

Memo to: Council
From: Silas White,
Town of Gibsons representative on Sunshine Coast Homelessness Advisory Committee
Date: March 14, 2018
Subject: SFRPHI property located at 739/749 School Rd.

The Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI) has set a deadline application deadline for early April to apply for the acquisition and use of the property of the former RCMP station on 739/749 School Road. Based on Council discussion regarding this property, and the Town-facilitated community dialogue in November, the Town has been pursuing a vision for the transitional/supportive housing on this site, with senior government investment and the retention of public ownership of the property. The graphic below from our Planning Department shows the spectrum of housing needs in Gibsons, with the circle indicating the segments we are already trying to address with the Franklin Road and Charman land project.



Fortunately, the criteria for the SFRPHI program (see next page) are a perfect match for this vision, and meeting this criteria is the only way to attain this property for \$1.00 to most directly address homelessness in our community. Even more fortunately, BC Housing has come out in strong support of a transitional/supportive housing project on this site. Provincial funding is being identified for the submission to the SRRPHI program, and a local architect has already been engaged by BC Housing to initiate plans for the site (and hence the number of units is yet to be determined; the consensus so far is that the current building will likely need to be demolished).

The Town will be the main applicant to SRPHI, in a model of owning the property and then leasing to BC Housing (who may then sub-lease to a service provider). SRPHI requires “a letter of support towards this specific project (if the municipality is not the main applicant).” Although we will be the main applicant, a letter to SRPHI confirming our support for the partnership with BC Housing to host supportive housing at 739/749 School Rd. has been requested. Therefore, I move:

THAT the Town of Gibsons write a letter of support to the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative and to BC Housing for a BC Housing transitional/supportive housing initiative at 739/749 School Road.

Information below from the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI) project:

A. The Housing First Approach and the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative

The renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for 2014-2019, with its focus on Housing First, aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in communities across the country. The SFRPHI, a funding stream under the HPS, provides federal real properties no longer required by government departments to local organizations for \$1.00 to provide housing for homeless or at-risk individuals.

A.1. Is Housing First a requirement for SFRPHI projects?

The Housing First approach is based on moving people who are chronically and episodically homeless as rapidly as possible from the street or emergency shelters into permanent housing with supports that vary according to client need.

Projects which support the implementation of the Housing First approach are encouraged, particularly in HPS designated communities that are required to meet Housing First targets. A list of these communities can be found in the definition section of this document. To meet the Housing First criteria, both the use of property and target clients should align with the Housing First approach.

While projects that help communities to implement the Housing First approach are encouraged, consideration will be given to project proposals intended to preserve or increase the local community's capacity to address the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In the situation of competing proposals, priority may be given to a proposal that supports the implementation of the Housing First approach.

A.2. What type of project or facility are you considering?

If your proposal is part of a Housing First approach, it may include, for example:

- New construction of permanent supportive housing;
- Repurposing or renovating facilities to create permanent supportive housing; and,
- New construction, repurposing or renovating facilities that will provide support for Housing First clients.

If your proposal addresses homelessness through initiatives that are not a part of a Housing First program/approach, it may include, for example:

- New construction of transitional housing, emergency shelters, non-residential facilities;
- Renovating facilities to create emergency shelters, transitional housing, or non-residential facilities; and,
- New construction, repurposing or renovating facilities to create permanent supportive housing for individuals and families who are not Housing First clients.

It is important to note that the creation of affordable or social housing units is not eligible under SFRPHI.

A.3. Who is the target client?

Your proposal must identify who will be housed through the SFRPHI project.

If your proposal is part of a Housing First approach, clients should be:

- Chronically homeless; or
- Episodically homeless.

If your proposal addresses homelessness through initiatives that are not a part of a Housing First program/approach, your client may include, for example:

- Individuals and families who are homeless; or,
- Individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

Some examples include a transitional housing facility for young mothers and children; a home for a family who is being evicted; housing for homeless youth; and emergency shelter beds

A.4. Who is eligible to apply for SFRPHI?

Eligible recipients include:

- not-for-profit organizations or registered charities
- for-profit organizations – where the activity is non-commercial and supports program objectives
- municipalities
- aboriginal organizations
- public health and educational institutions
- provincial and territorial governments and their entities, including institutions, agencies and Crown Corporations