

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #73 / January 15, 2021

Good afternoon,

We're sending a special update this week to coincide with the release of a third round of funding through the **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)**.

The release was part of a wider announcement on Wednesday, when Minister Miller announced **\$1.2 billion in new funding** to help Indigenous communities keep fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. That brings the total COVID-19 support being provided to Indigenous communities and organizations to \$4.2 billion since the beginning of the pandemic.

This week's announcement includes \$631.6 million over two years for Indigenous communities to hire more staff, buy personal protective equipment and adapt existing facilities to deal with the pandemic. Additionally, \$186 million will go to providing more home-care services to protect elders and other vulnerable community members.

The fund also includes \$380 million for a new round of the ICSF supports we shared in **Update 72**. It will help meet the needs of your communities at a time so many of you are facing increased case numbers during this second wave. We are pleased to bring you more details below.

DETAILS ON NEW FUNDING THROUGH THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The \$380 million in this third round of ICSF funding is divided into two envelopes:

- Approximately \$145.2 million in direct allocations to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. The allocation methodology for these funds mirrors that of the previous ICSF funds announced on August 12, 2020. **In BC, this means an additional \$20 million is being sent to First Nations and self-governing communities now.** Your First Nation can expect the same allocation as in the last round.
- A further \$234.8 million in application-based COVID-19 support for Indigenous communities and organizations, including \$75 million to support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and First Nations living off reserve.

We will be looking to fund eligible costs in proposals submitted prior to November 30, 2020, and will be in touch to let you know what will be funded under this round of the ICSF.

If your community is experiencing an outbreak and having unanticipated additional costs, please contact us. We are also reaching out to communities with outbreaks to see how ISC might be able to offer supports.

Should you have any questions, please contact your FSO or the ISC BC Regional office at aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

INFORMATION WEBINAR ICSF – THIRD ROUND

REGISTER

January 22, 2021
(Friday)
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **What if my community/organization did not have the opportunity to apply for application-based funding before the deadline? Will there be another call out for proposals?**

For application-based COVID-19 support funding, applicants were asked to submit their proposals no later than November 30. While the application process is now closed, if you have any questions, or urgent needs you wish to convey, please contact your FSO or the ISC BC Regional office at

aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

- **Do I need to spend my ICSF funds by a certain deadline?**

Yes, given that ICSF funding is limited and its objective is to respond to immediate needs for COVID-19, ICSF funds for both direct allocations and application-based funding should be spent by March 31, 2021, however carrying forward of unexpended funds into 2021-22 may be possible if the recipients have a fixed or flex funding agreement, if they meet the requirements to do so and if the terms and conditions through which the funding is being provided permits it. **Please contact your Funding Services Officer (FSO) to discuss your own specific situation.**

FIND FINANCIAL HELP DURING COVID-19

Your members may be eligible for support through other programs as well. **Answer some questions to find financial help during COVID-19.** While we cannot guarantee eligibility, we can point members to the program details.

- **My application-based proposal was not recommended for the full amount I requested. Will I still be able to access additional ICSF funding?**

Additional direct allocations are being provided through funding announced November 30, 2020. In addition, a number of application-based proposals that were not funded or were partially funded in the second round of ICSF are expected to be funded through the additional application-based funds.

However, if you have questions about why your application-based proposal was not fully approved, please contact your FSO or the ISC BC Regional office at aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca. We also encourage you to explore opportunities to fund your proposal through other sources. Your community or organization may also be eligible to access other support measures currently available through the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. For more information on how to access these programs and services, please visit: canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous.

All application-based proposals were assessed based on the following selection criteria:

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 and containment efforts?

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?
- does the project offer direct, meaningful benefit to the recipients?

Prior funding:

- has your community or organization already received 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?

When can my community/organization expect to receive the funding?

We are working diligently to flow funding to communities and organizations. The directly allocated funds will be transferred directly to communities in the coming days and weeks. ISC will work quickly to flow application-based funding to successful applicants as soon as the proposal is approved.

If my application-based proposal was not fully approved, can I spend my direct allocation on funding those activities?

Direct allocation provided to communities must be used for activities to prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19. These funds can be used for measures including, but not limited to:

- support for Elders and vulnerable community members
- measures to address food insecurity
- educational and other support for children
- mental health assistance and emergency response services
- preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Our application-based proposal was funded. Will I still be eligible for further application-based funding?

The Department will continue to work with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and Indigenous organizations to support ongoing COVID-19 needs. Communities and organizations are invited to communicate with the BC regional office as needs arise.

Can my community use ICSF money to support vaccine distribution?

Although the ICSF was created to prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19, we recommend you speak with the **First Nations Health Authority**, for the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 vaccine distribution and support for the rollout.

FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE SECRETARIAT WEBINAR COVID-19 VACCINATION: THE REALITIES OF COMMUNITY ROLL-OUT

As COVID-19 vaccines become available in British Columbia, remote First Nations are among the first to receive doses for their community members. Join representatives (see details below) from Klahoose First Nation, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, and Tahltan Band Council as they share stories around what has worked, what has been challenging, and what they have learned during the implementation process.

REGISTER

January 20, 2021
(Wednesday)
11:00 a.m.

FOOD SECURITY

In addition to the \$380 million announced Wednesday, on December 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced that \$30 million of the **\$100 million Emergency Food Security Fund** is being transferred to ISC from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to help improve access to food and increase food supply for Indigenous communities.

This funding is being allocated through proposals received through the Indigenous Community Support Fund application-based proposals process that closed on November 30, 2020.

● **Are communities/Indigenous organizations still eligible to apply for funding through the partner organizations/recipients of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada \$100 million food security fund (e.g. Breakfast Club of Canada, Food Banks Canada)?**

Yes, Indigenous organizations and communities will continue to be eligible to apply for funding through AAFC partner organizations that will deliver the remaining \$70 million of AAFC's \$100 million Emergency Food Security Fund.

ISC is working with AAFC to avoid duplication of efforts by remaining in regular contact and sharing information.

● **Do I need to submit a separate application to access the \$30 million specifically for food insecurity?**

No, the \$30 million specifically for food insecurity is being delivered through the ICSF and there is no separate application process. The funds are being allocated to application-based applicants.

● **Are there reporting requirements for directly allocated funds? What are the reporting requirements for application-based funds?**

For application-based funds, including funding from AAFC through the ICSF, all recipients will be required to submit the Activities and Expenditures Report that describes how the funding was used. The due date for the report is **July 29, 2021**.

BC Region will collect completed reporting forms.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests:

aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

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