

INDIGENOUS
& NORTHERN
HOUSING

CMHC Capacity Building- Funding Opportunities

January 2026



Indigenous Youth Housing Internship Program (IYHIP)

What is it?

- **New name**
- **Provides a wage subsidy to organizations and businesses in the housing sector to hire Indigenous youth for internship positions.**
- **15-30 years of age**
- **Minimum of 8 weeks, maximum of 2 years**

Internship examples

- **Maintenance**
- **Construction**
- **Tenant relations**
- **Administration**
- **Housing finance**
- **Trades apprenticeship**
- **Landscaping**



Program update

- **Program expansion to include non-Indigenous organizations wishing to hire Indigenous youth in a housing-related field**



Internship eligibility

Who can apply?

- **First Nations and affiliated organizations such as Tribal Councils**
- **Other Indigenous organizations such as non-profits**
- **For-profit Indigenous organizations**
- **Non-Indigenous employers seeking to hire Indigenous youth**

Sponsor responsibilities

- Pay at least minimum wage in your province or territory
- Provide on-the-job training, coaching, mentoring
- Complete reporting to CMHC – youth profile form and outcomes form



Sponsor benefits

- Subsidy covers expenses including employment insurance, vacation pay, Canada Pension Plan workers' compensation premiums
- More skilled labour in community
- Succession planning
- Equipment can be included

How to apply

- **Expression of interest beginning April 1, 2026**
- **Provide some details on the internship**

Success story – Tobique First Nation

- Tobique created youth training program in 2018
- About 30 interns funded so far
- Many have gone on to become Red Seal carpenters, electricians, plumbers



Indigenous Skills Training (IST)

What is it?

- **Funding for activities that will lead to improved housing outcomes for First Nations**



Who can apply?

- **First Nations**
- **Tribal Councils**
- **Indigenous Organizations**
- **Technical Services Groups**

Examples of activities

- **Education and training**
- **Policy**
- **Consultations**
- **Events**

Ineligible Expenses

- **Food**
- **Travel**
- **Accommodations**
- **Door prizes**
- **Tools and equipment**
- **Software licenses**



How to apply

- **Expressions of Interest open Spring 2026**
- **Submit application using CMHC's online application portal**
- **Applications are scored**
- **For successful applicants, funding is released when an invoice is supplied**

Tips for your application

- **National budget**
- **Impact matters**
- **Be detailed**

Success story – Youth Builders' Challenge

- **Part of 2025 First Nation Housing Conference**
- **First Nation Youth learned hands-on technical skills**
- **Applied those skills as part of the Builders' Challenge**



Thank you!

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