

Request for Expression of Interest

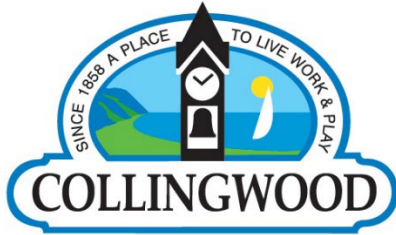
Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing Opportunity: Seeding a Community Organization

1.0 Purpose

The Council of the Town of Collingwood has committed up to \$25,000 to provide as seed funding for an existing or new non-profit or not-for-profit organization to act as an avenue to build and utilize community wealth to influence local investment, local ownership of land and property, and local spending by anchor institutions in the affordable housing space. The Town is seeking to seed a community organization(s) for a unique opportunity to develop, own and/or operate affordable housing units available for the community.

The purpose of this Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) is to solicit submissions from proposed new or existing community organizations that may be interested in this seed funding and to identify their needs/challenges/preferences, which will ultimately assist the Town and the Affordable Housing Task Force in developing a set of recommended criteria for the seed funding that will set the receiving organization(s) up for success in the context of the objectives set out in the Affordable Housing Master Plan. This RFEOI acts as a first touch point to gauge community interest and to refine the Town's approach to distributing the available funding.



2.0 Goals and Objectives

The Town of Collingwood completed an [Affordable Housing Master Plan](#) in October of 2023, with Council generally endorsing all 26 recommendations that stemmed from the Master Plan. An additional initiative was added by Council, which involves creating a mechanism to capture community wealth and resources to combat the housing crisis, by seeding a non-profit to spearhead initiatives such as developing a community land trust or housing cooperative (or similar entity) and engaging in social financing, if applicable. Having an organization that can receive lands or financial benefit from the Town and community, or otherwise, will create opportunities for the development of affordable housing by and for the community.

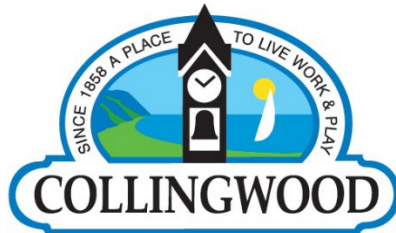
3.0 Parameters

- Eligible organizations must be a proposed new or existing charity/not-for-profit/non-profit or community organization. The Town may consider partnerships between non-profit and for-profit entities at this early stage. Organizations that have a demonstrated connection, and a local interest in working in Collingwood towards a measurable solution, would be a benefit.
- Eligible organizations must have a community-based or social mission.

4.0 Expression of Interest Requirements

Submissions shall be a maximum of 3 pages and include the following information:

- Provide general information about your organization or the organization you intend to create including mission, operations, number of staff/volunteers, number of clients or focus demographic, length of time in operation, etc.
- Highlight your organization's ability to develop, own/lease and/or operate affordable housing or your organization's experience in housing provision and operation, if applicable.



- Demonstrate how much seed funding would be required to establish a community organization or to begin operating/augment existing operations.
- Detail how your organization would use the funding, the intended mandate related to affordable housing (i.e. build, own/lease, operate, reduce rental conversions, bank land, social financing, etc.) and the anticipated framework to accomplish the mandate (e.g. land trust, co-op, housing corporation, etc.).
- Provide context to the geographical area of your organization's existing or planned operations.
- Highlight how your organization's mission aligns with the Town of Collingwood's [Affordable Housing Master Plan](#) and the Town's specific focus on rental housing needs of moderate-income households.
- Include details around your organization's current operations related to affordable housing, including successes in acquiring grant funding. If you are a new organization, indicate the existing support (human resources and financial) and/or commitments to seeking funding.
- Any other information you think is relevant to your submission or that would help the Town to develop appropriate criteria to guide the allocation of the seed funding to maximize benefits to the community.

For more information, please contact:

Claire de Souza

Housing Development Coordinator

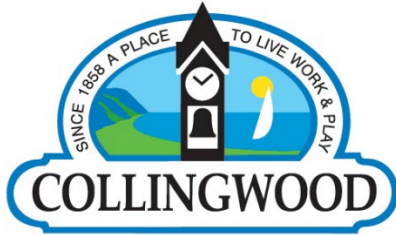
705-445-1030 Ext. 3242

cdesouza@collingwood.ca

Submissions are due on **June 30th, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**

5.0 The Outcome

Following the receipt of submissions through this RFEOI, the Town and the citizen-based Affordable Housing Task Force will develop recommended funding criteria for the allocation of up to \$25,000 of seed funding in 2024. Once the funding criteria have been established by Council, the Town would engage the community in a formalized



procurement process. Submissions that meet the parameters of this RFEOI will be shortlisted and evaluated first at the time of a formalized procurement process.

6.0 Anticipated Timeline

Action	Timeline
RFEOI Submissions Due	June 30 th 2024, 4:30 pm.
Formal Funding Criteria Established	July 2024
Formal Procurement Process for Seeding a Community Organization	August - September 2024