



nsw Federation of
Housing Associations inc

Federation Bulletin



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Funds for I.T. systems implementation

CHD releases funds to assist with implementation of integrated IT systems

The Federation is pleased to announce that \$1 million + GST in funds have been released by the Community Housing Division of Housing NSW (CHD) and will now be available to the sector¹ to assist with the costs of implementing of integrated I.T. systems.

The funds will be made available to assist with:

- costs associated with implementing integrated IT systems
- an allocation will be reserved for small providers who do not wish to change their systems but who need some enhancements to their current system to enable them to operate more effectively in the current environment
- the Federation has received some funding as part of the CHD package to commission an IT expert to provide baseline information on IT providers and a package of tools and resources to support effective IT procurement processes in the sector. The Federation is finalising a brief for the IT expert and is asking for [sector input](#) into the brief.

Funds will be distributed based on proposals that meet overall criteria rather than a competitive basis. The distribution criteria are being finalised and an EoI pack will be available soon.

The Federation is developing a broad consensus on the fairest mechanisms to distribute funds that are consistent with the primary aims and other principles of this project. Sector IT forums have recommended that the distribution of funds should be based on numbers of properties with an element of weighting based on targeting organisations where the need for support to implement integrated systems is greatest. A distribution mechanism is being finalised and the Federation will seek final sign off from the sector and CHD shortly.

The Federation is seeking feedback from its members in relation to two issues regarding these funds:

1. The Federation is looking to establish a steering group and an assessment panel to ensure there is input from the sector and CHD. The **steering group** will include a CHD representative and a Federation board member and its role will be to oversee the project. It will be asked to review the distribution mechanism for the funds, have input into the brief for the sector IT expert and monitor progress against project outcomes. The Federation is seeking three sector reps to join the steering group. We would prefer a rep. from a provider that is currently procuring an IT system plus a representative from a regional provider.

The role of the **assessment panel** will be to provide input into the assessment of proposals from the sector to ensure that proposals are an effective and realistic use of CHD funds.

If you are interested in participating in either group please contact [Adam West](#) by 29th July 2011. In expressing an interest please can you briefly describe the nominee's IT experience.

2. The Federation will be looking to maximize the interest revenue for the funds

provided by CHD. We therefore will need an indication from each member organisation as to when access to funds will be needed. Please can you indicate when you are likely to require funds by clicking on one of the links below:

a) before 1st October 2011

b) before 31st December 2011

c) before 30th June 2012

d) after 1st July 2012 but before 30th June 2013

Please note all funds need to be spent before 1st July 2013.

A separate bank account has been set up to hold the CHD funds and all interest revenue will remain within this pool and will only be used for the purposes of further supporting sector IT implementation. Funds will not be released until an implementation is about to commence and a proportion of the funds will be retained until the implementation is complete.

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¹ CHD has agreed the following eligibility criteria for these funds: “Registered Class 1, 2 and 3 providers in NSW managing at least 30 long term social housing properties funded through the CHD.”

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