

Poverty and Homelessness Action Grants

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Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program

A partnership between the Government of British Columbia and the
Union of BC Municipalities

Leah Squance, A/Executive Director

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program: Overview

- WHAT it is
- WHY we're doing it
- HOW to participate

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program: What it is

- Grant of \$5 million over three years provided by the Province.
- Administered by Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).
- Supports local governments in reducing poverty at the local level
- Supports TogetherBC, B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy, released in March 2019.

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program: Why we're doing it

- Response to many years of advocacy from local governments and community groups
- Recognizes the great need for policy and investments to address significant rates of poverty: 2016 StatsCan numbers showed 557,000 British Columbians living in poverty, nearly 100,000 of them children
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Act legislates targets and timelines:
 - 25% reduction in overall poverty by 2024
 - 50% reduction in child poverty by 2024

TogetherBC: B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy

- TogetherBC is based on four guiding principles:
 - Affordability
 - Opportunity
 - Social Inclusion
 - Reconciliation
- Takes a cross-jurisdictional approach:
 - Includes policies and investments from across the provincial government
 - Recognizes a need for action from local governments, the province and the federal government

TogetherBC: B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy

- The strategy identifies 6 priority action areas:
 - Making housing more affordable
 - Supporting families, children and youth
 - Expanding access to education and training
 - More opportunities, more jobs
 - Improving affordability
 - Investing in social inclusion

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program: How to participate

- Eligible Applicants
 - All local governments (municipalities and regional districts) in BC are eligible to apply
 - Applicants can submit one application per intake
 - Two or more local governments may submit a single application for a regional project

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program: How to participate

- Eligible Projects Must:
 - Demonstrate how proposed activities will reduce poverty at the local level
 - Focus on one or more of the 6 priority action areas identified in TogetherBC
 - Be new (no retroactive funding) & be able to be completed within a year of grant approval
 - Involve key sectors of the community – poverty reduction orgs, people with lived experience of poverty, business, local First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations
 - Projects may also address one or more of TogetherBC's other key priorities: mental health and addictions, food security, transportation; access to health care

Stream 1 – Poverty Reduction Plans and Assessments

- Focuses on developing or updating assessments or plans to reduce poverty at the local level.
- Funding maximum is \$25,000 or \$150,000 for regional projects
- Eligible activities include:
 - Developing a local poverty reduction plan/assessment to address one or more of the 6 priority action areas
 - Engagement of people with lived experience of poverty in planning activities
 - Adding a poverty reduction lens to existing plans or policies

Stream 2 – Poverty Reduction Action

- Community-based projects to reduce poverty at the local level
- Funding maximum is \$50,000 or \$150,000 for regional projects
- Eligible activities include:
 - Pilots to evaluate impact of providing supports such as reduced-fare transit, recreation passes or other services
 - Tax-filing programs
 - Public awareness campaigns
 - Social enterprises to support employment for people with multiple barriers
 - Food security projects
 - Projects to assist key populations identified in TogetherBC

Application Requirements

- Deadline: February 28, 2020
- Applications must include:
 - Detailed project budget
 - Council or Board resolution to indicate support for the proposed activities
 - OPTIONAL: letters of support as evidence of partnership or collaboration with community organizations, local First Nations or Indigenous orgs, business, people with lived experience of poverty

Evaluation Criteria

- Alignment with the intent and objectives of the program
- Anticipated outcomes
- Demonstration of direct participation of people living in poverty or with a lived experience of poverty
- Partnerships and demonstrated community support, including community-based poverty reduction organizations, people with lived experience of poverty, businesses, local First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations
- Cost-effectiveness of the project

Grant Management

- Applicants are responsible for:
 - Completing the project as approved
 - Meeting the reporting requirements
 - Fiscal management & record keeping
- Grants will be paid 50% with signed approval agreement and 50% upon completion of final reporting requirements

Submitting an Application

- Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities
- 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8
- E-mail: lgps@ubcm.ca

Homelessness Community Action Grants

SPARC BC UBCM Presentation

A partnership between the Government of British Columbia and SPARC BC

Lorraine Copas, Executive Director, SPARC BC

Homelessness Community Action Grants

- Provides one-time funding
- Local planning and collaborative initiatives
- Respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports
- Tap into and support local knowledge and action
- Expand the evidence base of promising practices – individual, local, and provincial level

Key Projects and Activities

- Collaborative, community-based approach
- Build capacity and the local level, support local innovation
- Focus specific geographies/regions or specific population/priority groups
- Compliment and support other investments
- Strengthen local responses

Funding Amounts

- **Smaller projects - \$5K to \$10K** – smaller one-time investments, relatively short-time frame to complete (i.e. 6 to 12 months)
- **Mid-size projects - \$10K to \$25K** – more partners, longer timeframe to complete/show results (i.e. 12 months to 18 months)
- **Larger projects - \$25K to \$50K** – established partnerships, strong results/ demonstrated impacts, longer time frame (12 to 24 months)
- Groups/organizations are not limited to one proposal or one-time funding
- In the early days we are doing an open proposal call and will be tracking geographic coverage and priority population groups

Leveraging the Knowledge Created

- Results will be published on SPARC BC's website
- SPARC BC will help to create publications and workshops to share the findings/build capacity regionally and locally
- Organizing a series of “communities of practice” where SPARC BC will bring together local knowledge leaders to share findings/results
- The central focus is to work collaboratively with key community partners and stakeholders to leverage local knowledge, action and innovation to end homelessness

Build Linkages to Other Housing-Related Initiatives

- The National Housing Strategy
- The Federal *Reaching Home* funding
- Provincial housing investments
- The Provincial Housing Strategy – Homes for B.C.
- Housing Needs Report Program/Requirements for local government
- Local innovation/partnerships

Questions?