

CITY OF VICTORIA | Planning and Development

Community Housing Renewal Grant

Program Guidelines



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Program Guidelines

Overview

The Community Housing Renewal Grant program provides one-time funding to support capital projects that preserve and enhance existing multi-unit, non-market housing in Victoria. The goal is to increase use and availability of non-market housing stock.

Up to \$1 million in total funding is available to support strategic investments that improve and preserve existing housing, increase sustainability and enhance resident wellbeing. This one-time capital grant is funded through the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund.

Eligibility and Funding

The grant is open to non-government, non-profit owners or operators of existing non-market, multi-unit buildings at least 20 years old located in the City of Victoria.

Up to 100 per cent of eligible capital costs are eligible for funding, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by staff based on eligibility, quality of all eligible submissions, evaluation criteria and fund availability. All funding decisions are final.

Important Dates

The grant intake period is open from Tuesday June 23 to Friday July 31, 2026. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Friday July 31.

Projects, including final reports, must be completed by 4 p.m. on Oct. 15, 2027.

Objectives

The Community Housing Renewal Grant aims to support physical improvements in existing, multi-unit non-market housing in the City of Victoria.

Primary Objective

- Preserve and enhance existing non-market housing stock by increasing use and availability of non-market rental housing

Secondary Objectives

- Enhance social connection and resident wellbeing through upgrades to buildings or common spaces
- Reduce the number of vacant units

- Improve climate readiness of units, buildings or common spaces
- Improve physical accessibility of units or buildings
- Improve building safety, security and/or emergency preparedness
- Improve energy efficiency or reduce emissions of units, buildings or common spaces

Eligibility

Only capital projects are eligible. Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Location: Within existing multi-unit, non-market rental or cooperative housing buildings or sites in the City of Victoria
- Project status: Construction not yet started
- Minimum project value: \$25,000
- Building age: At least 20 years old (2006 or older)
 - For outdoor amenity upgrades, the site must contain a non-market building that is at least 20 years old
- Funding: Not currently supported by other City of Victoria housing grant opportunities such as the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund.

Applicants must be:

- A non-government, non-profit society in good standing with the Province of B.C. and not operating as a business.
- The owner or operator of the building or site

A maximum of one grant application can be submitted per organization. Projects may consist of multiple components or elements within one or more buildings or sites that meet eligibility requirements. Multiple project site forms can be submitted within one application.

Provincial, federal or foundation grant stacking is allowed; however, City funding cannot exceed 100 per cent of the total capital costs for the project.

Submission Requirements

A grant application submission includes:

- Complete [project site form\(s\)](#)
- Complete [project budget estimate report](#) (with project quotes, if possible)
- Project schedule and timeline
- Project plans or renderings (if available)

- Supporting documentation if needed

Submit your project site form(s) with your budget estimate report and other supporting attachments by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026.

Grant related questions will be accepted up to two business days prior to deadline.

Evaluation

All eligible applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Alignment with program objectives and project impact (50 per cent)

- Alignment with the grant's primary objective to preserve and enhance non-market rental housing stock
- Alignment with at least one other secondary program objective (more than one is encouraged)
- Primary population benefiting from project, including number of residents and any support for equity-deserving groups
- Project minimizes disruption for existing tenants wherever possible throughout the process

Feasibility (25 per cent)

- Capacity and experience of the applicant in delivering successful and timely projects
- Project readiness
- Project viability, including budget and identified sources of funding for all project costs

Need and urgency (15 per cent)

- Building or site need addressed, enhanced or preserved
- Resident wellbeing improvements
- Urgency

Submission (5 per cent)

- Complete application with all required information submitted on time
- Project scope, impact, intended outcomes and alignment with program objectives are clearly outlined

Sustainability (5 per cent)

- Project supports the long-term affordability and continued operation of the non-market housing

- Application outlines plan for maintaining improvement, demonstrating long-term sustainability of improvement.

Award Process

Staff will review and evaluate applications based on eligibility, established criteria and fund availability.

If an applicant is successful, 75 per cent of the grant funds will be distributed following execution of the grant agreement.

The remaining 25 per cent of funds will be distributed once all eligible work has been completed and a final report has been submitted with required documentation.

Any unused grant funding must be returned to the City upon completion of final reporting.

No public communication or announcements can be made about funding awards without the express written approval by the City of Victoria, including social media.

Successful Applicant Responsibilities

- All required permits and approvals necessary for the work must be obtained by the grant recipient. The award of grant funding does not grant other City approvals that may be required.
- All successful applicants will be required to entered into an agreement with the City
- Any significant changes to the project – including scope, timelines or deliverables – must receive written approval from the City.
- All information provided in the final report package must be accurate and complete.
- All approvals from the property owner must be obtained prior to the submission of an application.

Reporting

Reporting on how funds are spent must be submitted to the City by Oct. 15, 2027, and include:

- Completed [final project report](#)
- Completed [final project budget](#)
- Photo documentation
- Invoices for eligible work

Applicants may be required to submit confirmation from a coordinating professional that all work has been substantially completed.

Program Contacts

All program inquiries should be emailed to housing@victoria.ca.

Program Definitions

Business:

- Carrying on a commercial or industrial activity or undertaking of any kind
- Providing professional, personal or other services for the purpose of gain or profit, but does not include an activity carried on by the provincial government, by corporations owned by the provincial government, by agencies of the provincial government or by the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority or any of its subsidiaries

Capital project: A physical improvement that extends the useful life of a building or site or enhances it beyond its original condition.

Capital costs:

- Costs required to construct a project, including materials, equipment, labour and servicing.
- Costs required to bring a project into compliance with all applicable codes and legislation (including environmental legislation) as well as professional costs like engineering, architect or permit fees.
- Capital costs do not include administration fees, project management fees, organizational staffing, operational or programming costs

Climate readiness: Actions to prepare for and respond to projected impacts of climate change events such as increased frequency and duration of extreme heat and precipitation.

Dwelling unit: A self-contained unit made up of one or more rooms designed as a residence for a single household with a sleeping area, kitchen and separate bathroom.

Non-market housing: Housing owned or operated by a non-profit society, with rents/ monthly housing charges set at a price not set by housing market forces.

Multi-unit building: Housing containing four or more dwelling units.