

Indigenous Services Canada COVID-19 Funding

This document is intended as a quick guide of the funding supports available to First Nations to assist in responding to COVID-19. Please contact us to get more details on each of these funding options. **Please refer to ' Indigenous Services Canada Alberta Region COVID-19 Funding Reporting Guide' for reporting information.**

Emergency Management Assistance - Q3FP RESPONSE

- ▶ Responds to identified needs to update and/or activate pandemic plans;
- ▶ Support an effective allocation of the limited public health and primary health care capacity to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- ▶ Align response efforts with scientific evidence as determined by a medical officer of health; and,
- ▶ Address immediate needs in the short term.

Examples of eligible expenses:

- incremental wage costs, including temporary hires and overtime;
- rental of special equipment;
- set-up costs for one-time preventative measures;
- insurance and fuel costs of response vehicles;
- care, feeding and accommodation of human resources separate from health care professionals, if required (contractors and temporary hires);
- communications (satellite phones, cell phone usage above and beyond normal use); and,
- water and household supplies (i.e., providing food and water if there is a concern that a shortage may occur)

Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)

- ▶ Provides Indigenous leadership with the flexibility needed to design and implement community-based solutions to prepare for and react to the spread of COVID-19 within their communities.

These funds could 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.
- Perimeter security expenses are eligible under ICSF (reminder FNIHB funded Q1/Q2 requests)

*ICSF funding provided through both allocations and also proposal driven processes. Certain ICSF funds were designated for urban/off reserve supports. Please review your specific funding summary for ICSF breakdowns..

For More Information:



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Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities

► *To support Indigenous organizations providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres or First Nations off reserve, to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.*

See above (Indigenous Community Support Fund) for examples of measures these funds can support (exception: perimeter security not supported under Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples ICSF funds)

ICSF1 - Round1 (allocation based) & Round 2 (needs based/proposal required): Q2DW, Q2DV

ICSF2 – Proposal based – closed Nov 30, 2020 : Q2JL

ICSF3 – included funding of proposals that were not funded in ICSF2 and direct allocations to those Indigenous Organizations and First Nations in need: Q2KB, Q2K0

Indigenous Community Business Fund - Q3QP, Q3QK, Q3KU

► *Help support operating costs for community-owned First Nation, Inuit and Métis businesses, including microbusinesses, who are not eligible for other Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures.*

Two streams:

Stream 1

Non-repayable contributions will be provided for the following activities to support communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- meeting general economic needs related to the pandemic (e.g. community or collective economic recovery strategies, expert advice, general business support services) and,
- Supporting micro-businesses (home-based, single-proprietorship or family-run businesses with little to no employees) which could not access other federal programs.

Stream 2

Proposal-based funding for community-owned businesses. No application deadline (subject to budget availability).

Education Facilities PPE (Q36M) and COVID-19 School Reopening (Q3R0)

Minor capital safe restart funding for eligible activities such as:

- plexiglass and safe space separators;
- marking floors with physical distance indicators, placing signs;
- hand washing/cleaning stations;
- hand sanitizer dispensers;
- the redesigning of workstations to allow for social distancing (e.g. rearrangement of desks);
- flushing water lines;
- additional cleaning supplies for frequent cleaning and disinfection of common touch surfaces;
- appropriate personal protection (i.e. masks, gloves)
- **Q3R0 only:** safety checks of existing HVAC systems

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Education

Education (Elementary and Secondary Education – First Nation Schools) - Q24F, Q2JB FN SCHOOL FORMULA

To support schools on reserves to reopen. This will support funding for additional teachers, or requests for technology supports for schools or individual students, such as:

- salaries for teachers, custodians and bus drivers
- hiring of additional personnel
- access to technology
- purchase of e-learning software
- development of take-home learning materials
- other eligible expenditures as per original agreement

Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) - Q29A PSSSP

To ensure that First Nations students have the supports in place to graduate and/or progress with their studies. Eligible expenses will be as per regular PSSSP guidelines.

First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) - Q26F/Q26G

To support activities and initiatives associated with the FNIYES program. Due to COVID-19, there may be disruptions to student's employment. The First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy will support work experience opportunities for First Nations and Inuit post-secondary students until February 28, 2021 for the 2020-2021 program year.

Minor Capital Safe Reopening

To provide funding to address immediate public health and safety measures including those related to minor capital for First Nations' community infrastructure assets (other than schools). This funding was sent out through:

- 1) ISC-R0 to support daycare centres (Q3R7), band offices/community buildings (Q3R5) and fire halls (Q3R6) and
- 2) ISC-FNIHB for health centers (Q3RA), Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve buildings (Q3RF), long term care facilities (Q3RK) and NNADAP facilities (Q3RP)

Minor capital safe restart funding for eligible activities such as:

- plexiglass and safe space separators;
- marking floors with physical distance indicators, placing signs;
- hand washing/cleaning stations;
- hand sanitizer dispensers;
- the redesigning of workstations to allow for social distancing (e.g. rearrangement of desks);
- flushing water lines;
- safety checks of existing HVAC systems;
- additional cleaning supplies for frequent cleaning and disinfection of common touch surfaces;
- appropriate personal protection (i.e. masks, gloves)

Isolation - Capital - Q300 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Funding through the Health Facilities Program is being made available to support re-tooling and/or purchasing mobile structures, equipment or supplies for surge health infrastructure needs for the following specific purposes:

- 1) Triage and Assessment;
- 2) Isolation; and
- 3) Accommodation.

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Operational Health Needs Funding (Quarters 1-4) - Q23X CDE PLANNING AND RESPONSE

To fund community-led responses to the pandemic and provide targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities such as:

- Surge capacity requirements related to the delivery of Primary Health Care services.
- Additional capacity for continuing community-based programs, such as First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care program and Environmental Public Health (e.g., biowaste disposal).
- Additional capacity to support more frequent cleaning schedule for health facilities and additional security requirements.
- Activities on the land to support physical isolation and food security
- Support for people self-isolating on the advice of a medical Professional
- Supports to update, review or activate pandemic response plans
- Supplies and storage

Perimeter Security Funding (Quarters 1-2) - Q23X CDE PLANNING AND RESPONSE

To support security activities that focus upon public health measures to support the First Nation address the COVID pandemic. The following are some types of activities that will be supported:

- Entry enforcement at points of entry to community
- Placement of barriers to reduce number of entry points
- Public Health checkpoint screening for COVID-19 symptoms
- Information gathering for contact tracing program
- Sharing information with entrants regarding COVID-19 symptoms, community testing locations, etc.

Mental Wellness - Q21G

To provide mental health and wellness supports to help Indigenous communities adapt and expand mental wellness services, improving access and addressing growing demand, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will help partners and communities to adapt mental wellness services to the current COVID-19 context, including:

- expanding access to culturally appropriate services such as on the land activities, community-based health supports and mental wellness teams;
- adapting mental health services, such as virtual counselling, to meet increased demand; and
- supporting Indigenous partners in developing innovative strategies to address substance use and to improve access to treatment services.

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Emergency Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Safe Restart (Q210)

► *The Emergency Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) safe restart COVID-19 is one time only funding for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year and is in addition to the existing regional allocations under IELCC.*

The funding can be used to preserve the continued availability of IELCC programs/services and support alternative delivery models during the pandemic. Funding can also be used to help implement public health measures or provide additional training for staff. Sample activities:

- Technology/equipment to support programming and remote learning
- Wages for additional staff or training for staff to support remote learning
- PPE, cleaning supplies, plexi glass or other physical barriers and additional cleaning/sanitization costs (including hiring additional cleaning staff) to support a safe learning environment
- Provision of mental health supports to address impacts of isolation on children and families
- Educational toys and home based learning kits to support remote learning
- Supplying food hampers to replace breakfast/lunch programs

Income Assistance (IA)

Income Assistance – Special Needs - Q2A6 SPECIAL NEEDS

Initial funding was distributed end of March with Emergency Management funding to help with special needs for Income Assistance clients due to COVID. Funds could be carried over into this fiscal to continue to help clients with additional special needs. Additional top up was sent out in August/September. The special needs expenditures must be in alignment with the rates and policies in the Alberta Regional Income Assistance Policy Manual.

*No additional reporting requirements for funds distributed in March

Income Assistance – Service Delivery - Q2AF SERVICE DELIVERY

To help address the additional supports needed for the administration of the program. Funding was distributed based on historical caseloads. The eligible expenditures must meet the Income Assistance program terms and conditions for the delivery of the Income Assistance program.

Income Assistance - Basic Needs - Q29W BASIC NEEDS

Based on a \$300 per month temporary COVID-19 benefit per Income Assistance household retroactively for three months (April – June 2020 and January-March 2021) using historical caseload with an adjustment for potential increase in demand. To help Income Assistance clients purchase food and other necessities. The amount can be issued as a cheque to the client, as a purchase order or gift card.

Alternatively, the Nation can purchase the food on behalf of the IA client and receive a reimbursement.

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