Dawn to Dawn: Action on Homelessness Society will use the funding to host a 3 day event in downtown Courtenay in the fall of 2020 which will focus on issues such as homelessness, nutrition, and contemporary art and music, the theme of which will be to create positive outcomes by fostering an open and constructive dialogue between the housed and those who are homeless or at-risk.

Dawn to Dawn: Action on Homelessness Society (Rainbow House)

Comox Valley

Amount: \$15,000

Dawn to Dawn: Action on Homelessness Society will conduct a community-based research project which engages LGBTQ2S+ youth in the feasibility, design and implementation of a housing project from the earliest stages of this project to completion. Rainbow House will provide specialized supports for LGBTQ2S+ youth aged 16 to 28. Recognizing that very few LGBTQ2S+ youth will choose to seek refuge in the shelter system as many youth report discrimination and feelings of greater vulnerability in shelters compared to living rough on the street. This initiative seeks to develop targeted strategies that will help to meet the housing and support needs of the target population in specialized supported housing where they are able to feel safe and comfortable.

Delta Homelessness Committee (Deltassit)

Delta

Amount: \$25,000

Deltassist Family and Community Services Society is looking to achieve a range of goals including the enhanced understanding of the existing and emerging homelessness needs in Delta, responding to gaps in services and supports, building greater community capacity, creating Delta specific solutions to respond to homelessness while addressing further needs as they are identified. Activities will involve interviewing persons with lived and living experience, developing a profile of the homeless and at risk population, developing interventions that can help address the challenges people face, and conducting research to determine successful housing arrangements and partnerships in comparable communities and jurisdictions.

Douglas College Digital Equity Initiative

New Westminster

Amount: \$50,000

Douglas College seeks to develop and implement a 'digital equity initiative' which will include sourcing and cleaning devices, erasing data and installing open source operating systems and applications on smartphones, desktops, laptops and tablets to target the creation and expansion of public wi-fi hot spots and internet provision to those who cannot afford connectivity. In addition, the initiative will create education and training materials, and will build device use to help develop greater community capacity, particularly for digitally excluded populations. Pop up 'tech cafes' will be set up to process and distribute devices, create learning materials, and to develop engagement initiatives and events. A community capacity model will be developed to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the initiative, while the initiative will be evaluated, leading to the preparation of discussion/research papers.

Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society

Vancouver DTES

Amount: \$25,000

The Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society will conduct a preliminary review and feasibility study of a sample of three (3) to five (5) SRO buildings in order to gather the information needed to model a potential RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program) to preserve and protect the existing SRO stock in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The sample of buildings selected could include buildings of different sizes, ages and geographic locations with further consideration being given to buildings in different stages of their economic lifecycle and levels of repair. Documentation of the findings for each of the SROs will include recommendations around key considerations for the design and structure of a program.

DTES SRO Collaborative

Vancouver DTES

Amount: \$25,000

The Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society will create a peer-led evaluation on the use, experiences, successes, challenges and costs and impact of the cellphones which allowed for a peer-to-peer digital network to emerge in the DTES. As well as ensuring that the network is able to continue, the evaluation will seek to steward and sustain a longer-term strategy for achieving digital justice for those who are most vulnerable in society and who view access to cellphones as a necessity rather than a luxury.

Dudes Club

Surrey

Amount: \$25,000

The Dudes Club is looking to conduct a community-based research project that expands the services provided by the DUDES Street Squad both as a geographical footprint within the DTES, as well as by frequency, expanding from 1 day per week to two. The funding will also allow the Society to initiate, train and mentor new Street Squads in communities such as Smithers, Prince George, Terrace and Prince Rupert while engaging many other BC communities which have expressed interest in Street Squad programs.

Dze L Kant Friendship Centre Society

Smithers

Amount: \$50,000

The Town of Smithers is experiencing significant growth and change. While community growth can have a positive impact in terms of the economic impact for the community, this type of growth can have an adverse impact on those who are at the lower end of the housing and income continuum including many members of the Indigenous community who have experienced a long history of discrimination and racism. To this end, the Society will engage partners and the wider community to explore ways the community can come together to work with the Indigenous community to provide a culturally responsive approach to addressing Indigenous homelessness.

Engaged Communities Canada Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$22,625

Through the Connect to Care program, Engaged Communities Canada Society will distribute smartphones to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Surrey area. This will include outreach and engagement with individuals facing greater disconnection to services due to linguistic challenges, lower digital literacy levels, mobility issues, social isolation, transportation barriers or financial hardship. By working directly with individuals facing multiple barriers the goal is to address multiple health inequities in a way that helps to support their individual health and social needs by enabling greater access to health information as well as virtual health and social services. It is anticipated that this initiative will also help to build stronger two-way connections with loved ones and service providers. This digital lifeline will in turn contribute to improved outcomes including greater equity, stability or self-reliance.

FHA Hope/Agassiz Mental Health

Hope/Agassiz

Amount: \$ 1,000

Hope/Agassiz Mental Health provides community-based mental health services for the large geographical area between Boston Bar and Agassiz including Indigenous communities in the area. Many of these individuals have limited financial resources and limited means to access needed supports, and may experience co-occurring medical or psychosocial conditions that contribute to increased vulnerabilities and barriers to access in terms of basic health and social services. Access to smartphones will increase their ability to stay in contact with their health care/support teams when travel is not possible or needed and would also ensure that, in times of crisis, they are able to stay connected to services and supports while reducing the use of limited outreach resources. Access to a phone can also provide support during extreme weather events while providing a reliable means of communication with services providers.

Foundry Abbotsford

Abbotsford

Amount: \$8,000

Foundry Abbotsford is part of a network across BC transforming how youth, 12-24 years old, access support. Our facility brings together primary care, mental health, social services, youth and family peer support and substance use all under one roof. We provide wrap around services in a responsive and client-centered way and are a partnership of 16 programs with Archway Community Services as the lead agency. In 2021, Foundry Abbotsford provided support to over 2,073 youth through 8,691 visits. The focus of the services provided by the Foundry is to improve accessibility of services. Foundry was designed in response to statistics such as less than 50% of youth that reach out for mental health and substance use support services receive the support they need. Through participation of Connect2Care, clients can utilize the phones to access the Foundry Works program which is designed to provide the youth with access to employment and skills training opportunities.

Foundations for Social Change

Vancouver

Amount: \$80,000

(\$10,000 per community nodes)

Foundations for Social Change is interested in expanding their community networks and through the implementation of a community engagement process called 'SEN' (Storytelling, Experience Building, Narrative Inquiry), a process of storytelling which allows deep engagement with participants for building powerful narratives of change. This funding is designed to support the community engagement process across eight community nodes including hosting regular events which employ various methods of engagement (i.e., story forms) to capture stories and experiences of participants. The funding will also enable the hosting of group "sensemaking" sessions to review and interpret stories with the ultimate goal being to cultivate a safe environment to allow for stories to emerge naturally and to channel learnings into actions that address the on-going social inequity that has perpetuated poverty and homelessness. The funding will include \$10,000 for the design of the SEN process itself as well as \$10,000 for each of the seven (7) regional partners who have stepped forward to support this initiative.

Fraser Health – FE RAAC

Chilliwack

Amount: \$12,350

The Indigenous Outreach Team, operating out of the FE Rapid Access to Addictions Care Clinic in Chilliwack provides support to Indigenous individuals within the Fraser Health region who require support around their substance use. Many of those who rely on the services of the FE Rapid Access Addiction Care Clinic struggle with issues of substance misuse and homelessness and frequently do not have a cell phone to coordinate service and access continuous care. Lack of contact can lead to missed health appointments, delayed treatment and detox dates, and risky substance use. The provision of cell phones will provide individuals with connections to crucial resources during the recovery process including access to virtual group therapies, utilization of apps such as LifeGuard, and access to virtual health appointments, while remaining in contact with their family and support networks. Providing cell phones to clients also allows for clients to actively participate in their own care plan which fosters a sense of autonomy and independence and helps build a positive self image.

Fraser Health – Youth Concurrent Disorders Program

Surrey

Amount: \$21,000

The Fraser Health's Youth Concurrent Disorders Program serves 13-24 year-old struggling with moderate to severe mental health and substance use challenges. While resilient and resourceful, these young people can also experience difficulty connecting with many services. As it takes time to build trusting therapeutic relationships, clients who do not have access to working, reliable communication are at a disadvantage. A significant proportion of youth relying on these services are homeless or precariously housed, in Ministry care or recently aged-out of care, and trying to make ends meet on meager income assistance or disability payments. These living conditions lead to phones often being lost, stolen, or sold, which makes it exceedingly difficult for many of these youths to access services and to stay connected. The unprecedented overdose crisis being experienced makes access to basic communication a critical element in the lives of at-risk youth.

Fraser Health Authority – Connect to Care Partnership

Fraser Health Region

Amount: 4 grants each for \$25K

The Fraser Health Authority through its Connect to Care Program will conduct a community-based research project which will use the dissemination of smart phones to promote virtual health equity by connecting people, particularly those from historically marginalized communities, to health and social services from wherever they are. In addition to coordinating the distribution of mobile devices to clients, the FHA will also develop and conduct a project evaluation plan.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) – Youth

Surrey

Amount: \$50,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association will build and expand upon evidence-based intensive transitional housing support to youth at risk of, or experiencing homelessness from an Indigenous approach, including increasing positive outcomes at the individual and systems level. Financial assistance will support the vulnerable, homeless and at-risk youth to navigate independence, build connections, life skills and other supports as they transition from homelessness into the rental housing market.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) – Indigenous Youth

Surrey

Amount: \$50,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is looking to provide financial assistance and support for vulnerable, homeless and at-risk youth as they navigate independence, build connections, and acquire the life skills they will need as they transition from homelessness into the rental housing market. The types of supports provided will include housing search, life skills programs, cultural life skills, tenant literacy skills, increasing of income supports and data collection and reporting for future research.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Provincial

Amount: \$50,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is looking to explore more fully the roles and relationships that Friendship Centres play in addressing Indigenous homelessness including the provision of information and supports, as well as the identification of local strategies and actions that have been designed to prevent and/or reduce homelessness among Indigenous families and individuals across British Columbia.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Fraser Valley

Amount: \$25,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is looking to explore the feasibility, benefits and impacts of using non-traditional sources of supply (i.e. rented or purchased single detached houses) to respond to the shelter and support needs of vulnerable and 'at risk' Indigenous Elders living in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley. This initiative will focus on Indigenous Elders who are homeless, precariously housed and/or at risk of losing their housing and will include consideration of structural, systemic and individual factors.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Fraser Valley

Amount: \$25,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is looking to examine the continuum of housing choices available to Indigenous youth who are homeless or 'at risk' of becoming homeless to build a better understanding of the gaps and pressures within the current system of housing and supports and the impact that this has on the life experiences and life chances of Indigenous families and individuals.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Fraser Valley

Amount: \$25,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) will look at the continuum of housing choices available to Indigenous families who are homeless or 'at risk' of becoming homeless to build a better understanding of the gaps and pressures within the current system of housing and supports and the impact that this has on the life experiences and life chances of Indigenous families and individuals.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Surrey

Amount: \$10,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is interested in exploring opportunities for a mobile doula service which could provide birthing support for young, expectant Indigenous mothers who face highly challenging personal circumstances often in fluid, isolating and medically risky circumstances. In many cases these mothers have few other supports available to rely upon. Many of these young mothers are also at risk of losing their baby because of their precarious circumstances. As a result, this initiative also seeks to provide appropriate bereavement counselling to the young Indigenous women who may lose their baby or feel overwhelmed by their difficult circumstances.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Surrey

Amount: \$10,000

The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) is interested in creating an environment that is based on creating a meaningful, safe and respectful space for Indigenous people to share their perspectives on housing and homelessness. This includes engagement with Elders, families, singles, and Indigenous youth with a focus on learning more about the factors that are shaping their housing choices and the types of services and supports needed to meet their basic needs. This initiative also included engagement with single Indigenous men to learn from others in similar circumstances about different ways to navigate often challenging personal and societal circumstances, as well as to build connections and develop stronger interpersonal and life skills.

Fraser River Indigenous Society

Maple Ridge

Amount: \$600

Fraser River Indigenous Society serves participants in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows including individuals who are homeless, due to systemic or societal barriers, including lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual's/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioral, or physical challenges, and/or racism or discrimination. Individuals may be challenged with chronic homelessness, where they may stay in unsheltered locations, emergency shelters, or stay temporarily with others without guarantee of continued residency. This may include short term rental accommodations (example: hotel) without security of their stay. Individuals without a home struggle with the effects of colonization, trauma and/or whose social, cultural, economic, and political conditions place them in poverty. The provision of cell phones can assist in connecting clients in overcoming barriers to access and to basic needs such as healthcare, food, personal hygiene, clothing/footwear, shelter, laundry service, obtaining their identification (I.D), and public transit.

Free Rein Associates Training LTD

Hope

Amount: \$1,580

Free Rein Associates provides employment training services and resources through collaborative partnerships and is committed to developing the potential in all individuals through providing learner-centred environments, fostering respect and integrity, and through utilizing a holistic approach based on dignity and individual rights. This includes encouraging people to achieve success on their own terms. This program provides wraparound support for people with all types of disabilities in the Fraser Valley, allowing participants to move forward on their path to employment. Our approach works on addressing barriers one at a time. For example, if someone is in need of sustainable housing, we work to support them in addressing that need before providing any job-skills training or pursuing job applications and seek to provide free, customized skills training through our programming. Through this Care Connections project, our goal is to improve access to technology through digital literacy training to empower clients to fully engage the full breadth of services and supports that are available.

Fresh Outlook Foundation

Central Okanagan

Amount: \$25,000

The Fresh Outlook Foundation in partnership with individuals of all ages, cultures, abilities and genders designed and delivered British Columbia's first HEADS UP! Community Mental Health Summit in November, 2020. The goal of this initiative was to create opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and learning about ways to address mental health challenges in our communities in order to build a deeper culture of understanding with regard to the often hidden social challenge of mental health and wellness.

Gitxsan Housing Needs Study

Upper Skeena Region

Amount: \$50,000

Working with Sandra Harris Martin, this initiative is designed to build a deeper understanding of the different housing models including the different types of supports and wrap around services that can help to better meet the needs of Indigenous people living on reserve. Through this research, the focus will be on understanding the different types of housing needs that exist including those that have contributed to high levels of homelessness or housing insecurity among First Nations people. This initiative is designed to focus on developing strategies that help to support the development of culturally responsive approaches for addressing Indigenous homelessness. Through this research, the partners are interested in working across the different communities and community partnerships to develop a more complete picture of housing needs in First Nations communities with a focus on looking at the types of information available to help to provide for a more complete picture of housing needs in First Nations communities. Successful models and practices will be highlighted, while potential opportunities and strategies to take advantage of the new Federal and Provincial funding available to Indigenous communities and partners will be identified.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness will conduct a community-based research project which creates a film documenting a real-time study of a 'self-managed and supported' encampment through the journey of a group of unhoused individuals. The film explores the needs of unsheltered individuals through the lens of the National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada, the BC CDC and the Ministry of Health's 'Response to Homeless Encampment Health Issues in the Context of COVID-19: Guidelines and Best Practices.' A template of best practices and lessons learned will support safe encampments as a temporary measure, as well as assisting in the development of strategies to take beyond encampments.

Green Ground Community Design Society

Salt Spring Island

Amount: \$25,000

The Green Ground Community Design Society will provide more flexible support arrangements to those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in the form of a drop-in service which engages clients through the arts, coaching and job and life skills development. More specifically, the funding will allow for the establishment of a Community Garden project, the launch of the Community Maker Space project, the launch the Community Tool Exchange project while planning for the delivery of an asset-based community development survey.

Helping Spirit Lodge Society – Indigenous Homelessness Women

Vancouver

Amount: \$25,000

The Helping Spirit Lodge Society seeks to address issues of housing instability and homelessness among vulnerable and at-risk Indigenous women experiencing violence by gathering best practices research and lessons learned to identify emerging opportunities and solutions in similar programs from other jurisdictions. Research findings will be used to improve the lived experience of program clients and others in similar circumstances in order to achieve maximum impact with limited resources.

Hollyburn Family Services Society - Youth Homelessness

North Vancouver – Lower Mainland

Amount: \$50,000

In this project, the Hollyburn Family Services Society will conduct a community-based research project to address the needs of vulnerable and at-risk youth with a focus on prevention and gender-specific needs to create a responsive model within youth networks to reduce the risk of homelessness before it happens. The project will include the design of a survey to better understand the housing histories and housing careers of vulnerable and at-risk youth in the Lower Mainland including pathways into and out of homelessness.

Hollyburn Family Services Society—Seniors Homelessness

North Vancouver – Lower Mainland

Amount: \$50,000

The Hollyburn Family Services Society will create a pilot project and seniors housing registry that helps to build connections between single senior homeowners and vulnerable seniors who are at risk of homelessness through economic eviction. The pilot project will explore the potential benefits of establishing a Seniors Roommate Registry (SRMR) as well as identify potential strategies for addressing “at risk” individuals before they become homeless.

Hope for Freedom Society

Port Coquitlam

Amount: \$10,000

The Hope for Freedom Society is seeking the creation of a place to shower in their organization’s office washrooms for those who are homeless in the Tri-Cities area. In so doing, there will be a compounding effect of increasing and enhancing clients’ contact with outreach workers who serve the area which may lead to a further and deeper social reintegration for clients to the services that are available as well as a potential bridge towards wider community connections.

HSA BC

Burnaby

Amount: \$10,000

HSA BC seeks to offer people with lived and living experience (PWLE) the opportunity to highlight their experiences and make contributions to substantive policy and practice through convening a workshop of PWLE at their annual conference. Peers and peer-led groups and organizations will be offered the opportunity to highlight their PWLE-led programs and impacts to help support the development of leading practices for supporting peers. In leading this workshop, a central focus will include inspiring other service providers to develop meaningful opportunities for peers to contribute to and assist in eroding the harmful binary narrative of homelessness services as strictly one of a service provider and service recipient.

Hupacasath First Nation

Port Alberni

Amount: \$25,000

Hupacasath First Nation will develop a demonstration project which will focus on the development of a series of 'housing pods' on land serviced by the City of Port Alberni and BC Housing. Through the development of this housing the goal is to create a welcoming place where all members of the community (especially members from the Hupacasath First Nation) can feel a sense of home. Working with others, this funding is intended to create a 'prototype' for a liveable housing pod that can be tested and that could serve as a potential model to help meet the needs of the 170 people in the City of Port Alberni and the surrounding area who are living without a place to call home.

Hupacasath First Nation

Port Alberni

Amount: \$25,000

Through this funding the Hupacasath First Nation is seeking to create a demonstration project that will offer training for individuals interested in developing new skills in the trades. Through the development and testing of the proposed social enterprise model, the goal is to create a welcoming place where all members of the community, particularly members from the Hupacasath First Nation can feel a sense of home as well as develop new skills through the process. Through the development of the business case, the goal is to "test" whether it would be possible to train individuals in the community to support the development of this housing for others.

Hupacasath First Nation

Port Alberni

Amount: \$25,000

Hupacasath First Nation will use this funding to work in partnership with the Friendship Centre and other key services and supports in the community to explore the types of health and other supports needed to better respond to the needs of those from the Hupacasath First Nation community and who are living without a safe, secure place to call home. This funding will help build a deeper understanding of the existing service needs and service gaps that exist as well as to help identify new pathways forward for the community.

Indigenous Women's Sharing Society

Courtenay

Amount: \$25,000

The Indigenous Women's Sharing Society is seeking to address existing service and support gaps through the provision of outreach and assistance to vulnerable people seeking to maintain their housing or obtain supports, encouraging collaboration with other community partners through participation in/coordination with local action groups, and enhancing community awareness and leading community education efforts which focus on the importance of stable housing in fighting homelessness and supporting harm reduction.

Individualized Funding Resource Centre

Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

With this funding, the Individualized Funding Resource Centre will hire and train a Navigator to assist clients who are full-time wheelchair users in finding accessible, affordable housing in the Metro Vancouver area. The Navigator will determine client eligibility, schedule intake appointments, locate vacant accessible units, review and submit housing applications to housing providers, assist clients in attending interviews and viewing units, and document successes.

INEO Employment Counselling Inc.

Port Alberni

Amount: \$50,000

INEO Employment Counselling Inc. will provide carpentry skills training (classroom and hands-on) for the deconstruction of bed frames and box springs by participants for the re-purposing of the wood into crates, planters, shelves and boxes. The program will offer individuals who are experiencing homelessness an opportunity to gain self-confidence while enhancing their communication and teamwork skills as well as their carpentry skills. Program funds will address barriers to employment such as the purchase of carpentry tools and equipment, renting space for a woodwork shop and hiring a Project Supervisor to oversee the program.

Inspire with Horses Youth Development Society

Kelowna

Amount: \$45,000

Inspire with Horses Youth Development Society will use this funding to work with marginalized youth (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) to provide a safe place to learn skills, build relationships as well as develop a sense of achievement. Through participation in this program, youth between the ages of 15 and 25 are given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and confidence as well as develop new skills, return to school, or pursue other opportunities that are meaningful and important to them and their development. This funding will allow for the program to be expanded to offer opportunities to a larger group of at-risk youth.

Island Crisis Care Society

Nanaimo

Amount: \$25,000

Island Crisis Care Society will create a program to help individuals gain meaningful training and support related to 'pre-employment', helping them gain the skills, confidence, and capacity to take future steps to remove barriers to employment and achieve greater social integration. The program works with Island Crisis Care Society Supportive Housing Program Participants and volunteers to make and sell various handmade items online and through community markets and "pop-up" stores.

John Howard Society of British Columbia

Vancouver

Amount: \$10,000

The John Howard Society of British Columbia is conducting a community-based research project that undertakes the striking of a leadership summit for government, non-profit, Indigenous and community groups to meet to discuss and find ways to address the issues, challenges and service gaps facing homeless individuals across B.C.

John Howard Society of Victoria

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

The John Howard Society of Victoria will use this funding to create a social enterprise café and teaching kitchen as part of a mixed-use affordable housing project to provide jobs and skills training to clients as a means to reduce the risk of homelessness due to lack of employment for individuals leaving correctional facilities. Other benefits will include the augmentation of important domestic skills and the sense of socialization and achievement that comes from gaining some mastery over a useful skill.

John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay

Kelowna

Amount: \$20,000

The John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay is seeking to operate and scale up the organization's Managed Alcohol Program, a person-focused, evidence-based, harm reduction program that helps participants manage their alcohol intake while minimizing personal harm and adverse societal effects of severe alcohol dependence. The funding provided through this initiative will support expansion of the program to include additional qualifying clients. Research designed to assess the health benefits and positive changes in the lives of participants will be part of the key areas of focus for this research.

John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay

Kelowna

Amount: \$20,000

The John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay will use this funding to create meaningful employment training opportunities through the provision of low barrier access to employment. In designing this initiative, the goal is to address the unique employment and employability needs and challenges of those who rely on the services of John Howard Society of the Okanagan and Kootenay. A safe and respectful workplace which addresses issues of cultural awareness, mental health, and first aid/CPR training will be provided, while training and supervision will be offered to peers participating in the program. The benefits of access to this program will help to inform the final outcome report.

Journey Home Community Association

Burnaby

Amount: \$25,000

The Journey Home Community Association will develop a community engagement kit and social media strategy designed to build increased awareness around the specific housing needs of refugee claimants and their families as well as provide for an expanded range of housing choices for a vulnerable population with few options within a highly competitive housing market.

Journey Home Community Association

Metro Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

The Journey Home Community Association will seek to develop a Refugee Claimant Reception Centre to provide short-term housing, basic orientation and referrals in order that arriving refugee claimants can immediately begin their settlement process. This will help to prevent homelessness by diverting individuals and families away from shelters not equipped to meet their settlement needs and where family members are often separated from each other. In addition to the design and development of a refugee claimant reception centre, the initiative entails the development and deployment of a case management system and the planning, design and implementation of a social media awareness campaign.

Journey Home Community Association

Burnaby

Amount: \$25,000

Through this initiative, Journey Home Community Association will work with the private development community to identify vacant properties that can be used as interim housing for refugee claimants. The research will include information on different opportunities that have been identified within the Lower Mainland. Key work program elements will include a business case analysis in terms of creating affordable rental housing, the purchase and costing of furniture for the different suites as well as post occupancy evaluation/feedback from refugee claimants who have been able to secure access to this housing on their journey to more permanent housing.

Journey Home Community Association

Burnaby

Amount: \$25,000

Journey Home Community Association is interested in building the business case for creating employment for refugee claimants using a social enterprise model that is designed to provide training to refugee claimants in helping to provide moving services and other supports to individuals in establishing their new home in Canada. The report will include information on the different opportunities identified including the business case analysis as well as the types of partnerships and supports that could not only provide refugee claimants success in their new homes but that could also support their inclusion in the work force.

Kamloops Arts Council

Kamloops

Amount: \$22,000

Kamloops Arts Council will provide marginalized people in the community the opportunity to think creatively through the opportunity to participate in art workshops. Throughout these workshops the goal is to build trust and to support individuals in their personal health and wellness. This initiative will also seek to build connections with people working in local service agencies as well as members of the wider community. In addition to training instructors, procuring supplies for the workshops, the funding will also train instructors to work with at-risk community members including the development of potential strategies that can help to create a safe and respectful environment which builds confidence and provides at-risk individuals with new skills.

Kinbrace Community Society -- Refugee Housing and Support

Metro Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

In this work, Kinbrace Community Society is working towards the removal of key barriers that refugee claimants face in achieving financial mobility in Canada. Specifically, Kinbrace will work to bring together refugee claimants, employers, employment specialists and coaches, settlement agencies, employment related associations, and others to create discussions and action plans to help break down employment barriers within a series of Employment Roundtables; create a Refugee Claimant Opportunities Pool as a centralized repository of employment, volunteering, networking, and educational opportunities targeted for refugee claimants. This initiative will also focus on providing support in recertifying, reskilling, and upskilling refugee claimants.

Kinbrace Community Society -- Refugee Housing and Supports

Metro Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

In this work, Kinbrace Community Society is seeking to develop an employment program that will help refugee claimants living at Kinbrace to exit homelessness and secure a permanent home through employment support using the principle that helping secure employment and study income reduces homelessness and increases long-term housing stability. This initiative will include the collection of employment resources for refugee claimants, identification of gaps in employment resources, the development of an employment program, the development and testing of employment readiness, expectations and placement pool materials, translation of essential employment program materials for refugee claimants, outreach and knowledge transfer to other refugee serving organizations, and an evaluation of the program.

Kootenay Boundary Supported Recovery Program

Nelson

Amount: \$10,000

The Kootenay Boundary Supported Recovery Program will work towards the prevention of homelessness through the purchase of addictions recovery software to improve the consistency and quality of support for live-in program participants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The purchase and implementation of the “My Recovery Plan” software will allow the organization to focus on the prevention of homelessness through the improvements the software will offer in the consistency and quality of support that will be provided for live-in program participants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Lookout Housing and Health Society

New Westminster

Amount: \$45,000

Lookout Housing and Health Society will conduct a community-based research project which will help to increase housing retention and quality of life for those living with Hoarding Disorder in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. This will be done through the use of a harm reduction approach which assists participants in reducing clutter while changing the discourse around this issue, and offering alternative intervention options to service providers. Activities involved will include training staff on use of harm reduction and Trauma Informed Practice in addressing Hoarding Disorder, engaging and educating participants on clutter reduction and fire safety, development and implementation of a tracking system in partnership with UBC, and the convening of partnership advisory meetings and community roundtable events.

Lookout Housing and Health Society

Surrey

Amount: \$7,000

Through this funding opportunity, Lookout Housing and Health Society will provide life skills and work readiness support to clients facing homelessness and/or mental health and addictions challenges through the *On Your Feet* laundry service peer program within their shelter. Through this initiative, the goal is to support clients in developing a greater sense of responsibility and accountability while motivating them to strive for greater independence, earn income and develop a sense of community involvement.

Lookout Housing and Health Society (Peer Led Homelessness Research)

Surrey/Langley

Amount: \$50,000

This initiative is designed to recruit and engage individuals with lived/living experience in the design of a peer-led homelessness research project and survey intended to provide a deeper understanding of homelessness based on the experiences of those with lived/living experience. This initiative will be delivered in partnership with DOPERS (Diverse Organization Providing Education and Regional Services) with Lookout Housing and Health Society acting as the trustee organization. The feedback and insights gained through this process will be used to guide and inform future planning and policy development.

Lookout Housing and Health Society (Out of the Cold)

Surrey/Langley

Amount: \$50,000

This initiative is designed to support an “Out of the Cold Arts Group” which will include weekly art creation sessions to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in developing their voice and by providing an outlet for their creativity through supporting the implementation and showcasing of a peer art collective body of work. The funding will support regular gatherings in two (2) locations – Langley and Surrey-- and is intended to help build a deeper sense of inclusion and engagement among individuals with a history of lived/living experience of homelessness.

Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society (LCCDTS)

Trail

Amount: \$10,000

The Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society (LCCDTS) is undertaking a community engagement process designed to support the collection and presentation of research and evidence needed to demonstrate need and to facilitate the development of supportive housing within the City of Trail. This will entail the collection of need and demand data (including effective presentation tools), community and stakeholder engagement meetings and presentations, and the introduction of a Working Committee looking at how to support BC Housing owned and operated supportive housing.

Lu'ma Native Housing Society

Vancouver, BC

Amount: \$50,000

Through this funding, Lu'ma Native Housing Society will develop and support an outreach strategy for Indigenous people who are living in Oppenheimer Park in order to ensure that they have access to the services and supports they need while strengthening and re-building their connections with their own home communities/people. This will involve building connections with the organizations and services working with those living in Oppenheimer Park to identify potential supports that can be provided while learning more about the housing and homelessness history of residents living in the Park. Lu'ma will also reach out to the Ahousaht First Nation to help support the efforts of the AFN to create an Urban Indigenous Homelessness Strategy.

Lu'ma Native Housing Society

Vancouver, BC

Amount: \$10,000

Lu'ma Native Housing Society will establish a Bus Ticket Program to offer tenants in the Society's modular housing the opportunity to access medical appointments, attend court dates, commute to educational institutions and run personal errands with a sense of dignity, and without fear of being poorly treated and/or ejected from public transit.

Lush Valley Food Action Society

Courtenay

Amount: \$25,000

Working with community partners to recruit participants, Lush Valley Food Action Society will provide high quality, nutritious, 'Good Food Boxes' to individuals dealing with housing insecurity. The goal is to provide them with dignified access to healthy food while providing them with a sense of caring, nurturing, well-being, and connection. Through this initiative, the goal is to support positive physical and mental health outcomes, strengthened community connection and a decreased sense of isolation. The program will engage some of the participants to work in the community garden/warehouse. Through this program, a new narrative will be developed which values food-systems solutions as a way to strengthen community and decrease isolation. As well, this initiative will focus on the different ways that community partners can come together to contribute to improved mental and physical well-being while meeting basic survival needs. A survey of participants will be conducted regarding food security challenges and current food access as well as program impacts.

Lush Valley Food Action Society

Courtenay

Amount: \$25,000

Lush Valley Food Action Society will provide high quality, nutritious, ‘Good Food Boxes’ to individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. The goal is to provide dignified access to healthy food in collaboration with warming centres and social housing sites while engaging in action research to understand current costs of nutritious food and gaps in service in the community. As well as offering a larger sense of caring, well-being and connection to vulnerable and at-risk community members and supporting positive physical and mental health outcomes, this initiative will work toward the development of a new narrative that values food-systems solutions as a way to deal with complex issues. Anticipated outcomes include a strengthened sense of community, decreased isolation, and improved mental and physical well-being.

Maxxine Wright Community Health Centre

Surrey

Amount: \$25,000

Maxxine Wright Community Health Centre (MWCHC) provides services to pregnant and early parenting women whose lives are impacted by substance use and/or violence/abuse. These women live with complexities that make getting medical care a challenge. These challenges include poverty, lack of childcare, lack of transportation, living with violent partners, sex work, and previous experiences of stigma from health care providers. Many clients have no contact information due to homelessness or not having a phone. Providing a smartphone would ensure numerous benefits for these clients including the ability to book and confirm appointments, have telephone or virtual visits with care providers, access the internet for education resources and tools and increased access to their children if and when the children are not in the mother’s care, arrange visits with foster parents/social workers, or simply to talk with their children.

McCreary Centre Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

McCreary Centre Society will conduct a survey of homeless and street involved youth (HSIYS) to gather up-to-date, relevant, and accurate information on the needs, barriers, and supports experienced by BC youth who are homeless, inadequately housed, or who have recently exited homelessness. Through this research, the goal is to help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness that many vulnerable and at-risk youths experience. This initiative will involve youth with living/lived experience of homelessness in the design, delivery, analysis, and dissemination of the research. The proposed research approach and methodology will build community capacity to respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports to enable positive policy change for individuals experiencing homelessness with a focus on street involved youth in BC. The findings will be shared widely within BC to help to shape policy and practice to support the development of strategies that enable youth experiencing homelessness to thrive and to identify strategies and initiatives to help increase their likelihood of exiting homelessness.

McCreary Centre Society – TRUST Collective Impact

Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

Working in partnership with the McCreary Centre Society, this initiative is designed to look at the types of supports that are needed to ensure a successful transition for youth aging out of care. This initiative will build on the capacity of TRUST partner agencies to provide comprehensive support to youth at risk of homelessness or those who are experiencing homelessness with a focus on addressing gaps in the current continuum of housing supports. This initiative is also intended to help build community capacity in a way that ensures that vulnerable and ‘at risk’ youth are connected to stable and safe housing, This initiative is also designed to explore the different types of housing and support arrangements in place from foster homes to group homes to Youth Agreements with a focus on understanding the different ways that these programs help to support youth in making a successful transition.

Megatech Distribution Inc.

Richmond

Amount: \$25,000

Megatech Distribution Inc. will develop a prototype of a containerized, mobile homeless/emergency shelter solution which is quick to deploy, easily to re-locate, scalable, and cost efficient. In undertaking this initiative, the focus is on helping to change the community narrative on homelessness by having fewer people living in tents in parks and on the streets.

Mennonite Central Committee
Abbotsford
Amount: \$25,000

The Mennonite Central Committee wishes to test the feasibility of the Circle of Friends (COF) model to facilitate community inclusion for those transitioning out of homelessness by conducting weekly meetings of social activities between persons with lived experience and community volunteers in which positive connections can be built and personal resilience can be enhanced. This initiative will entail engaging in interviews with community partners, as well as conducting focus groups with individuals with lived experience to allow them an opportunity to share their experiences and successes.

Mission Possible
Vancouver DTES
Amount: \$25,000

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society is seeking to prevent homelessness through providing support for emergency housing needs for those at risk. Specifically, the Society will retain a Housing Support Coordinator who will provide support for participants to reach their housing goals via a person-centred approach, build and expand partnerships with housing providers, and evaluate the housing needs of participants to best ensure that the services and supports are in full alignment with the existing needs of clients.

Mountainside Harm Reduction Society
Chilliwack
Amount: \$35,000

Mountainside Harm Reduction Society is interested in expanding their Connect2Care Cell Phone Program to include the activation and distribution of cell phones and top-up minutes through the network of provincial peer support workers. This network is exclusively organized by people who use drugs and for whom concerns about the toxic drug supply is a lived reality. Through their initial outreach and engagement they found that access to basic communication was an important part of the overdose prevention and response system. In addition to the distribution of the cell phones, Mountainside Harm Reduction Society is committed to providing on-going monitoring, engagement, and research support. Documentation of the potential benefits and limitations of the current plan will be conducted based on the experiences and stories of those receiving the phones.

Network of Inner-City Community Services Society (NICCSS)

Vancouver DTES

Amount: \$50,000

The Network of Inner City Community Services Society (NICCSS) is looking to create an SRO habitability and tenant well-being hub that will help to reduce isolation and increase connection to services for SRO tenants; strengthen housing policies designed to maintain affordability and prevent the loss of the SRO housing stock; strengthen collaboration and communication among SRO tenants, community partners and funders in the DTES to improve the conditions in the SRO housing stock; and support a higher quality of life and an improved and enhanced well-being for SRO residents.

New Leaf Project Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

This initiative is designed to empower individuals to move beyond homelessness by working in partnership with others to support individuals experiencing homelessness to have the choice, control and purchasing power that they need at a critical time in their life. This research relies on the use of both a person-centred and evidence-based approach for addressing homelessness with the goal of empowering individuals to make the choices they need to gain stability and self-sufficiency and to fully realize their potential.

New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society

New Westminster

Amount: \$15,000

The New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society is interested in developing a Strategic Plan designed to clearly articulate priorities to be addressed as well as the Society's role in articulating strategies for moving forward. The Society is also interested in the development of an online presence that is both informative and engaging. The proposed initiative will seek to leverage knowledge and action by building capacity within the Society and across the broader community. This initiative is also designed to build community support around existing and emerging needs.

North Island Metis Association

Campbell River

Amount: \$25,000

Through this funding, North Island Metis Association will engage in a community consultation and engagement process designed to learn more about the specific needs of housing insecure members of their community with a focus on building a deeper understanding of the existing and emerging housing needs among Metis people and some of the challenges Metis people face. This initiative will include the communities of Campbell River, Gold River, Sayward, Port McNeill, Port Alice and Port Hardy as well as the smaller surrounding islands including Quadra and Cortes Island. The funding will support the recruitment of a Project Coordinator to help lead this initiative. As part of the engagement process, a key outcome will focus on the development of a survey instrument that can be used to offer insights into Metis individuals and families who are experiencing housing insecurity and who are at increased risk of becoming homeless.

North Park Neighbourhood Association

Victoria

Amount: \$22,000

The North Park Neighbourhood Association is looking to address the needs of vulnerable and at risk community members by supplying them with the supports they need while living rough. Services and supports provided to unhoused individuals will involve an initial needs identification of unhoused residents to be followed by the purchase and distribution of supplies, all while creating and maintaining a list of items purchase/donated and distributed to the unhoused individuals.

North Shore Homelessness Task Force (c/o District of North Vancouver)

North Vancouver

Amount: \$25,000

The North Shore Homelessness Task Force is developing a community-informed plan and strategy for reducing the impacts of homelessness and the closely associated challenge of poverty on the North Shore. The initiative will help to ensure that those who are homeless and 'at risk' of homelessness have access to the types of services and supports they need and will include extensive community consultation to ensure all perspectives are identified. Efforts will also be taken to secure other funding opportunities for addressing homelessness on the North Shore.

Northern Network of Peers for Equality

Quesnel

Amount: \$25,000

The Northern Network of Peers for Equality will apply the funds to employ two (2) peer system navigators to support participants across a range of needs including accessing health and social systems, opening drop-in space in the evening, especially during the winter months, building relationships with partners in the community and providing hygiene products, food, socks and clothing for winter conditions, all while promoting a philosophy of decreasing substance use with the goal of stabilizing the body.

OHEART Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Response Team

Parksville

Amount: \$50,000

OHEART Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Response Team is looking to activate a community-based response to address the urgent needs of the homeless in the reality of the COVID-19 emergency and to work together with local government and other partners to jointly develop a plan to ensure that the necessary services and supports are in place to fully meet the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless including a 24 hour shelter, second stage housing and addiction/recovery spaces.

Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs

Kelowna

Amount \$50,000

The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs will hire a Program Coordinator and Case Manager to run a program called Upstream Kelowna which seeks to prevent youth homelessness and school disengagement using a universal screening tool to identify students who may be at risk before crisis hits, and to intervene with supports that build resilience for youth and families. The strategy will involve the identification of key partners and stakeholders, implementation of student needs assessment with Grade 8 students, survey analysis including identification of at-risk students. Supports for at risk students will be matched to the appropriate partner for service delivery. An evaluation of the initiative will be conducted involving the collection of feedback and data to evaluate successes, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Okanagan Boys and Girls Club

Kelowna

Amount \$15,000

The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs is seeking to enhance protective factors against homelessness for youth aged 13-24 who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness by maintaining and enhancing safety within their families and in the natural support systems in their lives and in the community. The Shelter Diversion strategy showcased in this approach has changed the narrative around youth homelessness by focussing on preventing entry into the homeless-serving system--the most critical moment for young people--through the enhancement of protective measures. These measures will include: an increase in staff shelter hours to a total of 6 hours per day, 7 days a week, an increase in access to shelter diversion services, the increase in community awareness, and the tracking and analysis of the data to determine the success of the initiative amongst community stakeholders and potential funders.

Options Community Services

Surrey

Amount: \$25,000

Options Community Services is looking to conduct a community-based research project which will help build capacity at the local level in responding to existing and emerging needs through the conduct of a thematic analysis of gaps and barriers as well as antecedents to housing and health services for the homeless population in an effort to redesign approaches to case management for the homeless population. Project deliverables will include the collection and thematic analysis of data, validation of the data findings, the convening of a town hall to present the findings, and the use of the findings to help inform new service delivery practices.

Options Community Services

Surrey

Amount: \$10,000

Options Community Services will conduct a community-based research project which will help empower homeless clients by providing them with the access and tools needed to create/articulate a personal narrative. Specifically, this will be achieved by training clients on the use of cameras and by compiling their photos and stories in a hardcover book which will be produced and published. The project will involve the purchase and distribution of cameras to clients, workshops for clients on the use of the equipment and project framework, selection of photos and creation of accompanying narrative to animate and bring photos to life, and individual liaising with clients to help animate the production and publishing of the hardcover book.

Peer2Peer Indigenous Coalition

Victoria, BC

Amount: \$25,000

Peer2Peer Indigenous Coalition seeks to increase their mobile outreach team by hiring 2 more employees for a pilot project in which the unhoused Indigenous population in Downtown Victoria and the neighbouring parks will be offered food, harm reduction, blankets, and tents. In addition to the purchase and offer of food, harm reduction supplies, hygiene products, tents and blankets. This initiative will also focus on Naloxone and first aid training for employees to help respond to emerging crisis situations.

Phoenix Society – Addiction/Recovery

Surrey

Amount: \$50,000

The Phoenix Society will explore opportunities to offer a supportive program for learning and acquiring life skills which would enable individuals with a history of homelessness and addictions-related challenges to successfully transition to housing in the private market. The initiative will build on the successful “ready-to-rent” model but will be targeted to the specific needs of individuals with addictions with the underlying objective being to support individuals as they transition to stable community living.

Pivot Legal Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$25,000

Pivot Legal Society will offer legal research services and advocacy to strengthen the human rights of people who experience discrimination based on their social condition, including the consideration and framing of homelessness through the conduct of a stigma audit of municipal bylaws and the development of a user-friendly stigma auditing tool. Pivot will also use the funding to achieve broader community goals through the conduct of legal education, meeting with grassroots and peer-led organizations to collect data, conducting interviews with media, developing a public awareness campaign, and engaging in written advocacy including blogs, press releases and letters to government.

Realistic Success Recovery Society

Surrey

Amount: \$15,000

The Realistic Success Recovery Society will seek to demonstrate the social benefits and contributions that recovery houses play in breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness among men with a history of addictions and who have experience in the criminal justice system related to their addictions. The research will involve a series of intake and exit surveys that capture information on the history of homelessness of men with addiction and will document the benefits of access to supportive recovery services.

Rent Smart Education and Support Society

Victoria

Amount: \$10,000

Rent Smart Education and Support Society will explore and design a deeper understanding of the core housing needs and different housing models that might better meet the needs of First Nations community members experiencing homelessness including the development of culturally responsive approaches that could help to alleviate Indigenous homelessness. This will be accomplished by way of a research process which will include the design and administration of a survey tool, the conduct of a series of focus groups, analysis of the data findings and the production of a final report of findings and a set of recommendations to emerge from the needs assessment.

Revelstoke Community Connections

Revelstoke

Amount: \$10,000

Revelstoke Community Connections will retain an Emergency Shelter Program Coordinator to support their Emergency Housing and Resource Fund delivered in partnership with the City of Revelstoke, the Revelstoke Community Foundation, and the Revelstoke Credit Union. This initiative supports individuals who are living outdoors and who require shelter during the coldest times of the year. The fund will also be used to provide winter coats, boots, transportation, as well as temporary shelter and other supports needed to help to alleviate the challenges experienced by individuals who have nowhere to live. In addition to meeting the immediate basic survival needs, this initiative will also seek to build connections to community resources and support services which help to provide long-term stability. Extensive outreach and engagement will be undertaken with a focus on building rapport along with the identification of potential supports available to respond to needs in the community.

Richmond Public Library

Richmond

Amount: \$5,000

Richmond Public Library will establish a pilot for an ID clinic to assist those experiencing homelessness or poverty by replacing copies of their missing or stolen identification. By waiving or paying the fees to re-establish ID for homeless individuals, this initiative will reduce barriers to housing, healthcare and employment opportunities, and other services. This initiative will also offer free legal help to those who have more complicated issues while working to break down barriers across the wider community. In undertaking this initiative, the over-riding goal is to ensure that those with a history of lived/living experience of homelessness feel a deeper sense of welcoming and inclusion.

Ridge Meadows Seniors Society

Maple Ridge

Amount: \$24,610

The Ridge Meadows Seniors Society (RMSS) is a one-stop access point, building a peer community filled with a number of supports to aid seniors' independence through two centres, one in Maple Ridge and one in Pitt Meadows. The Outreach Department provides support for seniors who may be at risk due to a critical or impending change in their life situation such as an upcoming eviction, loss of income, or difficulties within their home setting such as abuse and isolation. Through outreach coordination and caregiver connection, the goal is to meet with individuals, families and/or caregivers to help identify potential strategies to strengthen connection to services through improved digital equity. This includes improved access to health-related services (hospitalization and virtual medical appointments) as well as food, housing, and basic transportation services.

Sage Nation Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$25,000

Sage Nation Society wishes to assist in helping youth aging out of care & elders aging in care to connect to the services they require which include housing, income assistance, employment and cultural support. This will involve a process which will include engaging in focus group discussions with the key target populations, conducting workshop for elders to learn about their housing, income, health and support needs. This initiative will also engage in the collection of information on gaps in services in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, conducting interviews/survey of staff in agencies working in the Downtown Eastside. Through this initiative, the goal is to conduct workshops with stakeholders to share data and findings on Indigenous youth and elders, and to engage with health care providers to discuss ways to address the gaps identified.

Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society

Salt Spring Island

Amount: \$30,000

The Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society is seeking to build a more complete understanding of rural homelessness including the development of meaningful measures and indicators that help to add to the depth of understanding of the specific needs in rural communities while identifying solutions and opportunities for action in a rural context.

Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society

Salt Spring Island

Amount: \$25,000

Salt Spring Island has a large and growing homeless population. In working with the community, the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Island Community Services Society, identified more than 89 individuals who were ‘living rough’ and who did not have access to adequate and appropriate housing. In responding to this need, the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society initiated a process to work with each of the individuals to help them to make the transition to stable and permanent housing with the objective being to use this funding to “help them to write the next chapter of their story”. This initiative will help to provide additional information as to the types of housing and supports that are available as well as the types of supports individuals need to help to break the cycle of homelessness.

Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society

Salt Spring Island

Amount: \$10,000

The Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society is seeking to build a deeper understanding of the impacts of the dislocation and movement of people experiencing homelessness as local governments develop targeted strategies to house people currently living rough in homeless encampments. This research will help to provide insights into the demographic profile and history of homelessness, as well as kinds of patterns of relocation and displacement that people experiencing homelessness are likely to adopt to accommodate to these shifting circumstances.

Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society

Salt Spring Island

Amount: \$35,000

The Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society is seeking to provide practical, hands on, in person assistance for marginalized, low-income individuals to access complicated and confusing government programs and services that often require technological resources, skills and literacy. The provision of these supports will help to enhance the stability and independence of the clients in the community. These various processes will include services and areas such as tax filing, applying for social assistance or PWD assistance, obtaining or replacing personal identification documents, completing rental assistance documents or tenancy agreements, completing job applications, and completing paperwork for many other benefits including child tax benefits, old age security and COVID-related benefits.

Salvation Army Ocean Crest Ministry

Campbell River

Amount: \$12,000

The Salvation Army Ocean Crest Ministry will lead the development and implementation of a community-based housing case management system in order to create an effective response in providing a continuum of housing services while identifying and addressing service gaps. The larger goal is to decrease duplication and honour the value of recipients' time and energy, particularly in the area of information gathering. Specific activities will include the identification of potential participants and the types of privacy regulations which apply, establishment of a working group from participating agencies and people with lived experience, investigation of secure, web-based technology/software, the needs the software must address, selection and installation of software, and the training of system users in use of the software.

Salvation Army Alberni Valley Ministries

Port Alberni

Amount: \$50,000

The Salvation Army Alberni Valley Ministries is looking to create a comprehensive service map of all community resources related to homelessness and related issues and services, as well as identifying key service gaps. The service map will include the resources available to homeless individuals in Port Alberni, Vancouver Island and across the Province and will include 'journey maps' to identify ways to support individuals in finding housing and treatment beds, as well as connecting to other available services.

Seabird Island Band

Agassiz

Amount: \$9,920

This initiative will provide services to 106 Elders in the Seabird Island Community as well as 15 Elders who live nearby in Hope, Agassiz, Harrison, and Chilliwack. Most of the Elders either have a landline and/or a mobile phone, however, there is a small group of fifteen (15) Elders who face barriers in terms of access to basic communication. Since most of these individuals can't afford cell phone or data plans, access to basic smartphones will help the Elders connect with family, friends and health care providers, and to arrange home supports. The connectivity will also help to reduce the level of social isolation.

See Spring Mental Wellness Coalition

Victoria

Amount: \$25,000

See Spring Mental Wellness Coalition, an Indigenous-led organization, will work with unhoused First nations, Inuit, Metis people who are experiencing a mental health breakdown by running a warm line where individuals in distress can receive a positive, empathic intervention before more traumatic interventions including the police or bylaw enforcement. In particular, funds will be used to hire and train outreach workers on harm reduction including Naloxone training, teaching volunteers about the peer curriculum and expanding services to the Greater Victoria area. The funding will also enable the expansion of services to seven days per week while advancing and supporting cultural awareness practices and assisting unhoused Indigenous people who are experiencing challenges navigating the system. This includes assistance with applying for housing, obtaining or replacing photo ID, and accessing mental health services.

Semiahmoo House Society

Surrey

Amount Requested: \$4,340

This initiative will help to provide people with developmental disabilities (PWD) with better access to health and social services by providing access to virtual care, thereby offering them greater control over their lives. Through access to basic digital equity, the goal is to increase access to mental health supports in the [UNITI] community; while offering greater opportunities to connect with people and services in their community. Many individuals with developmental disabilities have limited access to computers, limited prior access to technology and limited opportunity to securely access private virtual services and are often excluded from accessing services in a technology driven world. Through access to smartphones, UNITI Digital Literacy Training Program (UDLTP), will use a “nothing about us without us” and a person-centered approach to engage users with UDLTP going at the pace of the slowest learner to build tailored experiences that meet the individual’s needs. A person-centered approach will be used with all materials being in plain language and catering to different ways of learning and understanding.

Seniors Services Society of BC

New Westminster

Amount: \$35,000

The Seniors Services Society of BC will engage in collaborative solutions to ensure that vulnerable and low-income seniors in Metro Vancouver have access to affordable housing and integrated supports that meet their health and housing needs. Seniors with lived experience will be engaged as advisors while representation of racialized, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+ seniors and veterans, including seniors who have experienced family violence and mental health challenges will be engaged to ensure that the programs, services, and supports that are provided respond to community needs. This project will promote diversity, inclusivity, and intergenerational connection in affordable and sustainable multi-unit rental housing to address immediate needs and contribute to the creation of healthy and sustainable communities.

SHARE Family and Community Services Society

Coquitlam

Amount: \$25,000

SHARE works to connect, engage, and strengthen individuals and families. For 50 years, SHARE has provided community-based programs and services to the community including food bank services, counselling services, affordable housing, as well as support for seniors, newcomers and refugees. Share also provides services for children and youth with special needs and supports for seniors and individuals living in poverty. Through the provision of services, SHARE is committed to supporting families and individuals through periods of vulnerability through wrap-around services. Access to computers, home broadband internet and mobile devices remains out of the financial reach of many Tri-Cities residents and SHARE clients. One of the challenges this barrier creates is access to health and social services. Individuals with a smartphone can be reached more consistently by their care provider, can access important information about health emergencies and receive mental health and substance use support. Participation in Connect2Care and access to smartphones will help clients get enhanced access to medical care and information while breaking down barriers to equitable access to services.

Skwah First Nation

Chilliwack

Amount: \$25,000

The Skwah First Nation seeks to provide a safe space for comfort and engagement, as well as better access to supports with a focus on individuals who are homeless and facing homelessness. This initiative will focus on supporting individuals through the cold, rainy season by helping them to build a greater sense of self-esteem and a sense of family and community. Through this funding, the focus will be on the construction of two (2) firm, fire-proof, tin roof structures to provide cover and ensure populations and trailers can stay dry in rainy conditions.

Skwah First Nation

Chilliwack

Amount: \$25,000

The Skwah First Nation will use this funding to undertake a large geographic study of chronic homelessness, including the multi-faceted nature of homelessness as it relates to the vulnerable and at-risk populations that are part of the community. Through the collection and analysis of different sources of data and information, this initiative will focus on solutions that support the dignity and well-being of community members and that contribute to a deeper understanding of homelessness. This initiative will include the development and administration of a survey that will be sent to over 450 individuals across a minimum of eight (8) Indigenous communities with the information gathered to be used in the development of targeted homelessness strategies and supports. It will also involve conducting a series of town hall meetings to hear from those living in poverty and to discuss solutions to homelessness with the findings to be used to engage FNHA and others in the development of a strategic plan to address the crisis of Indigenous homelessness.

Skwah First Nation

Chilliwack

Amount: \$25,000

The Skwah First Nation will use this funding to work towards the provision of supports and wellness packages including additional supports for “free food stores”. This will help to build community capacity by reaching out to vulnerable individuals to offer support in a number of areas in and outside the community. Specific actions will focus on the provision of food through the free food store including hiring and supporting peer leaders to assist with the outreach and engagement components of the strategy.

SMH ED and Forensics

Surrey

Amount: \$24,216

Surrey Memorial Hospital [SMH] Emergency Department [ED] is the largest emergency department by size and volume per patient visits annually. SMH ED serves a cross section of patients including a large proportion of individuals who are experiencing homelessness. In some cases, they are the victims of human trafficking. Many of these patients do not have the financial means to access smartphones or many of the basic necessities of life such as adequate and nutritious food, shelter, clean water, and security. Providing access to basic smart phone technology will offer these patients the means for timely follow up care and will help to prevent future returns to the Emergency Department. By providing access to basic communication, the goal is to provide these patients with equitable access to community services and to help develop ongoing relationships crucial for the patients’ well-being.

The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby

Burnaby

Amount: \$10,000

The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby is looking to hire an artist to draw portraits of people below the poverty line while listening to their stories. Much of the trauma and disorientation of homelessness can stem from a loss of identity and voice. This Portrait Project will give them a chance to regain some of who they are through being seen in their portrait and being heard through the stories that they share. The portraits (along with important elements of their story) will be displayed in a gallery during Homelessness Awareness Week, as well as being archived as part of an ongoing display.

Sooke Shelter Society

Sooke

Amount: \$22,000

The Sooke Shelter Society is looking to develop a multi-year strategic plan this winter/spring which will seek to ensure sustainable support services, secure & appropriate housing, advocacy & awareness, prevention and effective collaboration & leadership in its ongoing effort to address the needs of people who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless in the Sooke Region. This will entail the identification of activities, program and initiatives for strategy review, the preparation of a report for the steering committee and a consultation document concerning the mechanisms of strategy implementation, and the implementation of the strategy including a report back on the progress of strategy implementation.

Sooke Homelessness Coalition

Sooke

Amount: \$15,000

Sooke Homelessness Coalition will conduct a consultation process towards the preparation of a comprehensive strategy to end homelessness in Sooke. The process will engage representatives of several local and Greater Victoria agencies concerned with homelessness in an effort to achieve compassionate and full access to support services, the provision of a growing supply of safe, affordable and person-centred housing, a robust system of advocacy and awareness, and the idea of the prevention of homelessness through inclusive, wraparound support services for at-risk individuals.

Sources Community Resources Society

Surrey

Amount: \$50,000

Sources Community Resources Society is undertaking a project to understand the different factors leading to increased levels of housing instability for families and individuals living in Surrey with a focus on developing different approaches and paths of action to provide for increased levels of stability among low income and vulnerable households living in Surrey. This initiative will also explore the potential impact of the pandemic with a focus on collecting housing and client data both before and after the emergences of the coronavirus.

SPIRIT

Vancouver, DTES

Amount: \$25,000

SPIRIT is looking to enhance the Food Service Program through the delivery of more meals to homeless people. There will be a compounding effect of this food security initiative including training and greater access to clients in terms of personal and career development through the food safe and tracking program, the enhancement of existing community connections and community capacity, and the initiation of a dialogue about trafficking in the DTES. Additional outreach workers will be hired to assist in achieving these goals.

Squamish Helping Hands Society

Squamish

Amount: \$25,000

Squamish Helping Hands Society will help the Open Door Health Program in establishing an equity-oriented low barrier primary care clinic which will improve access to services needed to improve primary health outcomes of marginalized populations struggling with substance use and mental illness. This includes individuals experiencing homelessness or who have experienced homelessness and who face barriers to primary health care. This includes individuals who do not have family physicians because of societal inequities, discrimination, and lack of access to supports or services. Through performing regular wellness checks on individuals and helping individuals meet their immediate needs, this initiative will focus on providing assistance with food, shelter, hygiene, harm reduction, mental health care, as well as access to other health-related services such as medical or dental care. This initiative will also provide information on where to access services (showers, laundry, washrooms, bus tickets), while advocating for clients who are looking to access services. When necessary, staff will accompany individuals to appointments, including connecting individuals to other agencies or other supports including basic communication and income assistance.

Squamish Helping Hands Society

Squamish

Amount: \$25,000

Squamish Helping Hands Society will help support the Squamish Pain Program which acknowledges the role that trauma, chronic pain, and mental health issues can play in putting people at risk of homelessness. Through this initiative, individuals who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness will be helped to achieve better health outcomes while reducing the stigma associated with homelessness, mental health issues and substance use. This initiative will also seek to explore the interconnectedness of various interventions (e.g. food, shelter, hygiene, harm reduction as well as access to outreach workers, physicians, nurses, counsellors, and physiotherapists) within a low-barrier, comfortable environment.

Street Corner Media Foundation

Vancouver, Victoria

Amount: \$15,000

Street Corner Media Foundation will build increased awareness and understanding of homelessness by engaging citizens in dialogue on pressing issues such as housing insecurity, homelessness, poverty and the overdose crisis through the use of photography and the creation of a photographic exhibit. This initiative will also offer a low-barrier income earning opportunity for individuals experiencing marginalization and will provide a useful bridge towards greater societal recognition and re-integration.

Surrey Road to Home Society

South Surrey/White Rock

Amount: \$25,000

Through this funding arrangement, the Surrey Road to Home Society will provide data, research and options for implementation of extreme weather sites, potential for shelter space and opportunities to create supportive and affordable housing options in the City of White Rock. This initiative will involve the formation of a task group of community stakeholders interested in developing a plan to create shelter and housing opportunities for people in White Rock/South Surrey. The development of a demographic profile of people who are homeless in White Rock/South Surrey will lead to a better understanding of the specific needs and distinct populations that are under-served. Approaches used in other communities will be studied in order to learn from the success of others. In addition, a coordinator will be hired to conduct research and assist in the development of a detailed strategy, and the creation of a regional service mapping system.

“The Existence Project” in partnership with Tides Canada Initiatives

Victoria

Amount: \$30,000

The Existence Project will conduct a community-based research project that partners with a diverse range of community partners using “storytelling” to address myths and misconceptions about the pathways into and out of homelessness and the root causes of poverty across different population groups. Workshops will be organized and conducted with various community partners including Anawim Companion Society, PEERS Resource Centre, and School District 61. An evaluation including the compilation of qualitative data from these workshops, and the creation of impact reports of schools and communities will be conducted, as well as expansion of the learnings from this initiative to new demographics in the community.

The Existence Project (Part 2)

Victoria

Amount: \$50,000

The Existence Project will explore ways to systematically tackle systems of oppression, stigma and disconnect between communities, as well as address gaps in the current system of housing and supports for people who are experiencing homelessness. This initiative recognizes that the public health emergency of COVID-19 created pressure for decision makers to house unhoused people while confining larger portions of the remaining unhoused community to centralized parks and common spaces. These measures, while helping to keep people safe, contributed to increased tension between the housed and unhoused communities and increased issues of mistrust and misunderstanding. The Existence Project is engaged in working on the ground to build and strengthen community understanding and engagement.

“The Existence Project” in partnership with Tides Canada Initiatives

Victoria

Amount: \$15,000

This initiative will explore ways to use social media and peer-based networks, as well as volunteer facilitators and will focus on using a multiple channel social media strategy to explore ways to build increased understanding and empathy around the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. The initiative will include working directly with individuals experiencing homelessness as well as with community partners and neighbourhood leaders to seek to address issues of NIMBY. Storytelling and narrative building will help to change the public discourse and build a deeper understanding of people experiencing homelessness.

Tk'emlups te Secwepemc (Kamloops Indian Band)

Metro Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

This initiative seeks to provide a range of services and supports for individuals living in the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc homeless encampment, a group which is not only experiencing the conditions of homelessness, but which is rarely supported by more traditional street outreach workers and initiatives. This initiative would include assistance with harm reduction supplies, wound care, food, clean water, a source of warmth during the winter months, cultural supplies and medicines, access to Knowledge Keepers and transportation to ceremonies. It would also offer an understanding to those living in the encampment that their needs are not being ignored or forgotten.

Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group

Coquitlam, BC

Amount: \$12,000

Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group is seeking to update and maintain the organization's website to ensure that current data, links, information and verbiage are provided to those who are homeless or facing homelessness, as well as to provide information to those in the Tri-Cities region who are seeking to provide assistance to the homeless and those seeking volunteer opportunities. This will include retaining an individual capable of liaising with stakeholders, homeless tables and other key sources and partners, reviewing and identifying outdated information and existing website capabilities/limitations, website strategic plan development and installment.

Union Gospel Mission

Vancouver

Amount: \$5,000

Union Gospel Mission will use this funding to create a Community Advisory Committee of individuals with lived experience who will be able to contribute their understanding and experience towards conditions that will lead to the reduction of homelessness in the community. A coordinator will be retained to build a policy proposal for the advisory committee including its pilot launch. The coordinator will engage and consult with UGM staff, clients and program participants to ensure the proposed policy is adaptable to the changing nature of the DTES neighbourhood all of which will help to provide UGM with a greater understanding of existing and emerging needs of the DTES community and how its programs and services can best address those needs. It will also help UGM to identify service gaps and ways individuals struggling with homelessness can be better supported.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island

Nanaimo,

Amount: \$45,000

The United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island will help in the implementation of the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition's (NHC) Communication Strategy which seeks to build public understanding of the root causes of homelessness while shifting the narrative around homelessness to one based on accurate information, understanding and positivity. This will involve various initiatives including the coordination and communication of NHC events, the creation of a 'brand identity' for the Coalition to help in leading the community conversation around homelessness, becoming a source for accurate and consistent updates on actions being taken by service providers and all levels of government to address homelessness, the provision of opportunities for residents to learn more about homelessness, mental health and addictions, greater provision of support for Coalition members including the enhancement of the NHC by sharing member content, and taking a lead role in the provision of information and communications on homelessness.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island

Courtenay

Amount \$25,000

Building on the insights and experiences gained in working with the Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition, the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island is interested in working with key partners in the Comox Valley to support the development of a communications strategy that will help to build public understanding of the root causes of homelessness while shifting the narrative around homelessness to one based on accurate information, understanding and positivity. Through this funding, the goal is to build a deeper understanding of homelessness to strengthen community support and address the underlying judgement, negativity and stigma that frequently undermines local efforts.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island

Campbell River

Amount \$25,000

Building on the insights and experiences gained in working with the Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition, the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island is interested in working with the key community partners in the City of Campbell River to support the development of a communications strategy that will help to build public understanding of the root causes of homelessness while shifting the narrative around homelessness to one based on accurate information, understanding and positivity. Through this funding the goal is to build a deeper understanding of homelessness to strengthen community support and address the underlying judgement, negativity and stigma that frequently undermines local efforts.

Walk with Me Campbell River

Campbell River

Amount: \$10,000

This community-based research project will seek to change the existing narrative around drug use and homelessness, while reducing harm and creating systems/policy change in relation to the overdose crisis by inviting participants to share their unique stories and perspectives on the overdose crisis. This 'grassroots' approach to policy development prioritizes deep community listening through the hosting of 'sharing circles' and 'audio walks' while allowing for the extension of the results further into the realm of policy and systems change through recommendations for change and new narratives.

Walk with Me Comox Valley

Comox Valley

Amount: \$10,000

This project will involve conducting a community-based research project of harm reduction which creates systems/policy change in relation to the overdose crisis by exploring a 'grassroots' approach to policy development that prioritizes deep community listening and which will involve the hosting of 'sharing circles' with K'omoks Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Partnerships with the Comox Valley Community Health Network will allow for the extension of the results further into the realm of policy and systems change through recommendations for change and new narratives.

Watari Counselling & Support Services Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$50,000

Watari Counselling & Support Services Society will provide hot meals as well as street outreach services to individuals who are living on Hastings Street or in the encampment in CRAB park. The funding will support peer-led interviews and video-documentation for the unhoused and precariously housed people living in these areas. The video research will also help to support better policies and decision-making to better understand their food security, social inclusion, and other needs, and to help provide appropriate, self-determined support. The photos and videos will help to create shareable stories which ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are heard without intermediation.

West End Seniors Network Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$15,000

The West End Seniors Network Society has created a new “Seniors in Need Program” to assist low-income seniors who rent by providing a one-time payment of rent assistance to support seniors during times of high financial need. This initiative will help seniors to avoid homelessness when all other means have been exhausted. The funding received through this initiative will be combined with other funding received by the Society with a focus on actively working to help as many seniors as possible to retain their housing and avoid the crisis of displacement and economic eviction.

Whole Way House Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$15,000

The Whole Way House Society will pilot and develop a project titled the “*I Get to Legacy Project*” which is designed to provide meaningful and flexible employment for individuals with complex barriers by allowing those who face barriers to employment the opportunity to experience success. Through this initiative, the goal will be to work with individuals to help to re-build their sense of self esteem and self worth through employment.

Whole Way House Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$10,000

The Whole Way House Society is seeking to facilitate small group and individual sessions each week designed specifically for seniors and veterans who have experienced homelessness to foster a supportive environment which can help encourage them to explore their goals and work towards the achievement of wider opportunities, as well as to identify their current barriers to achieving these goals.

Whole Way House Society

Vancouver

Amount: \$15,000

The Whole Way House Society will use this funding towards the creation of a brand book, campaign and social media strategy to be implemented in support of the “*I Get to Legacy Project*”. This includes hearing stories of success and documenting steps and actions that others can take to advance positive outcomes.

University of Victoria

Amount: \$22,800 per site x 4 sites

The proponent will conduct a research project which will scale-up community drug checking at four (4) sites across Vancouver Island responding to homelessness, substance use and overdose through an innovative hub & spoke model linked to a program of research that will expand the evidence base of promising practices. The data and engagement findings from this process will be presented along with recommendations for implementation of a Strategic Plan. The four communities where this initiative will be undertaken will include Port Alberni (Port Alberni Shelter Society), Campbell River (Vancouver Island Mental Health Society), Courtenay (AVI Health and Community Services) and Duncan (Lookout Housing and Health Society).

Vancouver Coastal Health--Sechelt Mental Health & Addictions Drop-In

Sechelt

Amount: \$10,000

In response to an increase in the number of opioid deaths, the community has engaged in a partnership with the Fraser Health Authority to explore ways to build and strengthen the peer-based network engaged in providing harm reduction and supports. This has included exploring different ways that the newly launched LifeGuard app as well as other supports can be used. This initiative is also engaged in looking at the potential benefits and limitations of the current "SPARC BC smartphone initiative" especially in the context of smaller communities which do not necessarily have the full range of services and supports that many at-risk individuals may require.

Victoria Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

Capital region

Amount: \$50,000

The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria seeks to build on their experience as the lead agency for the Greater Victoria Housing Security and Rent Bank Society to conduct research which will assess both the causes of and solutions to housing precarity and homelessness. In 2021, the Community Council began providing housing security grants to households at risk of homelessness and launched rent bank and housing security grants programs. The current initiative will include designing research which models community level determinants of homelessness, evaluating the effectiveness of homeless prevention interventions through participatory action research, designing and testing best practices for interventions in homelessness prevention, and employing a trauma informed approach to build on the relationship between staff and client during the intake stage with follow-up support.

YWCA Metro Vancouver

Vancouver, BC

Amount: \$50,000

The YWCA Metro Vancouver will conduct the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and the production of a report detailing the long-term impact of housing for single mothers and children living in YWCA residences including the existence of any successes and gaps, as well as the articulation of an expanded narrative around those who are homeless. This initiative will involve the design and development of a focused research method conducted by consultants retained for this initiative, the collection of data from research subjects living in YWCA housing, the analysis of the data, and the dissemination of the findings in a final report. The final goal is to gain a stronger understanding of the needs of homeless single mothers so that services can be appropriately and effectively delivered to enhance their personal and economic independence while reducing homelessness.

Zero Ceiling Society of Canada

Whistler, BC

Amount: \$35,000

The Zero Ceiling Society of Canada will develop strategies for youth who are at risk of homelessness due to lay-offs and staff housing closures arising from the COVID-19 crisis. This funding will enable Zero Ceiling Society to develop a new scattered site model with supports for youth who have lost their employment and/or housing due to COVID-19. This will include building partnerships and taking action to provide on-going stability in terms of housing and other health needs and supports for 'at risk' youth to allow them to remain in their community and to be in a position to re-enter the labour market. This funding is also intended to help build a wider understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on populations at high risk of losing their housing including youth and those in the service, recreation and hospitality industries. It will also help to inform the types of strategies which are optimal in the face of an unprecedented crisis impacting a wide range of areas including employment, health and housing.