CDSB·CSDC
Cochrane District Services Board | Conseil des services du district de Cochrane

Cochrane District Services Board
Expression of Interest (EOI)

Conceptual and Emerging Ideas to Address Homelessness Needs

1. Purpose of this Call

The Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB) is issuing this Expression of Interest (EOI) to invite conceptual, emerging, or early-stage ideas that have the potential to address homelessness needs across the Cochrane District.

This EOI is intended to capture ideas that are not yet shovel-ready and may require further exploration, feasibility work, partnership development, or future funding to advance. CDSB recognizes that meaningful solutions to homelessness often begin as ideas and is seeking to understand what concepts, models, or approaches could shape the next phase of system development.

This EOI will be used to:

- Identify emerging ideas and innovations that respond to homelessness-related needs
- Understand gaps, pressures, and opportunities within the current homelessness system
- Inform longer-term planning, partnership development, and funding advocacy
- Support the development of a future project and innovation pipeline

Important: This EOI is not a funding call. Submission of an idea does not guarantee funding, approval, or advancement to implementation.

2. How This EOI Fits with Other CDSB Calls

CDSB may issue different types of EOIs to support system planning and readiness.

- Shovel-Ready EOIs focus on projects that are ready to proceed quickly if funding becomes available.
- This Concept & Ideas EOI focuses on ideas that are earlier in development and are intended to inform future planning and decision-making.

Proponents are encouraged to submit to the EOI that best aligns with the current stage of their idea or project.

3. Strategic Context

As the designated Service Manager, CDSB is responsible for supporting a coordinated, responsive homelessness system across the district. This includes not only advancing ready-to-implement projects, but also identifying:

- Emerging needs
- Innovative or under-developed approaches
- Community-driven and culturally grounded ideas
- Future service, housing, or system design opportunities

This EOI supports CDSB's commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, and long-term system sustainability.

4. Important Notice – Not a Call for Proposals

This EOI:

- Does not guarantee funding
- Does not create a contractual relationship
- Is not a Request for Proposals (RFP)

Submissions under this EOI are not expected to be implementation-ready and will not be evaluated for immediate funding.

5. Definition of "Conceptual or Emerging Ideas"

Ideas submitted under this EOI may include concepts that:

- Are at an early or exploratory stage
- Require feasibility studies, design work, or site identification
- Depend on future funding or new funding streams
- Need further partnership development or operational refinement
- Represent new, alternative, or untested approaches

Submissions do not require:

- Secured sites
- Detailed budgets
- Confirmed funding sources
- Finalized operating models

6. Eligible Focus Areas

Concepts may address homelessness needs broadly and may include, but are not limited to:

- New or alternative housing models
- Prevention, diversion, or stabilization approaches
- Supports for high-acuity or under-served populations
- Indigenous-led or culturally responsive models
- Rural, remote, or community-specific service adaptations
- System navigation, coordination, or transition models
- Workforce, staffing, or service delivery innovations
- Hybrid housing-support concepts not currently available in the district

Ideas should demonstrate a clear connection to homelessness prevention, reduction, or improved system outcomes, even if the pathway to implementation is still emerging.

7. Submission Requirements

Submissions should be concise (generally 2–3 pages) and written in plain language. Proponents are asked to address the following:

a) Description of the Idea

- What is the concept or idea?
- What gap, problem, or opportunity does it address?

b) Target Population or Community

- Who would benefit from this idea?
- Which community or geography would it serve?

c) Rationale and Potential Impact

- Why is this idea important?
- What would improve if this idea were developed or implemented?

d) What Would Be Needed to Advance the Idea

- High-level needs (e.g., partnerships, policy changes, feasibility work, capital or operating funding)
- Key barriers or unknowns, if any

e) Proponent Perspective (Optional)

- Why are you or your organization well-placed to propose this idea?
- Lived experience, community relationships, or relevant expertise

8. Review and Use of Submissions

Submissions will be reviewed qualitatively for planning and system-design purposes. CDSB will not rank or score submissions.

Ideas may be used to:

- Inform long-term housing and homelessness planning
- Shape future EOIs, pilots, or investment approaches
- Identify opportunities for collaboration or further exploration
- Support advocacy with provincial, federal, or other partners

CDSB may choose to follow up with proponents to:

- Seek clarification
- Explore partnerships
- Invite participation in planning or feasibility discussions

9. Confidentiality and Use of Information

Information submitted through this EOI will be used for system planning, strategy development, and funding advocacy. Submissions may be shared with CDSB staff, Board members, or partners as required for these purposes.

10. Final Notes to Proponents

CDSB recognizes that many of the most impactful solutions to homelessness begin as ideas. This EOI is an opportunity to:

- Share emerging thinking
- Surface unmet needs
- Influence future directions
- Help shape what the homelessness system could become

CDSB encourages proponents to share ideas openly, even if they are still evolving.