

# SOCIAL HOUSING INNOVATION FUND

## 2025 APPLICATION GUIDE



## **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 February 28, 2025 by 4:30 p.m.**

Applications must be submitted online by the application deadline.

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

**HOW DOES FUNDING WORK?**

- 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, 2025

**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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