



February 7, 2024

RE: Reaching Home Funding Allocations

Hello Mayors and Councils of Nipissing District,

I am writing to the mayors and council of the 11 municipalities that form part of the District of Nipissing, to seek your support. The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has seen reduced federal funding for the Reaching Home program for 2026-27 and 2027-28 in the amount of \$738,144 for each year. The Reaching Home program provides federal funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs. This abrupt change will present significant financial challenges for the funded agencies providing homelessness services and supports with Reaching Home funds. Communities across Canada are advocating with the Federal Government to reconsider the funding cuts, and we are asking you to do the same. (See attached Board Report #HS-2024-003 for details on the funding cuts.)

The DNSSAB has also written letters to MPs Rota and Serré, also attached, asking them to advocate for reconsideration of the Reaching Home funding decreases.

We have provided a draft recommendation below should you wish to join this advocacy in support of our district's most vulnerable individuals. We ask that you bring this recommendation or one of your own design to your council and, if passed, to share that resolution with our local federal representatives.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

THAT (your municipality) supports the stabilization of the Federal Government's Reaching Home funding to the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board as the Community Entity; and,

THAT funding be maintained, at minimum, at current levels for future fiscal years; and,

THAT this resolution be shared with local federal representatives.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support,

District of Nipissing
Social Services
Administration Board



Conseil d'administration
des services sociaux
du district de Nipissing

Kindest regards,

Mark King

Chair, District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Cc: Melanie Shaye, Acting CAO, DNSSAB

Enc/ Board Report #HS-2024-003

BOARD REPORT #HS-2024-003

FOR INFORMATION
or
 FOR APPROVAL

Date: January 31, 2024

Purpose: Reaching Home Funding Allocations

Department Head: Stacey Cyopeck, Director of Housing Services

Approver: Melanie Shaye, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) approve Report HS-2024-003 outlining the recommended allocation of Reaching Home Winter Unsheltered Incremental funding for the 2023-24 Fiscal year; and,

THAT the DNSSAB receive and approve the recommended investment of the Reaching Home funding allocation for 2024-2028; and,

THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) advocate to the Federal Government for stabilization of Reaching Home funding, including that the funding in future fiscal years, at minimum, be maintained at current levels, as outlined in the report.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Alignment with Strategic Plan 2022-2042: Healthy, Sustainable Communities

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximize Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove Barriers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seamless Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Learn & Grow
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BACKGROUND

Reaching Home Funding began in 2019, replacing the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. North Bay/Nipissing is one of 64 Designated Communities across Canada. The funding has Directives that are tied directly to the implementation of Coordinated Access and the compilation of data using the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

The DNSSAB, as Community Entity (CE), signed an original agreement with Canada for a total of \$1,190,764 base funding over five years:

Funding	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
Base RH Allocation	\$229,153	\$219,153	\$250,486	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$1,190,764

Figure 1: Original Reaching Home 2019-2024 Funding

Reaching Home funding in Nipissing has been used to fund shelter supports, overflow, and, over the last two years, Warming Centre operations during the winter months. The funding has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of several local pilot projects, including the Housing Unit Stability and Recovery pilot, Suswin Outreach supports, and the Salvation Army's Emergency Rehousing Program.

Reaching Home Community and Capacity Innovation funding has been essential in the development and implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing.

FINANCIAL AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

During the pandemic, incremental funding was added to the base amount and this funding had less stringent parameters for eligible expenses. In Nipissing, the incremental funding was primarily used to enhance and supplement funding for agencies continuing to offer services to households experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

Funding Years	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
Incremental	\$0	\$0	\$603,702	\$548,263	\$540,808	\$1,692,773
Base RH Allocation	\$229,153	\$219,153	\$250,486	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$1,190,764
TOTAL RH Allocation with Incremental	\$229,153	\$219,153	\$854,188	\$794,249	\$786,794	\$2,883,537

Figure 2: Reaching Home 2019-2024 with Incremental Funding

In 2022, the incremental funding was combined in an amended Agreement with the original base funding and, for 2022-23 and 2023-24, Nipissing used the enhanced base funding to fund new core services within the community, including the Warming Centre with the Gathering Place (TGP) and housing supports with the Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area (BIANBA).

In late November of 2023, Infrastructure Canada (INFC) advised DNSSAB of the funding allocations for 2024-2028:

Funding	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	TOTAL
Incremental	\$492,158	\$492,158	\$0	\$0	\$984,316
Base RH Allocation	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$983,944
TOTAL	\$738,144	\$738,144	\$245,986	\$245,986	\$1,968,260

Figure 3: Reaching Home Funding 2024-28

In 2024-25 and 2025-26, overall funding for the fiscal year decreases by \$48,650 from the 2023-24 total funding. Funding for 2026-27 and 2027-28 will fall back to pre-pandemic levels. This decrease will add significant funding pressure within the system and could result in the loss of services and capacity.

On December 22, 2023, the DNSSAB received notification from INFC that winter incremental funding of \$222,599 was designated to Nipissing for priorities specific to homelessness pressures associated with unsheltered populations over the winter months. The funding may be used for eligible expenses from November 1, 2023, and must be fully expensed by April 30, 2024. Due to the short timelines for the winter incremental funding, Community Advisory Board (CAB) concurrence was not required for allocation decisions and INFC recommended that the funding be used to top up existing projects rather than create new projects. The incremental funding brings the total allocation for 2023-24 to \$1,009,393.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the DNSSAB support the following recommendations from the Community Advisory Board (CAB) at the meeting held January 10, 2024:

Incremental Winter Funding 2023-24:

CAB Motion #2024-04:

- Fund temporary beds from November 2023 to April 2024 for individuals relocated as the result of an encampment intervention.
- Extend the Peer Outreach Support Team staffing and security weekday and weekend hours with True Self to April 30, 2024
- Enhance the staffing for the Warming Centre and allocate extra costs for security. With these enhancements, the expected total costs will be \$389,460.

Reaching Home Activity Area	Description	Anticipated Funding Allocation (\$)	Service Provider
Temporary Accommodations (<i>new</i>) (<i>e.g., Leasing hotel/motel spaces to temporarily expand shelter space through the winter</i>)	3 Units of temporary housing from November 2023 to April 2024 for individuals from encampment	\$40,020.00	Low Income People Involvement
Client Support Services (<i>e.g. Hiring outreach workers to support those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, purchasing cold-weather supplies, expanding service availability</i>)	Street Outreach and Security (extension of POST project to April 30 th , 2024)	\$69,067.96	True Self
	Extended Staffing and operational funding for Winter Warming Centre	\$24,835.00	The Gathering Place
	Security and other costs	\$55,286.19	DNSSAB
Administration costs associated with the delivery of the above expenditures (<i>up to a maximum 15% of the contribution for the CE</i>)	Administrative tasks for C.E. – reporting, financial accountability to INFC	\$33,389.85	DNSSAB
TOTAL		\$222,599.00	

Figure 3: Winter Incremental Funding Allocation Recommendations

2024-25 Base Funding

2024-25 Allocations to Sub-Projects:

CAB Motion #2024-05:

- At the January 2024 CAB meeting, the CAB passed Motion #2024-05 recommending that all Sub-Project Agreements currently funded through the 2023-24 base Reaching Home Funding have their Funding Agreements amended to extend current funding to March 31, 2025. The funding shortfall will be taken from the Coordinated Access project funding, which will leave a balance of \$17,857.15 to be used for Coordinated Access and a Point in Time (PiT) count that is mandatory in the Fall of 2024.

Funded Sub-Projects	Budget
CCNB Shelter Supports Rehousing	\$162,407
CCNB Supporting Youth in Transitional Housing	\$73,716
BIANBA Housing Support Program	\$110,449
CCNB Youth Housing Support Program	\$110,993
TGP Cold Weather Unsheltered Hub	\$152,000
TOTAL	\$609,565

Figure 4: 2024-25 Project Funding Allocation Recommendations

- The extension for 2024-25 will allow for service and staffing stability.
- During the 2024-25 fiscal year, a thorough service evaluation and review of all currently funded sub-projects will be conducted jointly with the CAB to plan for 2025-26.

2024-28 Funding Decreases

- The abrupt changes announced for the Reaching Home Funding for 2026-27 and 2027-28 will present significant financial challenges for the DNSSAB and the agencies providing homelessness services and supports that are funded with Reaching Home funds. Communities across Canada are advocating with the Federal Government to reconsider the funding cuts.

NEXT STEPS

- Upon approval, current agreements with Sub-Project Agencies will be amended to reflect the funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- Recommend that DNSSAB communicate via letter with the Member of Parliament for Nipissing District, Anthony Rota, and Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt, Marc Serré, to advocate for reconsideration of the Reaching Home funding decreases.
- Recommend that DNSSAB collaborate with other leadership organizations, including AMO, NOSDA, OMSSA and CAEH within existing advocacy campaigns.

AUTHOR: Stacey Cyopec, Director of Housing Services

February 7, 2024

Anthony Rota
Member of Parliament for Nipissing Timiskaming
375 Main Street West
North Bay, Ontario
P1B 2T9
anthony.rota@parl.gc.ca

Re: Reductions in Reaching Home Funding

Dear MP Rota:

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has been the Community Entity for the North Bay/Nipissing Community Advisory Board since signing the original Reaching Home Funding agreement with Canada in 2019. Since that time, this community has been in receipt of a total of \$3,106,136 over five years (2019-2024). This includes incremental funding of \$1,919,872 on top of base funding that was added during the pandemic (2021-2024). The additional funding has been essential to the provision of core community services including shelter supports and diversion, overflow beds and, over the last two years, Warming Centre operations during the winter months. The funding has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of several local pilot projects, including the Housing Unit Stability and Recovery pilot, Suswin Outreach supports, and the Salvation Army's Emergency Rehousing Program.

In late November of 2023, Infrastructure Canada (INFC) advised DNSSAB that the funding allocations for 2024-2028 would be decreasing by nearly \$1,000,000.00 to pre-pandemic levels with the loss of any incremental funding for 2026-2028. This decrease will add significant funding pressure within the system and could result in the loss of services and capacity.

It has become clear that the pandemic shone a bright light on the issue of homelessness – one that does not seem to have abated. The continued shortage of affordable housing, economic uncertainty and lack of access to mental health and addiction supports means that we are unlikely



to see a decline in need any time soon. Any loss of funding that, in turn, decreases services or capacity can only be expected to exacerbate the situation.

The DNSSAB respectfully requests that the District's MPs advocate for reconsideration of the cuts to Reaching Home Funding, and that the funding in future fiscal years, at minimum, be maintained at current levels.

Sincerely,

Mark King,

Chairperson

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Cc: Marc Serré, Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt

Melanie Shaye, A/CAO District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Encl: Board Report HS2024-03 Reaching Home Funding Allocations

February 7, 2024

Marc Serré

Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt

206 King Street, Suite 3

Sturgeon Falls, Ontario

P2B 1R7

marc.serre@parl.gc.ca

Re: Reductions in Reaching Home Funding

Dear MP Serré:

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has been the Community Entity for the North Bay/Nipissing Community Advisory Board since signing the original Reaching Home Funding agreement with Canada in 2019. Since that time, this community has been in receipt of a total of \$3,106,136 over five years (2019-2024). This includes incremental funding of \$1,919,872 on top of base funding that was added during the pandemic (2021-2024). The additional funding has been essential to the provision of core community services including shelter supports and diversion, overflow beds and, over the last two years, Warming Centre operations during the winter months. The funding has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of several local pilot projects, including the Housing Unit Stability and Recovery pilot, Suswin Outreach supports, and the Salvation Army's Emergency Rehousing Program.

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Mark King,

Chairperson

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Cc: Anthony Rota, Member of Parliament for Nipissing--Timiskaming

Melanie Shaye, A/CAO District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Encl: Board Report HS2024-03 Reaching Home Funding Allocations