

Good afternoon Dan Best,

Huron Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services (HWSSSHCS) is currently applying for the Women and Children Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative through the National Housing Strategy Co-Investment Fund and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. [This 2-year initiative](#) is for the construction, repair and operating costs of an estimated 560 units of transitional housing and shelter spaces for women and their children fleeing violence. This initiative is open to all shelter and transitional housing providers for women and children escaping gender-based violence.

I am reaching out to request a letter of support to be submitted with our application. We have an extensive list of improvements which could be made to our shelter and second stage locations to increase the safety & security, accessibility and eco-friendliness of the spaces.

Some of the key items we are applying for are installing HVAC at the three Second Stage locations, installing new windows at the Goderich SS location, installing some new cameras at the shelter to eliminate blind spots on the premises, increasing accessibility of the front entrance doors at all Second Stage locations and in some units. The estimated budget for the projects is still under assessment as we have some preliminary work to do with the architect who is supporting the project, but we would likely be looking at upwards of \$500,000 and if successful in securing the funds, would receive payments over the next 6 years.

All of these improvements would positively impact a woman's experience of accessing our services throughout her Healing Journey and will offer a greater sense of autonomy in individual units.

Letters of support should outline the nature of the relationship between supporting agency and HWS and speak to how if secured the funds and upgrades outlined above would allow HWS to continue providing service to women and children or could enhance the existing services offered at our second stage and shelter locations. I should note that we are also aiming to modify a couple of our Second Stage units to create more accessible units which we know are limited in our community.

We are currently going through the preliminary work and will submit the application by the end of this month. If possible requesting the letter of support by May 24th. Please let me know if there is anything else needed and whether this timeline will be feasible.

Thank you

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HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER SECOND STAGE HOUSING and COUNSELLING SERVICES