

*Sayt-K'ilim-Goot / one heart, one path, one nation*



**Nisga'a Lisims Government**

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**NISGAANATION.CA**

**NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT**  
**CAPITAL, HOUSING AND FACILITY DEPARTMENT**  
**REACHING HOME PROGRAM**

**April 1, 2024**

**Updated Directives – Guidelines**

Eric Nyce, Director of Capital, Housing & Facility  
Cheryl McMillan, NLG Reaching Home: Navigator

### **Overview – Reaching Home Guidelines**

Reaching Home is a community-based program that aims to prevent and reduce homelessness within our community on Nisga'a Lands. The Reaching Home program, administered by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG), is a vital community-based initiative to provides direct support and funding to all community members living on Nisga'a Lands. Its primary goal is to prevent and reduce homelessness through various means of assistance and intervention.

As part of our commitment to transparency and effective implementation, we have outlined specific eligibility criteria for the Nisga'a Homeless Prevention program, which include:

- Residing on Nisga'a Lands
- Individuals, particular women, or men who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence.
- Individuals leaving the correctional or hospital systems.
- Those at risk of eviction from primary residence
- Providing proof of access to a secured residence,
- Demonstrating the need for furniture/appliances
- Providing proof of income

These criteria ensure that the support and funding provided by the Reaching Home program reaches those who are most in need within our community. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that these guidelines are subject to periodic review and may be updated in accordance with Canada's Reaching Home Fund Agreements.

We encourage you to disseminate this information within your organization or department, as it serves as a guideline for understanding eligibility and ineligibility criteria for the Reaching Home program.

### **Homelessness in Nisga'a Nation**

Homelessness-related situations within the Nisga'a Lands present unique challenges, necessitating tailored outcomes, goals, strategies, and interventions to address them effectively. While homelessness is typically defined as lacking a permanent address or residence, the context within the Nisga'a Nation encompasses various scenarios. These include overcrowded homes, relocation to off-lands housing, and couch surfing with relatives. Some individuals may temporarily resort to emergency shelters in nearby areas like Terrace, potentially leading to chronic homelessness characterized by recurrent episodes or prolonged periods without stable housing. Presently, the Nisga'a Nation lacks dedicated accommodations such as emergency shelters, women's or men's shelters, community living spaces, or safe homes to mitigate homelessness. The Nisga'a Lisims Government has embarked on the Reaching Home Program, offering four years of grant funding to both Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a citizens residing on Nisga'a Lands. This initiative is crucial in preventing citizens from resorting to relocation, homelessness, or losing their rental units. The forthcoming directives outlined in this program aim to proactively prevent homelessness and provide a comprehensive understanding of the guidelines for each directive.

### **Directive A: Housing Services**

Under Directive A for Housing Services, citizens are eligible to apply for rental assistance, encompassing various housing options such as apartments, duplexes, triplexes, and private rental provided they are not mortgaged properties.

- a. Support 1<sup>st</sup> month Rent.
- b. Rent supplement
- c. Private rent – ineligible if landlord is in mortgage agreement.
- d. Security Deposit at move-in
- e. Furniture at move-in – Max \$1000.00
- f. Moving Costs – Relocation to Nisga'a Lands
- g. Utility Deposit – 1<sup>st</sup> time renters only
- h. Groceries at move-in

The Navigator overseeing these services ensures exhaustive examination of all available funds within Village Governments, Jordan's Principle, Mental Health Departments, NVHA funding, and other organizations with similar funding. Collaborating with these entities, the Navigator strives to address any gaps in support for individuals seeking housing assistance, preventative measures, crisis or other.

**Directive B: Prevention**

## a) Rental Arrears – Current arrears

- i. Client to submit a current eviction notice from landlord.
- ii. Navigator will ensure all other financial resources have been exhausted or work with other departments, such as Social Development, Village Government Housing, Jordan's Principle, etc. to advocate for client.
- iii. Client to submit a "Updated Housing Policy & Procedures" or Landlord Tenancy Agreement – signed.
- iv. Navigator will work with client on Agreement with Landlord
- v. Financial Assistance will be based on the income testing process.
- vi. One-time disbursement if the above requirements are met.

## b) Utility Arrears

- i. Current arrears
- ii. One time application if the above requirements are met.
- iii. Applicant must provide proof of BC Hydro – Customer Crisis Fund application if not approved.

## c) Appliance Replacement

- i. Prevention towards forcing a client to move out of unit due to inadequate or inappropriate living conditions.
  1. No water tank, no stove, no heat etc.
  2. Applicant must have proof of applying for this replacement.
  3. Navigator will reach out to other financial resources to work with them if required.

### Directive C: Client Supports

Reaching Home Navigator will work collaboratively with Nisga'a Valley Health, Village Governments and other organizations connected to the client application. The program will fill gaps for existing programs funded by other sources of funding. The Navigator will identify funding for clients and determine together with organizations required funding.

- a. Mental Health & Wellness – funding is available through various organizations, First Nations, Village Governments, Nisga'a Valley Health. Navigator will work with appropriate entities to seek financial gaps to cost share.
- b. Addictions Workshops/Recovery – Referrals by Physician, counseling, psychiatrists. Navigator will support clients through advocacy and fill gaps where necessary. Due to funding, these funds are not to cover costs of actual programming and are geared towards shortfall of transportation/meals emergency.
- c. Harm Reduction
- d. Shelter supports – Nisga'a Nation do not have adequate facilities but can support clients through provided financial support to get to shelter in Terrace providing there is written statement of accommodation.
- e. Food vouchers – available for all citizens through Purchase Order. Navigator will ensure that all other avenues have been exhausted, including referral to local food banks.

### **Directive D: Capital Investment**

Capital Investments are intended to increase the capacity or improve the quality of facilities that address the needs of individuals and families experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness, facilities which our Nisga'a Nation is working towards, such as:

1. Emergency Shelters
2. Transitional Housing
3. Supportive Housing (fixed-site or place-based)
4. Non-Residential Facility

The following eligible activities will be delivered through collaboration from Nisga'a Lisims Government – Capital, Housing & Facility Department and Village Governments for the four communities for non-facility.

2024

This Guide outlines the NLG Reaching Home Program for all citizens residing in communities of Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw and Gitlaxt'amiks. These guidelines are subject to periodic review and change by the NLG Reaching Home in accordance with Canada's Reaching Home Funding Agreements.

The Government of Canada funding aims to temporarily support individuals at risk of losing their rental unit/home. Due to limited funding, we request that applicants only apply for their current needs, enabling us to serve more citizens within current limits.

Reaching Home applicants must complete the attached application form thoroughly and adhere to the following statements:

- Should you be receiving financial assistance from another organization, specify the organization and the date of last assistance on this application.
- Applicants seeking rental/security financial assistance must provide a signed tenancy agreement with the landlord/Village Government Housing or others before processing this application.
- Submit all documents with this application, including quotes. Moving expenses are for tenants relocating from outside Nisga'a Nation Lands.
- Rental arrears must be current; reasons for arrears (crisis) will be considered. Submit a current copy of the organization's Housing Policy & Procedures indicating procedures for eviction notice.
- Rental Arrears will be considered if situation arose from "emergency situations" or medical health reasons. Applicant must comply with all requirements. .
- Utility arrears- applicant must provide a current disconnection notice.
- Hydro deposit – applicant must provide notice from BC Hydro
- Purchase Orders are used for furniture and others.
- Groceries will be disbursed on form of Purchase Order to "Save-on".
- By signing this document, you permit Navigator or others to consult all financial sources for any conflicting funding received with the Reaching Home Grant.

Note: Reaching Home funding applications are ineligible if clients receive duplicate resources from other organizations such as Village Government Social Development, Jordan's Principal, Nisga'a Child & Family, or others.

All completed applications will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

By signing this document, you acknowledge the policy guidelines set out in the NLG Reaching Home Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**Application for Assistance**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information**

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Income: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please provide copy of paystub)

**ADVOCATE OR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT LIVING CONDITIONS:**

Living Arrangement:  UPPER  Basement  Relative  Other

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHERS LIVING IN THE HOME (household members/friends/family)**

Household Names	Date of Birth	Relation
1. Names:		
2. Names:		
3. Names:		
4. Names:		
5. Names:		

Please indicate if there are any current health conditions or medication needs for those whom you live with that we should be aware of to protect yourself and those you live with?

**Priority Support**

Consistent with Nisga'a values we prioritize taking care of the most vulnerable; accordingly, we prioritize services and support for persons who identify as: (Check all that apply to your household, if none apply, please leave blank)

an Elder?  Yes I am \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_

Pregnant?  Yes I am \_\_\_\_\_ months along \_\_\_\_\_

Person with mobility challenges  Yes I require assistance;  Yes I require modifications for accessibility;

Person with compromised immunity?  Yes, please provide details here: \_\_\_\_\_

Fleeing violence?  Yes, fleeing by myself  With children or dependents  With pets

Experiencing a crisis  Yes, please provide details \_\_\_\_\_

At Risk?  Yes, please provide details \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Client Current Services:**

Are you receiving assistance from another organization? If so, from which one(s) & what for:

Organization	Type of Assistance	Amount	Date Received Funds

Provide a copy of all documents if applied for other organizations for financial assistance.

**NAVIGATOR NOTES:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Client Program Services

Please identify which services you are applying for today, from the following:

Housing Services		Amount
1st months rent		\$ _____
Security Deposit	(1/2 Rent)	\$ _____
Housing Set-up	Max \$200	\$ _____
Furniture	Max \$1,000	\$ _____
Moving Expense	U-haul	\$ _____
Hydro Deposit	BC Hydro Invoice	\$ _____
Groceries	Max \$200	\$ _____
<b>Total Housing Services</b>		
Prevention & Shelter Services		Amount
<b>Rent Supplements</b>	(Income tested)	\$ _____
<b>Rental Arrears</b>	(Current)	\$ _____
<b>Utility Arrears</b>	(Current)	\$ _____
<b>Appliance Replacement</b>	(proof required)	\$ _____
<b>Emergency Housing</b>	(transport/advocacy)	\$ _____
<b>Other</b>		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL Prevention &amp; Shelter Services</b>		
<b>TOTAL HOUSING &amp; PREVENTION</b>		

**Please note:**

Your funding application could be deemed ineligible if clients are obtaining duplicate resources from other organizations, e.g. Village Government Social Development. Funding may not exceed amount of financial assistance provided by other funding programs or rental supplement programs.

Due to limited funding we ask that you apply for only your current needs, allowing us to provide service to more Nisga'a citizens with current limits.

All completed applications will be accepted, reviewed, and approved on a first come basis until funds are exhausted.

Any Approved support that is not utilized by the client will not affect the client's ability to apply for future support.

Reaching Home Navigator Cheryl McMillan, Business Management	
Landline:	778-702-1726
Cell Phone:	250-975-2160
email:	<a href="mailto:cmcmillan@nisgaanation.ca">cmcmillan@nisgaanation.ca</a>

**DECLARATION AND CONSENT**

**This is your legal agreement with NLG's Reaching Home program. Please read and sign:**

- 1. I certify that the information provided on this form is true and complete.
- 2. I authorize NLG to make any inquiries the deem necessary to verify the information provided and determine eligibility. And I authorize any person, corpportaiton, or social agency with this information to release it to the NLG Navigator
- 3. I agree that any individual I have included in this application as my identified emergency contact or advocate may have access to my personal information for the purposes of supporting the effective delivery of NLG services
- 4. I understand that this application is not an agreement on the part of the NLG to grant assistance.

**Client Signature**

**Date**

**Navigator Signature**

**Date**

**Document Checklist**

**All of the following documents must be attached to your application form:**

- photo identification - Government I.D; Status Card: Citizen Card
- Any current Housing agreements you have, indicating address, rent and any additional monthly charges for which you need support.
- Any past due utility bills you have and any additional monthly costs for which you need support (e.g childcare)
- Proof of income with bank statements within the proceeding four to twelve weeks (e.g. paystub with employe's name and phone number) and other income being received by any adults in your household (if applicable)
- Copies of any relevant invoices, disconnection notices, eviction notices, moving company quotes, furniture appliance quotes, bed bug treatment, COVID 19 sterilization supplies, and furniture that can ensure safe accomodation is available to yourself and those in your household, as appropriate.

**Note:**

Cheques will be disbursed directly to vendor or landlord.  
Purchased order's will be issued to vendor's for furniture and groceries for Save-on.  
If applicant has paid rent/security in advance of application, applicant will be reimbursed upon receipt of paid rent.

*Personal information contained in this form or in attachments is collected by the NLG, in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act, and is used exclusively to determine eligibility for the Reaching Home support.*

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Client ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Approval**

- Approved
- Declined

**Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheque Pickup date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**P.O#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

Eric Nyce

X

**Director Approval**

X

**Date**

Cheryl McMillan

X

**Navigator - Intake**

X

**Date**

X

**Client Received**

X

**Date**