

**Shelter Funding Methodology for the
Family Violence Prevention Program
Final Research Report**

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Executive Summary

The requirement to undertake a study of this nature at this point in time was fueled by political concerns on several fronts. If INAC funding continued at its current rate, in the very near future, some shelters would need to close their doors permanently. This would not only result in a loss of capital investment on INAC's part but a vital resource and needed services to those communities. The timeline for the research was one-month from planning to implementation and final reporting.

The existing funding for INAC shelters enables them to provide women and children with a place to stay, but little more. Some shelters are able to provide suitable programming for the residents, and some are able to provide outreach services. The INAC shelters interviewed and the literature supported the implementation of Core Services. These Core Services would allow shelters to not only meet basic shelter and food requirements, but enable them to provide a wide-range of culturally appropriate crisis intervention services to women and children, as well as education and counselling for men.

A cross-Canada funding formula takes into consideration the different costs of operation in the provinces and remote areas. The funding formula includes four categories: staff salaries, other expenses, a staff remoteness factor and an expenses remoteness factor. The core shelter operating budget includes staff salaries and other expenses: 75% is for staff salaries, and 25% for other expenses. When shelters are operating a significant distance from a major city centre, a remoteness factor is applied to a proportion of the other expenses budget and salaries to cover the additional cost of living associated with these areas.

Summarized recommendations that require immediate action are listed below (please refer to the complete recommendations on page 26).

1. Introduce a new funding formula for shelters that takes into account province of operation, size of the shelter, and remoteness of the shelter.
2. Provide supports to shelters as they upgrade staff training and the facilities.
3. Develop standards for shelter service provision.
4. Address the governance structure of the shelters.
5. Conduct a full review of the funding prior to the lapse of the second year.
6. Revise the reporting requirements for shelters to enable an assessment of outcomes as well as compliance with standards.
7. Arrange for annual reviews (regional peer review) to assess adherence to standards and ways of improving services.
8. Establish a plan for maintenance of facility and operational equipment, as well as vehicles.
9. Address the broader issue of how to manage the FVPP prevention dollars in relation to increases in shelter budgets, particularly with the Core Services of shelters including outreach activities.