



MIZIWE BIIK  
ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) 2007-2009

### Homelessness Partnering Initiative – Aboriginal Communities

RFP Release:	Monday, October 22, 2007
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	\$ 1,300,000
PROJECT ACTIVITY TIMELINE:	JAN 1, 2008 to MAR 31, 2009
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:	12 NOON, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
CONTACT INFORMATION:	<i>Jennifer Abbott at (416) 591-2314</i>
CP Framework/ Data Tools:	<a href="http://www.miziwebiik.com">www.miziwebiik.com</a>

Miziwe Biik is seeking proposals that will support the efforts of the GTA Aboriginal community to help more homeless individuals and families to move into more stable living environments and increase their access to the supports and interventions they need to achieve greater self-sufficiency.

The HPS will continue to address the unique needs of the Aboriginal population through its HPI-Aboriginal component. Recognising that community responses are best to address local needs, homelessness funding is targeted to coordinated local responses.

The HPI-Aboriginal component is designed to provide flexibility to meet the needs of homeless Aboriginal people, through culturally sensitive services.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The new Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) was announced by the federal government on December 19, 2006. The HPS replaces the National Homelessness Initiative, which expired on March 31, 2007. The new Strategy, which began on April 1, 2007, provides \$269.6 million over two years to prevent and reduce homelessness by helping to establish the structures and supports needed to move homeless and at-risk individuals towards self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian society.

This new strategy builds and improves upon the National Homelessness Initiative by focusing on a "housing-first" approach to homelessness in Canada. By working with communities, provinces and territories, partners in the private and not-for-profit sectors and Aboriginal partners, the Strategy encourages an effective alignment of federal/provincial/territorial investments and helps homeless individuals and families to access the range of services and programmes that they need to move towards self-sufficiency.

Under the HPS, the federal government will offer the provinces and territories the opportunity to enter into bilateral partnerships, improve collaboration and develop linkages between the federal homelessness programmes and provincial/territorial social services to help communities make strategic investments that will best serve their homeless populations.

The **Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI)** is the cornerstone of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). Its housing-first approach recognizes that the first step is to provide individuals with transitional and supportive housing. Afterwards, other supports can be instituted as required to improve health, parenting, education, and employment.

The HPI includes four components:

- **Homelessness Partnership Initiative - Designated Communities:** Communities that have been identified as having a significant problem with homelessness are able to access multi-year funding under this component that must be matched from other sources in the same way as the former National Homelessness Initiative's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).
- **Homelessness Partnership Initiative - Outreach Communities:** Under this component, smaller cities, rural and outlying areas, including the North, are eligible for funding to support single projects to fill specific gaps in rural infrastructure to address homelessness.
- **Homelessness Partnership Initiative - Aboriginal Communities:** Partnerships with Aboriginal communities under this component ensure that services meet the acute and unique needs of homeless Aboriginal people, whether in cities or rural areas.
- **Homelessness Partnership Initiative - Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects:** Human Resources and Social Development Canada will mobilize federal departments to collaborate on corrections, mental health, family violence and immigration issues which may lead to homelessness.

**Homelessness Partnership Strategy Website:** [http://homelessness.gc.ca/about\\_us/index\\_e.asp](http://homelessness.gc.ca/about_us/index_e.asp)

## CRITERIA FOR FUNDING:

Proposals or applications to support specific projects or activities must, at a minimum:

1. demonstrate that the proposed project fits within priorities identified<sup>i</sup> in the community plan, and meet expected programme outcomes;
2. describe the activities to be undertaken;
3. identify the expected result within a specified time frame and the impact this is intended to have on homelessness;
4. provide an estimate of expenditures to be incurred;
5. address the sustainability of the activities proposed, if they will not be completed by March 31, 2009, or if there are ongoing costs associated with the effectiveness of the expenditure (e.g., ongoing operating costs of a new shelter);

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities eligible for support include, but are not limited to:

### 1. Community Development (formally known as capacity building)

Through ongoing community development related to building community development, communities will mobilize to address a spectrum of homelessness issues. These could include absolute homelessness, emergency response, transitional or supportive housing, socioeconomic inclusion and participation, and prevention of homelessness.

In addition, activities such as organisational assistance (such as proposal development, strategic planning, board training, conflict resolution, decision-making, etc.); access to educational opportunities (such as workshops, etc.); encouragement of multi-sectoral and multi-organisational collaboration; information sources; data collection (including system implementation, upgrades and resources, etc.), and community development initiatives are eligible for funding.

### 2. Meeting the Needs

Activities that meet the needs of people living on the streets, in shelters, or transitional and supportive facilities including, for example: providing outreach and street workers to link homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless, with resources; enhancing multiservice centres (such as drop-in centres that provide food, clothing, laundry and showers facilities, foot care, sleeping bags, dental hygiene, service referrals, etc.); and supporting the construction and renovation of, for example, emergency shelters, transitional facilities and other support facilities are eligible for funding.

### 3. General

Where outlined in the applicable community plan, other initiatives that build on a continuum of supports approach (such as prevention) are eligible to receive funding.

### 4. Additional criteria will be applied to funding applications:

- a) All projects must either provide immediate services to the Aboriginal homeless in the GTA, or focus on the development of long term solutions to the problem of Aboriginal homelessness;
- b) Wherever possible, the homeless should be involved in planning the project or services;

- c) Applications must demonstrate that they have provided programs and services for homeless in the past;
- d) Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with existing City by-laws, Regulations and Standards regarding health and safety, particularly if setting up shelters, other types of housing, or drop-ins;
- e) Applicants must have a good track record with Miziwe Biik;
- f) ALFDC established guidelines would apply regarding types of programmes under which funds can flow, as well as eligible costs.

## **APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS**

Miziwe Biik staff will handle the applications for review based on the priorities outlined in the Community Plan. Miziwe Biik Board of Directors will have final approval on all submitted proposals.

Miziwe Biik staff is responsible for the following functions:

- Reviewing the proposals and providing recommendations on funding to Miziwe Biik Board of Directors;
- Contracting and monitoring the projects through site visits and ensuring the submission of regular activity, statistical and financial reports.

## **FLOW OF FUNDS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The normal financial and accountability policies and procedures established by Miziwe Biik will apply. In addition, funded agencies are asked to maintain good statistical records regarding the numbers of homeless served by their project. Agencies are asked to submit monthly statistical reports to Miziwe Biik along with their financial and activity reports every month. For the final project report, agencies are asked to submit a specific evaluation summary reporting on the identified goals and objectives for their project.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Application (.doc)
2. Appendix #1 – Workplan (.doc)
3. Priorities and Objectives (.pdf)

This information will also be made available on our website: [www.miziwebiik.com](http://www.miziwebiik.com).

## **All Funding is Contingent on Government Funding**

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<sup>i</sup> Please refer to the document titled, "Priorities and Objectives" for a list of the 10 Priorities identified in the Community Plan.