



Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Fédération canadienne des municipalités

Federation of Canadian Municipalities announces 15 new grants to improve housing affordability for Canadians

OTTAWA, 18 August, 2010 – The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) today announced 15 new grants totaling \$73,100 to improve housing affordability for Canadians. The grants are made possible through the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program.

The grants will be used to increase housing affordability and offer housing options that meet the community's needs through the promotion and initiation of regulatory reform. A list of the projects appears at the end of this release.

Regulatory barriers is a major concern to home builders, non-profit organizations and municipalities looking for innovative ways to make housing more affordable and in line with the changing needs of today's communities. Regulatory reform includes changes to municipal policies and by-laws, building codes, development standards, and approval procedures.

To this end, ACT provides grants of up to \$5,000 to local teams made up of municipalities, builders, and housing stakeholders who promote the improvement of planning and building regulations in their communities. ACT also offers a wealth of proven best practices and lessons learned to communities who want to benefit from the innovations of others through case studies and information sheets which can be downloaded from its website www.actprogram.com

The ACT Initiative was created in 1990 to fund and promote practical solutions at the local level that overcome planning and building regulatory barriers to housing affordability and choice. It is funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and administered and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with the participation of the Canadian Home Builders' Association and the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.

FCM has been the voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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ACT Grant Projects – August 2010

Affordable Ownership Housing Toolkit for Municipalities, Toronto, Ontario

A \$5,000 grants to develop a toolkit providing municipalities easy-to-implement regulatory measures and regulatory templates to support the production of affordable ownership housing projects.

Secondary Suites in the Alberni Valley, Port Alberni, BC

A \$5,000 grants to hold workshops with residents to establish the rules and standards around secondary suites and include them in a new Official Community Plan in order to encourage new units as well as the upgrade of illegal suites.

Supportive Housing in Hamilton, City of Hamilton, Ontario

A \$5,000 grants to help modify the zoning by-laws to permit supportive housing for the most vulnerable people in Hamilton through research, community consultation and recommendations.

Zoning Regulations for Affordable Housing, City of Moncton, New Brunswick

A 5,000 grant to develop policies and regulations that will facilitate the construction of a range of affordable housing options in Moncton

Secondary Suites Grant Program, City of Calgary, Alberta

A \$5,000 grant to help establish a city-wide policy on secondary suites through stakeholder workshops and the development of policy guidelines for secondary suites.

Housing Options for Annapolis Royal, Town of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

A \$5,000 grant to explore the feasibility of permitting a mix of housing types including smaller houses, flex housing, supportive housing and apartments in order to provide housing options to families and seniors.

Adaptable Housing Guidelines, District of Sechelt, BC

A \$4,500 grant to develop accessibility guidelines and recommendations and to host a workshop with the local development industry to show how the guidelines can be applied.

Affordable Housing Policy, Cowichan Social Planning Society, Duncan, BC

A \$5,000 grant to host a workshop and a series of working group sessions with stakeholders to identify and recommend regulatory initiatives such as secondary suites, adaptive reuse, infill development and higher densities in order to encourage the construction of new affordable housing units.

Micro Suites for seniors, Oakville, Ontario

A \$5,000 grant to help introduce micro suites for seniors by re-adapting existing large single family homes to accommodate several residents who will each have a smaller self contained unit and access to common spaces such as kitchen, living room and dining room. The project will explore regulatory solutions and ways/ideas to encourage positive acceptance of micro suites.

Visitable Housing Project, City of Prince George, BC

A \$5,000 grants to introduce new guidelines and regulations for visitable and fully accessible housing in the City of Prince George.

Affordable Housing in Meadowlark, Town of Osoyoos, BC

A \$5,000 grants to develop designs and regulations that will permit smaller lots and smaller houses as well as guidelines for residential intensification. The team will host a Housing Symposium & Workshop for members of the development community and the general public to evaluate various design plans and development guidelines.

Lecture on NIMBYism and Affordable Housing, Urban Forum, Ottawa, Ontario

A \$5,000 grants to host a public lecture on the issue of NIMBY to discuss the perceptions and challenges regarding the provision of affordable housing within the built-up urban area while fulfilling intensification policies.

Addressing Housing Needs in Northern Saskatchewan, Northern Human Services Partnership and the Population Health Unit, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

A \$5,000 grant to collect and share information, experiences and ideas and to develop a comprehensive strategy for affordable housing in northern Saskatchewan.

Community Acceptance for Residential Intensification, Town of Golden, BC

A \$3,800 grants to host a public information session to gain community acceptance for proposed infill and densification measures. The intent of the event is to demonstrate how additional housing options serve to increase the overall sustainability of the community.

Impact of new Building Regulations on Delivery of Affordable Housing, Sunshine Coast Regional District, BC

A \$5,000 grant to host 2 workshops with key stakeholders to provide advice regarding impacts of changes to provincial building regulations on building secondary suites and construction costs as well as additional options to address housing needs.