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# Background

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The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unique community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to more than 60 communities across Canada. The HPS took effect April 1, 2007, with annual funding of \$134.8 million for two years. On September 4, 2008, the Government of Canada announced that it was extending funding for the HPS at current levels (\$269 million) for two years, from April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2011. Funding for housing and homelessness programs has been extended for another five years, until March 31, 2014.

Under the HPS, the Government of Canada is offering to work in partnership with all provinces and territories. Such partnerships would encourage better alignment of federal and provincial/territorial investments, and help provide a seamless continuum of support for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy uses a housing-first approach, recognizing that the first step is to provide individuals with transitional and supportive housing.

The HPS has seven funding streams:

**Regionally Delivered:**

- Designated Communities
- Outreach Communities
- Aboriginal Communities

**Nationally Delivered:**

- Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects
- Homelessness Knowledge Development
- Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
- Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative

For more information on the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the seven funding streams, please visit the following Web site:

[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/homelessness](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/homelessness).