



November, 2015

INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

Do you have a viable concept for affordable housing development in Ottawa that could benefit from engaging a more diverse group of stakeholders and adopting new and under-utilized mechanisms and models to leverage resources and partnerships?

Let's work together.

Broadening the Base is excited to extend this invitation to collaborate to support affordable housing development in Ottawa. We are seeking 3 – 4 projects to partner with us in a shared learning environment to test and adopt new and innovative opportunities for asset identification, resources, and partnerships that have been identified within our initiative.

Project Context and Description

The lack of affordable housing in Ottawa is at a critical level. Broadening the Base is a community-centered, collaborative and inclusive Ottawa initiative with the purpose of innovatively catalyzing and leveraging land, property, philanthropic, and development resources to support 1500 new affordable housing units over the next five years to provide sustainable, long term and affordable accommodation for key vulnerable populations. Broadening the Base is committed to identifying innovative development and resource solutions and to engaging a broader range of stakeholders and resources in the process. Broadening the Base has identified five core areas of activity to support this goal: development partnerships; land assembly strategies; social impact investment; philanthropic support; and, community engagement and advocacy. A “Design Circle” in each of these areas has been convened to draw on expert knowledge and best practices in Ottawa and other jurisdictions to define innovative models and mechanisms to support affordable housing development.

Now that the Design Circle teams are active, the next step is to collaborate with housing development projects that are open to integrating an affordable housing component and to connect these projects with some of the networks and opportunities being identified through the Design Circles. Broadening the Base will work with projects in a shared learning environment to facilitate access to and to test and adopt new and innovative opportunities for partnerships and resource identification. The collaboration will assist Broadening the Base to determine the feasibility and scale-up opportunities of the innovations for affordable housing development in Ottawa.

Who Should Apply?

Broadening the Base welcomes interest from any organization at any stage of housing development that is open to incorporating an affordable housing component for any of the five target populations including: individuals who are chronically homeless; low income families with young

children; youth at risk; Aboriginal people, and; vulnerable seniors. Projects can be new developments or redevelopments/renovations of existing housing stock. Projects do not need to be exclusively dedicated to affordable housing; multi-income/multi-purpose projects are welcomed..

Projects should have:

- A feasible innovative housing concept for any of the five identified populations
- Strong leader or team with the skills to implement
- Shared vision for the community value of affordable housing
- Potential for significant, scalable change
- At least some early support
- The willingness to work with Broadening the Base in a mutual and cooperative learning environment
- The ability to share project information with partners (confidentiality agreements can be developed)
- Interest in some of the following:
 - New development partnerships for affordable housing
 - Multi-income/multi-purpose development projects that include affordable housing with or without supports for key vulnerable populations
 - New opportunities and partnerships for development funding (Community Impact Bonds, Mortgage Investment Funds, Social Impact Bonds, etc.)
 - New opportunities and partnerships for resource leveraging (including capital costs and land assembly)
 - Mobilization of private investment capital for public good
 - Opportunities to leverage community engagement to support affordable housing development projects

How to Apply

Applicants interested in applying should contact the Broadening the Base coordinator at coordinator@btbottawa.ca or (613) 862-7601 by January 1, 2016 to discuss initial project ideas with a member of the Broadening the Base team. Following the determination of feasibility, applicants will be asked to submit a one to two page overview of their project (plus any supporting documentation) that identifies the scope of the project, how the project incorporates affordable housing solutions, what they see as the challenges for developing affordable housing within the project and how their project aligns with the factors listed in the “who should apply” section of this invitation no later than January 15, 2016.

Project Selection

Following the submission deadline, applications will be reviewed and evaluated against the factors listed in “Who should apply” above. Interviews with shortlisted candidates may be conducted.

More information

An information session about Broadening the Base and this Invitation to Collaborate will be held on December 7 from 3:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. at CCOC Beaver Barracks (464 Metcalfe Street). Applicants may also visit our website at www.btbottawa.ca