

City of St. John's Housing Catalyst Fund - Application Form

- Anyone with an affordable housing project/program idea can apply
- Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 per project
- The application deadline is October 31, 2016

Affordable housing is a critical issue for the City of St. John's. We want St. John's to be a vibrant, inclusive and thriving city with a wide range of affordable housing options that contribute directly to community health, sustainable growth and economic security. The *Housing Catalyst Fund* allows the City to be a catalyst for practical and collaborative projects that produce tangible housing solutions for people. The City's role through this pilot fund is to work collaboratively with community groups and other stakeholders (Builders, Developers, etc.) to facilitate and plan housing solutions that will enhance the quality of life for individuals and families, and build a healthier community.

Fund Allocation: The Possibilities: In addition to this pilot fund that powers innovative projects, a smaller portion of the fund may be used to create *Affordable Housing Awards* that publicly recognize creative and successful new housing solutions. The fund may also be used to support the collaborative development and delivery of *Housing Innovation Tools*, such as innovative housing workshops, breakfast webinars and workshops for builders and developers and guidebooks on new housing models and proven construction and development techniques.

A scan of several cities that have established housing funds revealed that *flexible criteria within a set of broad priorities* is the most effective means to determine the allocation of funds. Local experience with the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding shows the same. Therefore the process for setting funding criteria for this pilot Housing Catalyst Fund follows the same general process.

The broad priorities include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- **Seniors Housing** Housing has emerged an issue for seniors in the City and a Seniors Housing Research Project was funded by the City of St. John's and the Province of Newfoundland Labrador in 2014 and provided recommendations that the City consider providing incentives for:
 - A seniors housing pilot project
 - Developments that increase the supply of affordable rental housing for seniors
 - Residential developments that go beyond the requirements of the National Building Code with regard to incorporating Universal Design elements
- **Affordable Rental** The City is working with partners around engaging local landlords in the promotion of successful tenancies (cultivating a base of landlords) which benefit people who need rental housing and those who provide that important service.
- **Mixed Use** The Municipal Plan review process has highlighted the possibilities for incorporating housing into booming commercial construction projects.
- **Medium Density** The creation of more medium density housing options was identified as a promising way forward in the municipal plan discussions.
- **Brownfield and Vacant Lot Redevelopment** A significant amount of underutilized land and buildings have been identified as a promising opportunity for intensification by the City
- **Energy Efficiency** Energy retrofits on a neighbourhood scale have proven to be very practical investments in housing affordability and ecological stewardship in municipalities like Winnipeg and Boston.

To be considered, projects must be solution focused and action oriented and must be in line with the City's Affordable Housing Business Plan. **Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 per project.** To apply, simply complete the form below and submit to the City's Housing Division by fax (709) 576-8078 or by e-mail to mcallahan@stjohns.ca. Any questions can be directed to Maria Callahan, Affordable Housing & Development Facilitator at (709) 570-2096.

ST. JOHN'S

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The Housing Catalyst Fund application deadline is October 31, 2016.

Date of application: _____

Organization/Agency/Company Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Mailing address: _____

1. Please describe, in some detail, how the project/activity/housing development will leverage this fund and lead to housing solutions that will address needs in our community. How will this grant help with the project? What is the long term goal or end result? Include the anticipated start and ending dates of the project.

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2. What do you anticipate the short and mid-term outcomes of this project will be for the community?

3. Please present a total budget of project revenue and expenses, along with cost breakdowns. Ensure the amount you are requesting from the Housing Catalyst Fund is clearly stated.

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4. Anything else you would like to add:

Brief summary reports of the project budget (actual expenditures) and project outcomes must be submitted to the City's Housing Division *within 30 days of project end and again after a year*. These outcome report templates will be emailed to successful applicants with notice of approval.

Signature of Executive Director or Board Chairperson:

Print Name and Title

Signature

Date