

# Encouraging Community Housing Options (ECHO) for the North – Housing Plan Component

ECHO provides a grant to municipalities and regional partnerships in the Northern Administration District of Saskatchewan to develop a housing plan to understand and address the housing needs in their communities.

Two funding components will be available to match municipal expenditures:

- Up to \$5,000 for municipalities with a total population fewer than 2,500; or
- Up to \$20,000 for regional plans involving partnerships of three or more municipalities with a total population greater than 750. (Please note that First Nations reserve communities can participate in a partnership but the lead municipality must have an Official Community Plan.)

## Eligibility

Municipalities or regional partnerships must:

- Have an Official Community Plan or be in the process of developing one. In the case of a regional partnership, the lead municipality must have an Official Community Plan or be in the process of developing one; and

- Contribute an amount at least equal to the funding request.

## Other Details:

- Municipalities are encouraged to complete a template to collect demographic information about their municipalities. This template will be submitted along with their application for funding.
- Limited funding is available.
- Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.
- The housing plan must be completed within six months of signing the agreement.
- Eligible costs include only those incurred within six months after the date of the letter of approval from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, unless prior written approval is provided by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. Only incremental costs to the municipality are eligible costs (i.e. funding may not be used to cover existing staff costs).
- The completed housing plan must at least:
  - Include consideration of housing needs across the continuum;

- Include consideration of anticipated needs for five years;
- Address housing needs for all communities in the partnership (if applicable);
- Explain the inter-municipal collaboration (if applicable);
- Prioritize needs and outline a strategy to begin addressing the areas of greatest need;
- Include expected timelines for implementation of the housing plan; and
- Be either completed by or reviewed (with recommendations) by a professional community planner or another professional approved by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

For more information contact Saskatchewan Housing Corporation by mail:

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**Toll-free:** 1-866-245-5758; **in Saskatoon call:** 306-933-6292