



Shelter Ready Fund for VAW Shelters and Transition Houses: Support for Indigenous Programming, Fall 2025 FAQ

We encourage you to review this document carefully before completing your application form.

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Section 1: Who can apply?

Your organization can apply if:

- You operate a shelter/transition house in Canada whose primary mandate is to offer 24/7 residential services for women, children, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and/or gender non-binary people fleeing domestic violence.

AND ARE EITHER

- Indigenous led

OR

- Primarily (more than 50%) support Indigenous communities

NOTE: While we will be prioritizing those with an operating budget of \$1 million or less, this is not a requirement.

Section 2: When do I apply?

Applications are due by **Friday, October 3, 2025, at 11:59pm PT.**

Section 3: How do I apply?

WSC is using a system that requires you to register as a user to the portal.

If you applied for the Shelter Ready or Pet Ready grant before, please sign in to the account you created for that purpose.

If you have NOT applied before, please try “Forget Password” on the login page as WSC is in the process of creating organizational profiles for shelters. If “Forget Password” doesn’t work, you will need to register as a new user in the portal. You can find step-by-step instructions on [how to register here](#).

A PDF of the questions asked in the application can be [found here](#).

Applications are by organization, not by shelter/TH. If your organization operates more than one VAW shelter/TH, you will need to register under the organization name as opposed to the shelter name. Each organization can only submit one (1) individual application per round.

Section 4: How much funding can I apply for and what can I use it for?

There will be 20 grants of \$21,500 each given out to shelters across Canada.

The funding is to be used to enhance expand, and/or continue programs/projects at shelter/transition houses that are EITHER Indigenous led AND/OR primarily (more than 50%) support Indigenous women.

Section 5: When do I need to use the funding by?

There is no deadline by which the full \$21,500 must be used, but we encourage its use within one year of receiving the funds.

Section 6: What happens after I submit my application?

After you submit your application form online, you will receive a confirmation email that includes a PDF of your application. Make sure to check your junk mail if you don’t find it in your inbox.

You will be notified about a funding decision in December. Once a decision has been made, we will send you a copy of the funding agreement and transfer the payment to your organization once your signed agreement has been returned to us. If your banking information is new, we will send a small test amount to ensure we’ve got the right account and will send the rest of the amount after we have confirmation of receipt.

Section 7: How will WSC decide which applications receive funding?

Grantees will be selected with geography and population in mind as we strive to fund a cross-section of shelters from across the country while ensuring urban and rural areas are being equally considered. Priority will go to those with an operating budget of \$1 million or less.

Initial review for eligibility: WSC will do a basic review to ensure the following criteria are met:

- The organization is eligible (see [Section 2](#))
- The organization has not submitted more than one application
- All application questions have been answered

Internal Reviewing: WSC will narrow the applications down to 50 based on originality of your program (rather than core services for example), thoroughness, geography, impact, etc. Our goal is to fund shelters from a variety of geographical places around Canada as well as to ensure urban and rural areas are being equally considered.

External reviewing: WSC has the help of external Indigenous reviewers to review the 50 applications. They will be reviewing applications from organizations outside of their geographical location and will score (0 to 5) the four longform questions. Each of the 50 applications will have at least two (2) external reviewers looking at their application. Reviewers will assess the applications based on considerations that include originality of project, thoroughness of responses, potential impact of project, etc.

Funding decisions: WSC will select the top 20 applications, taking into consideration geographical representation, that have been determined through the external review and will grant them \$21,500 each.

Section 8: What are the reporting requirements?

Our goal is to keep the reporting process as simple and straightforward as possible. There will be a short interim report about six months after receiving funding and a short final report due one year after you receive your funding.

The final report will ask for a brief description of how the funds were used and their impact. We will also be asking for any photos, video clips, news stories, etc. related to your use of these funds to use in our reports to funders and on social media. You will always have final approval before images are used.

You will not be required to submit receipts to us. Please keep your records and receipts as per your usual internal accounting process, but for the purposes of this report, submissions of receipts will not be required.

Section 9: Contact information

If you have any questions, please contact the WSC grants team at grants@endvaw.ca.