



# Innovation and Research

## *Collaborative Housing Research Network – Stage 2 (Partnership Grants)*

As part of the National Housing Strategy, a Collaborative Housing Research Network (CHRN) will be created to support sector innovation and new housing solutions through an interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial approach, as part of the enhanced research agenda under Canada's National Housing Strategy. This is a joint initiative between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC).

This particular funding opportunity builds on the previous work of Stage 1 recipients, towards the development of the Collaborative Housing Research Network (CHRN). These Partnership Grants will provide funding to help create and support formal partnerships between academic institutions **and** non-academic organizations of various types.

Applications will be accepted until January 30, 2020 and results will be announced in April 2020.

### Overview

Canada has one of the best housing systems in the world. But some 1.7 million families still don't have a home that meets their basic needs. To help address this, the federal government announced a 10-year, \$40 billion National Housing Strategy (NHS) that will help reduce homelessness, improve the availability and quality of housing for Canadians in need and strengthen the middle class.

The National Housing Strategy was developed through consultations with Canadians from diverse backgrounds, people who have experienced barriers to good housing, experts, stakeholders, think tanks, as well as provinces and territories and municipalities.

The analysis featured in [\*\*What We Heard: Shaping Canada's National Housing Strategy\*\*](#) helped identify important housing challenges where research could help provide answers.

## Description and Objectives

### ***Collaborative Housing Research Network***

The CHRN will be an independent, Canada-wide collaboration of academic and non-academic partners focused on holistic research of housing conditions, needs and outcomes in the following thematic priority areas of the NHS:

- Housing for those in greatest need;
- Community Housing Sustainability;
- Northern Housing;
- Sustainable Housing and Communities;
- Balanced Supply of Housing.

**Note:** Given the importance of Indigenous housing challenges, it will be cross-cutting through each of the above thematic priorities and it is expected that each proposal will integrate this lens within their activities, wherever it is possible to do so. Awareness of the risk of increasing burden on some Indigenous communities that may be overstretched should also be an integral part of the approaches adopted.

Furthermore, the CHRN will provide objective, recognized, and high-quality research that can be used to support housing policy decision-making and inform future program development. The Network is expected to:

### ***Generate New Knowledge***

- Conducting research across a nationally-linked network of researchers and housing related stakeholders (across all disciplines);

### ***Bridge Gaps Between Research Outcomes And Impact On Housing***

- Accelerating translation of research discoveries into applications, best practices and/or the marketplace;
- Developing, validating and evaluating interventions that change significant aspects of practice;
- Evaluating the outcomes of different housing interventions to identify and document health, social and other impacts.

To achieve these objectives, the Network will:

- Possess world-class capacity to address identified research challenges or opportunities;
- Build a critical mass of expertise on a national scale to provide research leadership;
- Enhance impact by bringing together a unified group of researchers and other stakeholders;
- Identify key knowledge gaps and develop national/international collaborations among researchers and knowledge users to address those gaps;
- Integrate research and knowledge translation projects into a coordinated program to generate solutions that will be implemented to produce social and economic benefits for Canadians;

- Incorporate a training and career development mandate targeted to National Housing Strategy priority research areas;
- Promote and facilitate the sharing of ideas, tools, methods, resources and the dissemination of research outcomes.

Each funded team will involve academics, non-academic organizations, students, and other interested partners, and be rooted in principles of partnership research. This approach to research that equitably involves, for example, community members, organizational representatives, and researchers in all aspects of the research process and in which all partners contribute expertise and share decision making and ownership will be key. The aim of partnership-research is to increase knowledge and understanding and integrate the knowledge gained with interventions and policy and social change to improve health and quality of life

This funding opportunity is open to all fields related to housing including but not limited to the social sciences and humanities, engineering, architecture, population and public health, intervention research, etc. Priority will be given to teams that demonstrate a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder type approach to their team composition.

### ***Partnership Grant Objectives***

Partnership Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of SSHRC's **Insight** and/or the **Connection** programs.

These grants provide support for new and existing **formal partnerships** to advance research, research training and knowledge mobilization in the social sciences and humanities through mutual co-operation and sharing of intellectual leadership, as well as through resources as evidenced by **cash and/or in-kind contributions**.

Partnership Grants are intended for large teams working in formal collaboration between postsecondary institutions and organizations of various types.

A **formal partnership** is a bilateral or multilateral formal collaboration agreement between an applicant and one or more partner organizations, of which at least one must be a Canadian postsecondary institution and at least one must be different from the institution or organization that will administer the grant funds. Partnerships must be between academic institutions and one or more non-academic partner organizations. These partner organizations agree and commit to work collaboratively to achieve shared goals for mutual benefit. Partner organizations must provide evidence attesting to the commitment that has been agreed upon.

The quality of training, mentoring and employability plans for students and emerging scholars will be evaluated as an important part of the proposed initiative. Please see SSHRC's **Guidelines for Effective Research Training** for more information on how students and emerging scholars can meaningfully participate in proposed initiatives.

The intellectual leadership and governance for a new or existing formal partnership may come from within the research community and/or from partner organizations from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. However, only an **eligible institution** may administer the grant funding (see **Eligibility**).

SSHRC and CMHC invite applicants and their partner organizations who wish to propose formal disciplinary, interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, international and/or cross-sector partnership arrangements to apply for support through this funding opportunity. Funds are available to support a variety of **formal partnership** initiatives in all of the disciplines eligible at SSHRC.

For tools and resources to assist in the planning and implementation of your partnership, please see SSHRC's **Partnerships Tool-Kit**.

## Applications

### ***Thematic Research Nodes:***

Applicants will need to outline in their application how their work aligns with at least one of the thematic priorities.

- Housing for those in greatest need;
  - At the launch of the National Housing Strategy, a GBA+ analysis indicated that the following populations were among those in greatest need:
    - Survivors of domestic violence
    - Seniors
    - Indigenous peoples
    - People with disabilities
    - People dealing with mental health and addiction issues
    - Veterans
    - Young adults
    - LGBTQ2+
    - Racialized groups
    - Newcomers, especially refugees
    - People experiencing homelessness, including women (and children)
- Community Housing Sustainability;
- Northern Housing;
- Sustainable Housing and Communities;
- Balanced Supply of Housing.

Given the importance of Indigenous housing challenges, it will be cross-cutting through each of the above thematic priorities and it is expected that each proposal will integrate this lens within their activities, wherever it is possible to do so.

- Each node must have national representation with a minimum of three regions<sup>1</sup> represented in each node;
- Experience and research focus in the identified priority theme.
- Each node application must include a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) expert to ensure an inclusive approach is applied to the future Network's work;
- Each node application must identify a collaboration strategy with the National Knowledge Mobilization Hub.

---

<sup>1</sup> Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia, the North.

***Expectations for Thematic Research Nodes:***

- Conduct partnership research;
- Liaise with the Knowledge Mobilization Hub;
- Present research at annual CMHC Housing Conference;
- Support activity and tools that facilitate the flow and exchange of research knowledge;
- Capacity development for existing/emerging researchers;
- Fulfil reporting and monitoring requirements.

While it is expected that each Thematic Research Node will develop a knowledge mobilization plan outlining dissemination, exchange and engagement with direct stakeholders, it should be recognized that it is the expected role of the National Knowledge Mobilization HUB to coordinate knowledge mobilization activities among the Network teams and on behalf of the Network, as a whole.

***National Knowledge Mobilization Hub:***

If not applying for a Thematic Research Node, applicants may submit a request to form the National Knowledge Mobilization Hub.

- The Hub must have a plan to engage and collaborate with all the nodes of the network;
- A Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) expert in each Hub application to ensure an inclusive approach is applied to the future Network’s work;
- Expertise in Knowledge Mobilization.

***Expectations for the National Knowledge Mobilization Hub:***

- Liaise directly with CMHC representative and Thematic Nodes;
- Participate in annual priority setting exercise with CMHC;
- Support CMHC’s Expert Community on Housing;
- Coordinate knowledge mobilization for the CHRN;
- Capacity Development for existing/emerging researchers;
- Participate in annual National Housing Conference;
- Fulfil reporting and monitoring requirements.

**Note:** “Gender Based Analysis Plus (+) Expert”, for the purposes of this call, is defined as an individual with demonstrated experience in the design, monitoring and evaluation of projects taking into account identity factors such as gender, ethnicity, religion, age, mental or physical disability and more, with a familiarity with GBA+ tools and methodologies in the specific area(s) of the proposed activities.

## Value and Duration

CHRN applications undergo a two-stage adjudication process. Only applicants successful at the first stage will be invited to submit an application at the second stage.

### **Value**

Stage 2 (by invitation only):

- up to \$1,135,000 for Knowledge Mobilization Hub
- up to \$1,375,000 for Thematic Research Nodes

### **Year 1**

Knowledge Mobilization Hub: up to \$135, 000

Thematic Research Nodes: up to \$175,000

### **Years 2 to 5**

Knowledge Mobilization Hub: up to \$250, 000/year

Thematic Research Nodes: up to \$300,000/year

### **Duration**

The Network will have an initial 5-year duration. The Network may then apply to renew for the remaining three years of the strategy.

## Eligibility

**Note:** Since CMHC wishes to fund a minimum of one node per priority area, the selection process at the second stage of the competition will be based on applications submitted under each priority area.

### **Applicants**

Applications must be submitted by an **eligible Canadian institution**. The project director prepares the application on behalf of the host institution and the **formal partnership**.

The term “institution” from here on in this description refers to both postsecondary institutions and not for profit organizations.

### **Institutions**

Grant funds may only be administered by an eligible Canadian institution. Institutions proposing to administer a grant awarded under this funding opportunity must hold or obtain **institutional eligibility**. Please see SSHRC’s **list of eligible institutions**.

**Not-for-profit organizations** that require institutional eligibility must begin the institutional eligibility application process at least five business days prior to the application deadline.

Institutions may contact **Corporate Strategy and Performance** to begin the institutional eligibility application process, or if they have questions about institutional eligibility.

**Note:** Not-for-profit organization applicants must have at least one Canadian postsecondary institution partner organization to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

## ***Participants***

There are three categories of individual participants for Partnership Grants:

- project director
- **co-applicant**
- **collaborator**

### ***Project Director***

The project director must be affiliated with the host institution (the **applicant**).

Project directors who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit an **Achievement Report** by the deadline specified in their Notice of Award are not eligible to apply for another SSHRC grant until they have submitted the report.

**Postdoctoral researchers** are eligible to be project directors if they have formally established an affiliation with an **eligible institution** within five months of the grant start date, and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period.

**Students** enrolled in a program of study are not eligible to apply as project director. However, a PhD candidate is eligible to apply if they:

- will have met all requirements for the PhD before the grant is awarded, including all course work and successful defence of their dissertation, if applicable; and
- establish a formal affiliation with an **eligible Canadian postsecondary institution** within five months of the grant start date, and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period.

### ***Co-applicants***

An individual is eligible to be a **co-applicant** if they are formally affiliated with any of the following:

- **Canadian:** Postsecondary institutions; not-for-profit organizations; philanthropic foundations; think tanks; or municipal, territorial or provincial governments.
- **International:** Postsecondary institutions.

Postdoctoral researchers who are affiliated with a postsecondary institution are eligible to be co-applicants.

PhD candidates are eligible to be co-applicants under the same conditions as those described for a **project director**.

### ***Collaborators***

Any individual who makes a significant contribution to the project is eligible to be a **collaborator**. Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution.

Individuals from the private sector or federal government can only participate as collaborators.

### ***Partner organizations***

Partner organizations may be Canadian or international institutions or organizations (public, private, not-for-profit) of any type.

At least one non-academic partner from the public, private and/or non-profit sector as well as an academic partner must be involved in the project. Partner organizations are expected to support the activities of the partnership through **cash and/or in-kind contributions**.

### ***Quality and commitment of formal partnerships***

Applicants should include relevant documentation to allow for informed evaluation of the quality and level of commitment of the proposed **formal partnerships**.

As part of Stage 2 applications, applicants should include evidence of formal partnership in their application. Evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- governance frameworks;
- agreements (intellectual property, conflict resolution, etc.);
- strategic plans; and/or
- other relevant documentation.

### ***Institutional and partner organization contributions***

Applicants are expected to include a plan to seek and secure **cash and/or in-kind support** for their initiative during the life of the grant. While there is no minimum contribution requirement, institutions and their partner organizations are expected to demonstrate that a formal partnership currently exists, or is in the process of being developed, by supporting the activities of the formal partnership through cash and/or in-kind contributions.

For more information, please see the SSHRC **Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions**.

## **Performance Measurement and Reporting**

### ***Monitoring and Reporting***

Grant holders will be expected to report on the **use of grant funds**, on funded activities undertaken during the grant period, and on outcomes. Successful applicants will be informed of reporting requirements upon receiving their Notice of Award.

### ***Reporting***

CMHC and SSHRC are committed to collecting and disseminating information on the outputs and impacts of the research they fund. This information is an important part of accountability within the Federal Government and to Canadians.

## Evaluation and Adjudication

Applications are adjudicated, and available funds awarded, through a **merit review process**. Funding decisions are based on the recommendations of the adjudication committee and on the funds available. Committee discussions are guided by the principle of minimum essential funding.

Applications for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 are adjudicated by a multidisciplinary selection committee that includes relevant expertise from the academic community, as well as research expertise from the public, private and/or not for profit sectors.

Steps specific to each stage are as follows:

### Stage 1:

- Applications successful in the first stage are awarded a grant of up to \$80,000 for the period during which the second stage of the application is prepared.

### Stage 2:

- Two groups of individuals will be involved in the evaluation of CHRN-stage 2 applications:
  - External assessors; and
  - Members of the CHRN-Stage 2 adjudication committee

These groups include national and international scholars from the research community and may include experts from other sectors as needed. Participants in the review process, if not in a conflict of interest with the applicant or any team members, are asked to evaluate the proposal based on the evaluation criteria below.

SSHRC will seek, but cannot guarantee, a minimum of two external assessments per application. External assessors usually read only one application and provide the adjudication committee with their assessment thereof.

Committee members read an entire cohort of applications, along with the pertinent assessments provided by external assessors. Members, as a group, then evaluate and rank all of the proposals assigned to their committee. Adjudication committees consider **but are not bound by** the judgments of the external assessors.

Since CMHC wishes to fund a minimum of one node per priority area, the selection process at the second stage of the competition will be based on applications submitted under each priority area. The Multidisciplinary Merit Review Committee will be responsible for evaluating applications submitted under each CMHC priority area while making recommendations for funding. For example, if three grant applications were submitted under the Sustainable Housing priority area, the committee will assess the relative merit of them based on the review criteria and rank them within the priority regardless of the merit of applications evaluated under the other priority areas.

SSHRC's **Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research** are relevant for researchers (applicants and project directors) and students preparing SSHRC applications related to **Indigenous research**. SSHRC provides these guidelines to merit reviewers to help build understanding of Indigenous research and research-related activities, and to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC's specific evaluation criteria in the context of Indigenous research. SSHRC relies on a

community of merit reviewers with experience and expertise in Indigenous research to judge the extent to which the guidelines may be applied to a particular research proposal. The guidelines may also be of use to external assessors, postsecondary institutions and partner organizations that support Indigenous research.

### ***Evaluation Criteria and Scoring***

The following criteria and scoring scheme are used to evaluate the applications:

#### **1. Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (40%):**

- relevance and alignment of the proposed research agenda to the chosen National Housing Strategy priority area as well as with the expectations of the Collaborative Housing Research Network;
- originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
- appropriateness of the literature review;
- appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework;
- appropriateness of the methods/approach (including the co-creation of knowledge);
- **quality of training and mentoring** to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel;
- potential of the project results to have social and economic benefits for Canadians;
- potential for the project results to bridge gaps between research outcomes and impact on housing;
- impact of the network in the short, medium and long term on housing outcomes such as health, education, stability of tenure;
- quality of the evaluation plans to track the outcomes of the project's different housing interventions;
- quality of the pan-Canadian representation.

#### **2. Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (40%):**

- appropriateness of the proposed timeline and the probability that the objectives will be met;
- quality of involvement of partner organizations in the design and conduct of the research and/or related activities;
- quality of the proposed governing structure and framework for network for Hub applications; inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial nature of the network and the expertise of the team in relation to the proposed project;
- appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs;
- indications of other planned resources, including leveraging of **cash and in-kind support** from the host institution and/or from partner organizations;
- quality and appropriateness of the knowledge mobilization plans, including effective dissemination, exchange and engagement with stakeholders within and/or beyond the research community.
- quality of the proposed communication strategy with CMHC;

**3. Capability—The expertise to succeed (20%):**

- quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the project director and any co-applicants, relative to their role in the partnership, and to the stage of their career;
- evidence of other knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration / other interactions with stakeholders, contributions to public debate and the media) and of impacts on professional practice, social services and policies, etc.;
- quality and quantity of past contributions to the training and mentoring of students, postdoctoral researchers and other highly qualified personnel; and
- last experience in formal partnerships.

**Scoring table**

Adjudication committee members assign a score for each of the three criteria above, based on the following scoring table. The appropriate weighting is then applied to arrive at a final score. Applications must receive a score of 3.0 or higher for each of the three criteria to be recommended for funding.

Score	Descriptor
5-6	Very good to excellent
4-4.9	Good to very good
3-3.9	Satisfactory to good
Below 3	Unsatisfactory

**Communication of results**

Research offices will be informed of their applicants’ competition results via SSHRC’s secure site. Applicants from not-for-profit organizations will receive their competition results by email. All applicants will be provided with, in addition to notice of decision, any external assessments received, and a summary of the adjudication committee’s evaluation of their proposal, where applicable.

**Regulations, Policies and Related Information**

SSHRC reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications, based on the information therein. SSHRC also reserves the right to interpret the regulations and policies governing its funding opportunities.

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the **Regulations Governing Grant Applications** and with the regulations set out in the **Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide**.

Grant holders must also comply with the **Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications**. See SSHRC’s **Open Access** overview for more information. SSHRC also encourages researchers to manage, in accordance with both community standards and best practices, **data arising from their research**.

## ***Guidelines and related support material***

All applicants for SSHRC funding should consult the following guidelines while preparing their applications:

- Applicants should consult the **Guidelines for Effective Research Training**. These may also be useful to reviewers, postsecondary institutions and partner organizations.
- SSHRC, in alignment with its **Indigenous Research Statement of Principles**, welcomes applications involving **Indigenous research**. It also provides **Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research**.
- For guidance on connecting with research users to create impact, see SSHRC's definition of **knowledge mobilization** and **Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization**.
- Applicants requiring funding for research and research-related tools should consult SSHRC's **Guidelines for Support of Tools for Research and Related Activities**.
- For descriptions of SSHRC terms, see **Definitions of Terms**.

## **Contact**

For questions on SSHRC Partnership Grant guidelines, how to apply, and the merit review process contact:

Program Support: [\*\*partnershipdevelopment@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca\*\*](mailto:partnershipdevelopment@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

Telephone: 613-943-1007

Technical Support: [\*\*webgrant@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca\*\*](mailto:webgrant@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

Telephone: 613-995-4273

For questions about CMHC Collaborative Housing Research Network objectives contact:

[\*\*Innovation-Research@cmhc.ca\*\*](mailto:Innovation-Research@cmhc.ca)

