



# Housing NWT Policy: Community Housing Plans



## 1. Statement of Policy

Housing NWT will support the development of strategic community housing plans in communities and/or regions where Indigenous or community governments have identified their desire to develop one.

## 2. Principles

Housing NWT adheres to the following principles in implementing this Policy:

- 2.1 Housing investment by all levels of government should reflect community-identified goals and priorities.
- 2.2 Decisions made around housing at the community level should involve community voices.
- 2.3 Indigenous and community governments that wish to play more of a role in housing should be supported in doing so.
- 2.4 Adequate data and information related to housing at a community level should be available to all interested partners and stakeholders in housing development.
- 2.5 The development of community housing plans, including the process of doing so, should be driven by communities to best meet their needs.
- 2.6 Communities should be adequately resourced to support local involvement in the development of community housing plans.
- 2.7 Development of a community housing plan shall involve community engagement in a method deemed appropriate by community leadership.
- 2.8 Housing NWT support for development of a community housing plan may include technical, financial or advisory support.
- 2.9 In developing a community housing plan, effort should be made to involve all local leadership groups in a partnership approach.
- 2.10 Without being overly prescriptive, a community housing plan should include at minimum a detailed housing needs assessment and a strategic plan outlining a vision, goals and priorities related to housing.
- 2.11 Community housing plans should be living documents that are regularly reviewed to ensure community information and priorities remains current.
- 2.12 Housing NWT will not prioritize investment in communities that have a community housing plan over those that do not; however, the presence of a community housing plan can help ensure better-directed investment in housing.



### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to all Indigenous and community governments in the Northwest Territories.

### 4. Definitions

The following definitions apply in this policy:

**Community engagement** – the collaborative method of bringing community members into the plan-making process to share their experiences, issues, goals and priorities related to housing in their community.

**Community housing plan** – is a strategic planning document developed to establish community-identified visions, goals and priorities for housing in the short- to medium-term. For the purposes of this policy, the term community housing plan is used consistently, but this may also refer to a broader regional housing plan, for example.

**Housing needs assessment** – is a document that provides background contextual support for a community housing plan including details about a community's current housing situation as well as its history, population, economy, infrastructure, etc., in combination with perspectives shared by community residents and leadership through community engagement.

**Partner organization** – the Indigenous or community government that is leading the development of a community housing plan at the local level through a partnership with Housing NWT.

### 5. Program Description

#### 5.1 Description

Housing NWT's community housing plans initiative aims to support the development of community housing plans with interested partner organizations throughout the Northwest Territories. These plans should take the values, perspectives and priorities that communities have around housing and combine them with housing data, statistics and program information to form a comprehensive map to better direct housing investment in the community. The result should be a document that housing investors, including government and private industry, will be able to use in identifying priorities for housing investments and that will support the work of Housing NWT, Indigenous Governments and others to partner together to offer housing solutions in NWT communities.

Additionally, the information received through the community housing planning process helps to guide Housing NWT policies, community engagements, programs, operations, and capital planning process. The partnerships established with Indigenous governments and communities inform intergovernmental relations for Housing NWT and throughout the GNWT for interdepartmental projects.



## 5.2 Support

To support the development of community housing plans, Housing NWT may offer financial support through contributions, or in-kind support through Housing NWT staff time and expertise.

## 5.3 Contributions

Contributions provided by Housing NWT to assist partner organizations with the development of a community housing plans may include:

- a) Funding for the hiring of a local coordinator to lead or support the development of the plan;
- b) Funding for local surveyors or meeting facilitators;
- c) Funding to hire consultants to support or lead plan development; or
- d) Funding for meeting space, translation services, honoraria and/or catering for meetings or workshops related to plan development.

## 6. Authority and Accountability

This Policy is issued under the authority of Housing NWT. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with Housing NWT. Authority and accountability are further defined as follows:

(a) Minister Responsible for Housing NWT (Minister)

The Minister Responsible for Housing NWT is responsible for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) President & CEO of Housing NWT

The President & CEO of Housing NWT is accountable to the Minister for the administration of this Policy and may approve requests for support to develop a community housing plan.

The President & CEO may delegate authority to the Director of Policy & Planning or District Directors of Housing NWT to administer and support the development of community housing plans.

## 7. Provisions

### 7.1 Application

An Indigenous or community government interested in developing or reviewing a community housing plan should contact their local Housing NWT District Director indicating they would like to begin the process.



## 7.2 Budget

An interested community should prepare an estimated budget for the project. Housing NWT staff are also available to help with budget development if preferred.

## 7.3 Agreements

Communities will be expected to sign a partnership agreement outlining the responsibilities of all partners in the development of a community housing plan.

A contribution agreement with the lead partner organization will outline the amount of financial support to be provided by Housing NWT as well as required deliverables and financial reporting requirements.

## 7.4 Adoption of Plan

It is expected that the partner organization(s) will adopt the final community housing plan by a method of their choice, to formally indicate their support for the outcomes in the plan.

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