

REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD AFFORDABILITY AND PROSPERITY PROJECT (RHAP)



Project Rationale

Currently, the Greater Victoria area is significantly lacking affordable housing, and many living in the regions' 13 interconnected municipalities have been unable to truly prosper and thrive. The RHAP project is creating a regional approach to information sharing, promoting best practices and capacity building, in response to our current housing crisis and its subsequent negative effect on regional well-being and economic prosperity. By continually assessing the availability of affordable housing, and by fostering regional collaboration and information sharing between municipal governments, this project is helping prioritize household prosperity and economic resilience within the participating municipalities and across the region.

Progress Made – Phase 1

Many successes were accomplished during Phase 1 of the RHAP project, including: (i) creating a Community of Practice within participating municipalities to foster collaboration and information-sharing about local housing affordability strategies at the staff level; (ii) offering workshops and free events for both the public sector and members of the public on housing affordability tools and strategies (including Councilor Learning Sessions and speakers sharing best practices from other jurisdictions); and (iii) generating publications on housing affordability tools, strategies, housing needs data and the impacts of housing unaffordability within the communities of the Greater Victoria Area.

Progress Made – Phase 2

This project will build upon the progress made in Phase 1 by continuing to support the local governments in their efforts to develop the most effective affordability strategies. During Phase 2, the RHAP project aims to expand its reach and intensify its impact. This will be achieved by adding more municipal partners both within and outside the Greater Victoria Area, in order to achieve deeper regional collaboration; involving City Councillors to inform affordability strategies in their respective municipalities and to share updated data on housing needs; raising awareness and reducing stigma related to housing unaffordability and poverty within our communities; and sharing innovative solutions for affordable housing that are applicable in a local context to bolster household prosperity and economic resilience in the region.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Insights · Dialogue · Solutions



Project Activities

- Continually generating research on housing and homelessness in the region
- Sharing best practices from local and outside municipalities among city staff, councillors, and the public
- Profiling local challenges surrounding housing poverty & vulnerability
- Compiling local policy practices & shared learnings
- Hosting events for networking and information sharing
- Fostering community engagement with municipal, business, community partners, and members
- Raising awareness on social issues impacting local communities
- Reducing stigma around housing poverty and housing insecurity

Municipal Involvement

Municipal partners within the RHAP project will have the ability to participate in a variety of the project's activities in accordance with each municipality's capacity and needs. These include, but are not limited to:

- Having research support and in-service workshops
- Engaging with the community on housing affordability challenges and solutions
- Taking part in a Community of Practice for staff members that prioritizes information sharing and collaboration surrounding affordable housing strategies
- Attending events, in-person or virtual, that enable staff and elected officials to learn more about affordable housing best practices

Regional Partnership

Phase 2:

Lead and host: City of Colwood

Municipal Partners: Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Langford

Funding

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) via the Province of BC (Poverty Reduction Grants)

Key Community Partner

The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

About the Community Social Planning Council

The Community Social Planning Council provides reliable information and engagement processes that inform decision making across all sectors in order to support broad based social well-being. This is done by bringing people together to address community issues, conducting community-based research, and supporting community and regional planning processes.

Contact Us

Visit our website at www.communitycouncil.ca, **scan the QR code**, or reach out to our Executive Director diana@communitycouncil.ca



Follow Us



@CSPC_Victoria



@cspcvictoria



@CommunitySocialPlanningCouncilVictoria