

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #64 / November 3, 2020

Good afternoon,

This week's update coincides with the launch of the request for applications to an application-based envelope of funding through the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF).

Recognizing that First Nations, Inuit, Métis communities, as well as self-governing Nations and Indigenous organizations, require additional investments to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, and to safely restart community programs and services, on August 12, Minister Miller announced \$305 million in additional funding for the **Indigenous Community Support Fund**.

These investments are an enhancement to the existing ICSF and provide First Nations and Indigenous organizations with resources to implement their own solutions, informed by public health guidance, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The distinctions-based ICSF aims to provide Indigenous leadership with the flexibility needed to design and implement community-based solutions.

First Nations were recently provided a second allocation under ICSF and should additional needs-based COVID-19 funding be required, your community/tribal council/organization is invited to submit **an application** through an application-based stream of the ICSF. A single and simplified application form has been developed for Indigenous communities and organizations to submit proposals. Indigenous Services Canada will analyze all proposals as they are received and allocate funds based on the proposals for as long as identified ICSF resources remain.

Further details on how to apply, including selection criteria and examples of activities funded, are **available online**.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to submit an application is **November 30**, as funding must be disbursed by the department by December 31, 2020. Applications can cover activities through to March 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, or wish to submit an application, please contact your FSO or the ISC BC Regional office at aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

Additionally, two technical webinars hosted by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat are planned for November 6 and 10, 2020. Please choose the date which works best for you. Members of ISC BC Region's Executive Leadership Team and their staff will provide an update on the application-based Indigenous Community Support Fund, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Please note, Funding Services Officers will also be reaching out to your communities regarding the ICSF.

ICSF APPLICATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

Proposals for application-based funding will be assessed for eligibility and prioritized on a case-by-case basis. The number of proposals approved will depend on a number of factors, including the number of proposals submitted and total available funding. Assessment considerations include:

- **Readiness**
 - » are there any barriers to starting your project?
 - » are staff and resources available?
 - » does your community or organization have experience providing similar services and could it begin providing expanded or enhanced services to address COVID-19 issues immediately?



- **Human impact**

- » does the project directly address the impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous populations (such as isolation, transportation, food security, safe places, health and safety) while preventing, protecting, mitigating, responding to, or recovering from the pandemic?
- » what is the reach of the proposed activities and who are the participants for each activity (for example, on or off-reserve community members, women, youth, elders, homeless individuals)?
- » how will the needs of the most vulnerable be prioritized and addressed?

- **COVID-19 risk**

- » is there a risk of COVID-19 in the community or population that needs to be addressed (for example, an outbreak has been declared in the community, or there is a high rate of transmission in your organization or community's urban area)?
- » how will the proposed activities address urgent, immediate community needs to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak?

- **Prior funding**

- » has your community or organization already received federal government funding for the identified COVID-19 need?
- » have you fully expended/do you have plans to fully expend any other federal government COVID-19 funding that your community has received?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Are perimeter security costs eligible for funding?**

Proposals on perimeter security go through the same application process, but are reviewed separately by ISC nationally. If you apply through the regional office we will forward your proposal to the national review team.

This process has been put in place to provide the flexibility to ensure communities and organizations receive funds quickly, while ensuring that larger proposals are reviewed in consideration of the national context.

ICSF TECHNICAL WEBINARS

Two technical webinars hosted by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat are planned for November 6 and 10, 2020. Please choose the date which works best for you. Members of ISC BC Region's Executive Leadership Team and their staff will provide an update on the application-based Indigenous Community Support Fund, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

CHOOSE ONE

Friday
November 6
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (PST)

or

Tuesday
November 10
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.(PST)

Registration Details: To register for the webinar, please the link of your choice. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from FNPSS with a link to join the webinar.

NEW FEDERAL COVID-19 SUPPORTS – CANADA RESPONSE BENEFITS AND CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

On **Wednesday, November 4, 2020** at 11:00 a.m. **join representatives from Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)** who will explain the new COVID-19 supports and answer questions like:

How much can I expect to receive?

What happens now that CERB and CESB have ended?

As an Elder, am I receiving all the pension benefits I am entitled too, including the Guaranteed Income Supplement?

How can I apply and am I eligible?

Are these supports available on and off reserve?

● **Can ICSF be used to support First Nations students access the technology and connectivity required to continue their education during COVID-19?**

Yes. Funding can be used for educational and other support for children.

● **What's the difference between ICSF and other needs-based COVID-19 funding?**

The ICSF was built to be a flexible, general support to help Indigenous communities and organizations prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19. As such, some activities that are eligible for funding through the ICSF, such as education and public health needs, are also eligible for funding under other specific COVID-19 related supports.

ISC is committed to providing Indigenous communities and organizations with a single-window approach, where possible. When a proposal for COVID-19 related funding is submitted to the ICSF, ISC officials will ensure the application is reviewed and considered under the appropriate support. Communities and organizations will not be asked to select a preferred support program or reroute the request.

● **How is ISC working with FNHA and EMBC with regards to ICSF and funding proposals?**

In BC Region, ISC will work closely with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) with regards to the review of health-related proposals.

ISC BC Region also continues to work closely with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) with respect to coordination of non-health aspects of COVID-19 response.

Both Catherine Lappe (Regional Director General, BC Region ISC) and Bill Guerin (Associate Regional Director General, BC Region ISC) are in the process of reaching out to connect with Leadership to better understand the situation in your communities. Should you want to schedule a time to talk to either Catherine or Bill, please contact the office at 604-666-5201 to schedule a time.

New supports for Indigenous peoples and communities

On Friday, October 30, 2020, the Government of Canada announced **over \$200 million in new funding** to help Indigenous people and communities cope with the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes:

- \$120.7 million to help Indigenous early learning and child care facilities safely operate during the pandemic. The investment is expected to support over 35,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation children who access culturally relevant Indigenous early learning and child care programs. It will assist Indigenous communities in addressing their most critical needs, including implementing enhanced cleaning protocols, hiring additional staff, and offering training.
- \$59 million for First Nations to adapt their on reserve community infrastructure. First Nations can use the funds to implement public health and safety measures in community buildings by adding hand washing stations, buying hand sanitizers, personal protective equipment for staff, and cleaning supplies, installing signage and barriers to promote physical distancing, and doing safety checks and upgrades to existing ventilation systems.
- \$25.9 million to provide immediate support to Indigenous post-secondary institutions in 2020-21. The investment will help these institutions address increased costs and financial uncertainty resulting from the pandemic, including putting in place supports to retain staff, automating services to process student applications and registrations, adapting courses for online learning, and implementing public health and safety measures for in-person services. For First Nations, \$24 million will be made available through the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP).

We will provide you with more information about the roll out of this funding as soon as it is available.

USEFUL LINKS

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Indigenous communities** – developed by ISC, this page provides health and financial support information for Indigenous communities.
- Find information on how to apply for financial or economic support from the Government of Canada at: Canada.ca/coronavirus.
- With the help of BCFC, the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has developed **a series of one-pagers on COVID-19 support and resources**.
- **Taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention and risks**
- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Measures to reduce COVID-19 in your community**
- First Nations Health Authority – **Information for community leaders**
- **COVID-19 BC Support App and Self-Assessment Tool**
The app will let you receive the latest updates, trusted resources, and alerts. The Self-Assessment Tool is built in.
- **Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada**

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We would also like to take this opportunity to share the contact information for our Executive Leadership Team should you or your team need to reach out regarding specific programs or services within their respective areas:

- Catherine Lappe | 604-340-7703
Regional Director General
- Bill Guerin | 604-803-9476
Associate Regional Director General
- Paula Santos | 604-790-8451
Director, Community Infrastructure
- Wendy Rogers | 604-363-8117
Director, Programs and Partnerships
- David Russell | 604-817-2644
Director, Lands and Economic Development
- Jody Kaden | 236-334-4742
Director, Funding Services
- Chiara Taylor | 778-668-9067
Director, Child and Family Services
- James Moxon | 604-367-8241
Director, Community Development
- Harold Powell | 604-219-1737
Director, Corporate Services

THE FLU SHOT:

Protect yourself, protect your community



Don't forget your flu shot this year! The flu shot is the most effective way to protect yourself against anticipated flu strains, and so you are encouraged to get immunized for your own health, and encourage your family and friends to do so as well. For more information, visit the [seasonal flu and the flu shot](#).



THE REGISTRATION AND STATUS CARD SERVICE COUNTER IN VANCOUVER IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

Please call **236-330-9961** to make an appointment before arriving. For application requirements, please visit Canada.ca/indian-status or call 1-800-567-9604.