

# SOCIAL HOUSING INNOVATION FUND

## 2026 APPLICATION GUIDE



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## WHAT IS THE SOCIAL HOUSING INNOVATION FUND?

### Better solutions that meet new requirements

The Social Housing Innovation Fund is intended to help housing providers develop solutions to meet new challenges.

- ✓ Do you have an innovative solution to a problem or requirement?
- ✓ Are you interested in working with others to make your dollars go further?
- ✓ Do you want to implement an accessible project, training or initiative?
- ✓ Do you need some funding to implement an idea to enhance your site, business, board or community?

### Categories:

- Accessibility
- Green Initiatives
- Recreation and Leisure Space
- Community Programs and Initiatives
- Capacity Building

### Submissions are due **Friday April 17, 2026 by 4:30 p.m.**

Completed and signed applications, with required supporting documents, must be submitted by the deadline by email (completed digital PDF, not a scanned copy or photocopy) to:

[housingproviderinfo@york.ca](mailto:housingproviderinfo@york.ca)

Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Funding is subject to budget approval by Regional Council.

Additional terms and conditions may be imposed by York Region. To receive funding, chosen applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with York Region setting out all terms and conditions applicable to the funding.

York Region may, in its sole discretion, reject an application or withdraw a chosen applicant for any reason and without liability.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- To be eligible for the Program, housing providers must meet one of the following:
  - Designated housing projects under Part VII or a housing project that is being operated pursuant to a Service Agreement under Part VII.1 of the Housing Services Act, 2011; or
  - Federal non-profit providers with a federal operating agreement; or
  - Housing providers with active contribution agreements under a federal/provincial affordable housing program, their extensions, or successor programs (e.g., Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, Investment in Ontario Affordable Housing Program)
- Housing providers are expected to make a 50 per cent (25 per cent for accessibility) contribution of the total cost of their projects
- If a housing provider is unable to contribute to the cost of a qualifying project, York Region may consider waiving all or a portion of the provider’s contribution
- Proposed projects must be completed by December 31, 2026
- Additionally, housing providers must meet the condition below to be eligible for the Program:
  - The housing provider is in compliance with all existing community housing program obligations, including continued use of the Region’s subsidized housing wait list to fill subsidized units

### Funding categories (one project per application)

Category	Description
Accessibility	Upgrades or retrofits to improve accessibility for residents and/or guests. Projects can meet the needs of those with varying abilities including hearing, vision, cognitive and mental health.
Green initiatives	Energy efficient upgrades or retrofits that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve quality and sustainability, improve the quality of life for households and save money. Green initiatives must apply for relevant energy rebates.
Recreation and leisure space	Indoor or outdoor space that may include recreation (active or leisure) that promotes overall health and well-being as well as social inclusion. Accessibility must be considered when developing space.
Community programs/initiatives	Activities or programs promoting community building, skill development, social inclusion and wellness.
Capacity building	Forming partnerships to share costs for activities or initiatives that help build capacity (strengthen organization, save money or plan for the future).

### As funding is limited, York Region will consider:

- The expected benefits of the project for tenants/members or operations (i.e. number of households that will benefit, cost savings, increased community engagement)
- If the project could be funded from another source (i.e. Provider resources or other funding programs)
- Projects that demonstrate partnership, capacity building with a sustainability plan

### Need help? Contact your Program Coordinator if you have questions.

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