



Federal Funding to VAW Shelters/THs: Frequently Asked Questions

On August 6, 2021, the federal government [announced \\$200 million](#) over two years for violence against women (VAW) shelters, sexual assault centres, and organizations supporting women, children, and LGBTQ2 and gender non-binary people experiencing violence, to help them respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) has once again been asked by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) to distribute up to \$79 million of this funding to eligible VAW shelters and transition houses (THs) across the country, with the exception of shelters/THs located in Quebec or funded by Indigenous Services Canada.

The purpose of the *COVID-19 Response & Recovery Funding for VAW Shelters/THs* is to:

- Support organizations in responding to urgent needs and challenges in delivering essential GBV programs and services during the pandemic ("Response funding"); and
- Enhance organizations' capacity to adapt and prepare for GBV service provision post-pandemic ("Recovery funding")

While the 2020 COVID-19 emergency funding focused primarily on emergency preparedness and responses to the pandemic, this new funding aims to better equip shelters/THs to support the evolving needs of women, children, and LGBTQ2 and gender non-binary people experiencing violence as Canada moves into the post-pandemic phase.

1. Why is Women's Shelters Canada distributing these funds?

Last year, the federal government, through WAGE, asked us to distribute the initial COVID-19 emergency funds for VAW shelters/THs because of our close relationship with the VAW shelter/TH sector and our good lines of communication with the provincial shelter associations and individual shelters/THs. This allowed us to respond quickly during this unprecedented time. Based on the effectiveness of this approach last year, the federal government once again approached us to distribute the newly announced funds. The provincial and territorial associations that make up our full members are supportive of WSC taking on this role and are helping us ensure that we reach every eligible VAW shelter/TH across the country.

2. How does my organization access this funding?

On February 15, 2022, Women's Shelters Canada emailed eligible VAW shelters/THs across the country to invite them to apply for Round 2 of this funding. The application deadline is March 14, 2022, at 5pm EST, after which funds will be transferred via direct deposit. Round 1 took place in November 2021. If you are a VAW shelter/TH and you do not receive an email by February 21, please contact the WSC Grants Team at grants@endvaw.ca.

3. Why didn't my organization receive an email to register for funding?

This WAGE funding is very specific: it is for shelters/THs that have 24/7 residential services for women and children fleeing violence. As in 2020, this does not include shelters/transition houses funded by Indigenous Services Canada or those in Quebec. Only eligible VAW shelters/THs will receive an email from WSC with information on how to apply. If you are an eligible VAW shelter/TH and did not receive an email, you may not be on our list or we have the wrong email address. If you think you should have received an email, please contact the WSC Grants Team at grants@endvaw.ca.

4. What if I'm not an eligible organization?

If you are not eligible for funding through Women's Shelters Canada, you may be eligible for other funding:

- The government of Quebec will be providing funds to VAW shelters in Quebec. Please contact egalite@scf.gouv.qc.ca for more information.
- If you are a shelter funded by Indigenous Services Canada and are seeking funding to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 please contact: ppvf-fvpp@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Other gender-based violence organizations that offer ongoing support to survivors, including prevention and intervention, but that do not have a 24/7 residential component, can apply for funding through the Canadian Women's Foundation. Contact gbvgrants@canadianwomen.org for more information.

5. I received the February 15 email but I have questions. Who do I contact?

Women's Shelters Canada has prepared a comprehensive Funding Guide for this funding; the link to the guide is in the email you received on February 15. This guide contains a lot of further information about the funding process, amounts, eligibility, and what happens after you submit your application. Please review it carefully! WSC will also be holding two info sessions via Zoom during the application period; information about these sessions was included in the February 15 email. If you have additional questions, you can contact the WSC Grants Team at grants@endvaw.ca.

6. What do I do if I can't find the Funding Guide or link to apply?

If you are eligible for funding and did not receive or cannot find the email from February 15, you can email Kaitlin Geiger-Bardswich at kbardswich@endvaw.ca.