

## **Housing Catalyst Fund Application Package**

### **The Housing Catalyst Fund**

The Housing Catalyst Fund is a partnership between the Community Housing Transformation Centre (the Centre) and the City of St. John's. The Housing Catalyst Fund supports practical and collaborative projects which lead to transformative change in the sector. The role of this fund is to work with community groups and other stakeholders (housing providers, service providers, non-profit organizations, builders/developers) to facilitate and plan housing solutions that will enhance the quality of life for individuals and families and build a healthier community.

To be considered, projects must be solution focused and action oriented and fill a clearly identified need in the housing sector. Catalyst projects are intended to be concluded in one year or less. Emphasis will be placed on projects that are led by or include a community agency. Applicants must provide an incorporation number. Applicants can apply for up to a \$30,000<sup>1</sup> grant per project.

### **Partnership between the City of St. John's and the Community Housing Transformation Centre**

In September 2020, the City of St. John's and the Community Housing Transformation Centre signed an agreement that triples the funds available for the Housing Catalyst Fund from \$50,000 to \$150,000. Under this new partnership, all grants that are co-funded by the City and the Centre will be disbursed by the Centre and the Centre will hold agreements with the successful recipients. In cases where the City is the sole contributor (i.e. the Centre is unable to fund a project due to their restrictions), the City will disburse the funds and hold agreements with the successful recipients.

### **The Affordable Housing Strategy and the Centre's Priority Areas**

The City of St. John's 10-Year Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028 was built from a strong foundation of public engagement and research on the local housing situation and emerging trends in St. John's. The City has identified six strategic components related to affordable housing that will be addressed in the strategy:

- Unlocking Resources
- Building Homes
- Leading Innovation
- Revitalizing Policy
- Cultivating Partnership
- Informing Action

More information about the strategy and its implementation actions is available online: [Affordable Housing Strategy](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Projects that align with the City's priorities but do not align with the Centre's priorities are only eligible for up to a \$10,000 grant.

The Centre's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan strives to transform the community-housing sector in a long-lasting way. Projects must correspond to at least one of the Centre's priority areas:

- Reducing the sector's environmental footprint
- Answering to gaps in service for Indigenous communities
- Supporting innovative and sustainable business practices
- Increasing social inclusion and community engagement
- Facilitating growth of the Community Housing Sector

More information about the Centre's strategic plan and priority areas is available online: <https://centre.support/>

### **Funding Restrictions**

Please see the table below for funding restrictions for the Housing Catalyst Fund. Projects that align with the City's priorities but do not align with the Centre's priorities are only eligible for up to a \$10,000 grant. If you have any questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact [affordablehousing@stjohns.ca](mailto:affordablehousing@stjohns.ca).

✘ = will not fund

✓ = will fund

<b>Applicant / Activity</b>	<b>The Centre</b>	<b>The City</b>
Non-profit, service and housing providers	✓	✓
Private industry	✘	✓
Government agencies	✘	✘
Construction and renovation activities*	✘	✓
Fees related to legal or administrative actions (legal consultation is not restricted)	✘	✘
Individual assistance in accessing housing	✘	✘
Activities not supporting the priority areas / strategic directions	✘	✘
Expenses for activities carried out prior to the written approval of funding	✘	✘
Activities that are not new or transformative to the organization, provider, or sector	✘	✓
Core programs, regular services, administrative and operating expenses*	✘	✘
Retainer fees for work to be completed in the future	✘	✘
Fundraising activities	✘	✘
Capital investment projects*	✘	✘

\* Applicants should note that other City funding programs such as the City's Capital Grants and Community Groups & Organizations Grants may be more appropriate for their funding request for these types of projects. More information is available at <http://www.stjohns.ca/living-st-johns/your-city/city-grants>