

The Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator invites forward-thinking proposals focused on homelessness prevention and response. This initiative encourages Iowa housing and community leaders to bring forward innovative ideas, whether through new resources, tools, services, partnership, or streamlined processes that go beyond traditional funding models. Selected proposals will receive up to \$100,000 in state funding to launch a pilot initiative, with the flexibility to test new approaches and build scalable solutions with the potential for long-term, life-saving impact.

Please review the Program Overview before proceeding with this application:

[2026 Innovation in Homelessness Incubator Program Overview](#)

Past winners are ineligible to apply.

To submit a proposal under the 2026 Innovation in Homelessness Incubator competition, complete this application form and the required acknowledgement form in full and submit to

homelessprograms@iowafinance.com by no later than July 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CT.

Finalists will be notified on or around July 24 of selection to pitch their proposal to a panel of judges at the HousingIowa Conference in Des Moines on September 9.

APPLICATION

(attach additional pages if needed to respond to all questions)

Applicant Entity: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP Code:** _____

Proposal Title: _____

Amount of Funding Requested: \$ _____

1. **Applicant Type:** *The Applicant is a State of Iowa (check all that apply)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Service Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Housing Trust Fund (certified by IFA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal recognized Tribe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Designated Housing Entity |

2. Identify the Iowa nonprofit agency or agencies that provides services related to emergency shelter, street outreach, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and/or permanent supportive housing to persons experiencing homelessness in Iowa that will be a key partner in the proposal (**required – may be the Applicant or another Iowa nonprofit meeting this criteria but the Authorized Signature below must be from a representative of this organization**).

3. Provide a summary of your proposal, including the identified need that the proposal will address, current issues the proposal will attempt to resolve, and the goals you will strive to accomplish by implementing the proposal.

4. Explain how your proposal is innovative in addressing homelessness prevention and/or response in Iowa.

5. Describe how your proposal has the potential to be replicated or expanded across Iowa.

6. Explain how your proposal aligns with one or more of the Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator “special consideration” priorities identified in the [Program Overview](#) (if not applicable, enter N/A).

7. Describe how your proposal is supported by evidence-based practice.

8. Identify any community partnerships that are in place to support the proposal (if not applicable, enter N/A).

9. Provide a brief summary of your proposal that may be used in promotional materials, including communications and a media release, and if selected, featured as part of the HousingIowa Conference pitch competition for finalists presenting to the designated panel of judges. IFA reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length and promotional purposes.

10. Provide a budget for the proposal, including the amount requested in this application and any additional funding resources and how all sources of funding will be used.

ATTACHMENTS

Acknowledgement Form (required)

CERTIFICATION

By completing this Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator Application, I certify the following to IFA:

1. I am an authorized representative of the Applicant entity listed below (the "Applicant");
2. I confirm the Applicant's interest in receiving an Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator grant award, subject to approval by IFA;
3. I understand that completion of this Application is not a guarantee of an invitation to pitch the Applicant's proposal to a panel of judges at the HousingIowa Conference nor a guarantee of funding award approval and that no grant will be made to the Applicant unless specifically approved by IFA in writing through an executed Grant Agreement; and
4. I acknowledge that the designated panel of judges and IFA will make the final determination as to which Applicant or Applicants are awarded an Innovation in Homelessness Incubator grant and that IFA's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Designated Applicant Contact for purposes of this proposal:

Applicant Contact Name: _____

Applicant Contact Title: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Authorized Signature (see Question 2): _____
*(electronic signature accepted)**Authorized Signer's Printed Name:* _____*Authorized Signer's Title:* _____*Organization (see Question 2):* _____*Email:* _____

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This is to acknowledge that I understand and agree to the terms and conditions, outlined below, for submitting a proposal to the Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator Pitch Competition program (“Program”).

- Failure to timely submit a proposal by the deadline of July 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm CT will result in the proposal being excluded from consideration.
- The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) is not liable for any problems related to technical malfunctions of electronic equipment, computer hardware or software failures, internet service issues, or any technical failure of any entry to be received, lost, delayed, incomplete, garbled or misdirected and which may limit a contestant’s ability to participate in the Program.
- IFA will determine which finalists will move on to the pitch contest. Entrants who submit an Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Incubator proposal are not guaranteed funding or an opportunity to present their proposal at the pitch contest. IFA’s decision is final and binding.
- If the proposal is selected as a finalist, the entrant agrees to participate in the pitch contest at the 2026 HousingIowa Conference in Des Moines on September 9.
- The final award decision will be determined by a designated panel of judges and IFA. IFA reserves the right to award funding to one, multiple or no winners at its sole discretion.
- IFA reserves the right, at their reasonable discretion, to refuse, disqualify or withdraw an entrant(s) at any time.
- If a finalist or winner, entrant gives permission (except as prohibited by law) to use their name, image, likeness, prize won and photograph, all at the discretion of IFA, for future advertising and/or publicity in any and all media now or hereafter devised throughout the world in perpetuity, without additional compensation, notification or permission.
- All taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the pitch contest winners.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____