



Invitation to Submit an Expression of Interest

Watson Lake 10-Plex Supportive Housing Programming

Description:

The Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Housing Corporation seek Expressions of Interest from organizations that wish to be considered as the operator/manager of substance-free supportive housing for a 10-Plex in Watson Lake. The preference is for proposals that support transitional housing along the substance use care continuum (e.g., recovery housing/sober living) but proposals addressing other supportive housing needs, based on substance-free living, may be considered.

Department of Health and Social Services and Yukon Housing Corporation

April 2025

Expression of Interest

The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and the Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC), seek interest from First Nation governments, Indigenous organizations, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) prepared to manage and operate a 10-plex substance-free supportive housing program located at 807 Lakeview Avenue in Watson Lake.

The ideal proposal will present a transitional, supportive housing program. The preference is for recovery housing/sober living programming that targets Yukoners seeking a path to sobriety or who seek or welcome sober living. Proposals that address other supportive housing gaps in the community, reflect a partnership with other service providers/organizations, or present mixed programming opportunities (based on substance-free living) will be considered. This may include people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, but who strive to maintain sobriety.

Proposals considered out-of-scope for this initiative include low-barrier housing, emergency shelters, and any other housing with services initiatives that do not include a requirement for substance-free living.

Applicants should be prepared to provide services by Spring or Summer 2025.

Overview of the Watson Lake Housing Complex:

- The housing complex is located at 807 Lakeview Avenue in Watson Lake, Yukon.
- Ten (10) private units of which eight (8) are bachelor/studio units (two (2) of which are accessible) and two one-bedroom units (ideally for double occupancy).
- Office space, door/guest management entry, a communal kitchen and meeting areas are included in the building. These spaces may be utilized by complementary community service providers approved by the funder.
- All program units have a private bathroom, kitchenette, and include TV with connectivity.
- Residents are to be provided with internet access (Wi-Fi)
- Units are furnished and include kitchen supplies, towels, dishes, and bedding - residents will only need their personal items.

Facility/Building Requirements

The building is owned by Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) but all services on site will be provided by the operator over what is considered normal wear and tear. Respondents will need to show they are able to maintain the building in a manner deemed appropriate by both the community and the funder. YHC will provide emergency, routine and preventative repairs and maintenance of the premises as well as routine and preventative repairs and maintenance of all appliances.

Proposals are to address the provision of residence management, resident support services, supervision, support for resident activities, and behaviour management in accordance with the parameters of the proposal submitted.

Resident Profile

The intent of this EOI is to seek operators who wish to enter into an agreement with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Housing Corporation to provide transitional supportive housing with a preference for proposals that support individuals who are pursuing a path of sobriety, seeking to maintain sobriety, or seek or welcome substance-free living, and may lack a substance-free supportive living environment to do so. Proposals that address other but complementary supportive housing programming for resident wellness and housing stability may be considered, as focused or mixed programming (dual programming run concurrent to other substance-free living programming).

Programming and Services

Depending upon the resident profile indicated in proposals, programming and services may need to be provided on site 24/7 (may include security for overnights). Services will be provided using person-centered, culturally safe, recovery-oriented, trauma-informed approaches. Services are to be individualized and person-centered. Services captured as part of the program design may include existing community programming. Programming will respond to program participant/resident needs as determined through a joint assessment between the individual and the case manager/clinical manager and is to address, as applicable:

- weekly planning, goal setting, referrals, liaising with other service providers
- individualized plan for maintaining sobriety, sober living, or achieving longer periods of recovery, with live in and outreach support
- home management: check-ins, guest management, independent living supports
- life-skill development, including financial/budget management
- cultural supports
- Independent living readiness (to support transition to independent living)

YHC and HSS will provide EOI proponents with the community use tool (the Self-Sufficiency Matrix) and training on its use to determine level of care needs and responses.

Staffing Ratio and Support

This facility is expected to be staffed 24/7; however, alternative staffing options in line with the model highlighted in the response to the EOI and the degree of resident support recommended may be considered.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Details

Organizations interested in managing and operating supportive housing programming from the Watson Lake Housing Complex are invited to submit a short EOI to the Department of Health and Social Services and Yukon Housing Corporation to the attention of Stephen Doyle and Laura Lang. Please see contact information provided in the How to submit an Expression of Interest Section below. The EOI is to include the following information as is relevant to the type of programming proposed:

1. Project Title.
2. Name of sponsoring organization.
3. Information about sponsoring organization.
4. Primary contact person, title and telephone and email address.
5. Project team.
6. Program relevance to the supportive housing needs in Watson Lake.
7. Program sponsor knowledge and expertise.

- a. Information about the organization’s program knowledge, demonstrated experience with program operations and management, demonstrated experience with client support services within the substance use services care continuum and/or housing with services continuum.
 - b. Experience delivering 24/7 support services from a culturally appropriate, trauma-informed lens to clients in need of supportive housing.
 - c. Experience supporting clients in transitional housing units, including rental contracts and/or program contracts, and semi-independent living supports.
 - d. Experience engaging clients from a client-centric, community-based approach working closely with First Nations clients and partners.
 - e. Experience collaborating with government partners.
 - f. Experience providing psychosocial, educational and social support services for clients moving towards stable permanent housing environments.
 - g. Ability to collaboratively work with the Yukon government, First Nations and Non-Governmental organizations to ensure program resident needs are met and the community is continually engaged with on the program operations.
 - h. Information regarding the organization’s accreditation status for delivery of client supportive housing services. Accreditation with a relevant accreditation body would be considered an asset but is not required.
8. Information on the organization’s vision and/or guiding principles.
 9. Program purpose.
 10. Program description.
 - a. Program model
 - i. An example of the model which the organization would prefer to pursue in the operation and management of the supportive housing programming and the ten units. Respondents are encouraged to present innovative models for success.
 - ii. A description of the model for programming and services to be provided, including but not limited to access to and involvement with community resources and leisure time activities, integration into the community, medical care services and transportation.
 - b. Key activities / Programming supports.
 - c. Program participant criteria.
 - d. Program fees (if applicable)
 - e. Program objectives and outcomes
 - f. Program timeline
 - g. Program budget
 - i. An estimated average one-year (annual) operating budget detailing all expenditures and other sources of available funding.
 - ii. The budget summary should be on a separate document and is not part of the five (5)-page limit.

The EOI is to be no more than five (5) pages and should provide HSS/YHC with a high-level summary and understanding of the key areas identified in the **Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Details section above.**

Who Can Submit an Expression of Interest?

Expressions of Interest received from community-based and government organizations will be considered. Community-based organizations for this initiative can be broadly understood to include the following, (applying on their own or together with others):

- First Nations governments and municipal governments.
- Registered organizations in good standing under the Societies Act.
- Yukon-based not-for-profit corporations incorporated under the federal Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.
- Charitable organizations.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest?

1. Please complete your proposal based on the submission details outlined above.
2. The proposal outline is structured to provide organizations with the opportunity to briefly outline their interest in implementing substance-free supportive housing in Watson Lake in a 10-plex housing complex.
3. Submissions will be accepted until April 28, 2025. Contact us if this deadline proves challenging and will not allow you to submit an EOI.
4. Please send the submission to the departments' intake lead at Stephen.Doyle@Yukon.ca with **EOI submission** in the subject line. If you need assistance completing the EOI, add 'assistance requested' in your email to Stephen.Doyle@yukon.ca. Requests for assistance should be made a full week before the EOI deadline.
5. Organizations that wish to submit their proposal in hard copy may mail or hand deliver them to the departments' intake lead, attention Stephen Doyle, at 3168 3rd Avenue, Whitehorse Yukon, Y1A 1G3.
6. If you have questions regarding the scope of supportive housing programming sought or the EOI process, please direct your questions to Stephen Doyle at 867-332-3074 or by email at Stephen.Doyle@Yukon.ca. Questions will be directed to the applicable member of the review committee within the departments' Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, Social Supports or Housing program areas.
7. By May 12, 2025, the review committee will follow-up directly with groups or organizations who expressed an interest, to meet for a discussion about their interest.
8. Proposals will be selected based on interest and capacity in implementing substance-free supportive living in Watson Lake and the submission details listed above. Please see the Proponent Selection Process section below for more information.
9. All applicants will be informed whether they were selected or not.

Proponent Selection Process

As this is not a competitive contracting or tender process, organization(s) that submit an EOI and that YHC and HSS consider have the necessary background and understanding to provide approved supportive housing services, will be contacted for further discussion.

After further discussion(s) and once there is a common vision reached with an organization regarding the supportive housing program, YHC and HSS will enter into a transfer payment agreement for the project with that organization. The transfer payment agreement will clearly outline program deliverables based on resident needs, roles, responsibilities, and expectations of all parties, and a project budget.