

First Nations Well Being Fund Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the First Nations Well Being Fund. Below are some frequently asked questions. Visit the website for the full Program and Application guide and to download application forms at <https://www.fnps.ca/community-projects/well-being-fund>
If you have questions or need more information, please contact the First Nations Public Service Secretariat at email: info@fnps.ca phone: 604-328-5052 or 604-619-9118

OVERVIEW

Q: What is the First Nations Well Being fund?

A: The intent of the First Nations Well Being Fund is to support First Nations in their efforts to promote well being, increase quality of life for all community members (both on and off reserve) and reduce poverty at the community and/or Nation level.

Q: What types of projects are eligible for funding?

A: There are two funding streams. **Stream 1: Community Projects** may include projects such as:

- Local food security initiatives
- Initiatives that provide employment opportunities;
- Training and skills building opportunities;
- Cultural initiatives that will strengthen the community and support decolonization; and,
- Other initiatives that will promote well-being at the community or Nation level.

Stream 2: Planning supports First Nations to undertake planning and community engagement activities to develop a plan (or begin discussions on a plan) that will assist in promoting well-being and reducing poverty at the community level.

Please see **Sections 3-4** of the *Program and Application Guide* for more details.

Q: What types of costs/expenses can this funding help cover?

A: Eligible costs for core project activities may include hosting workshops, community forums or cultural activities; training/education/course costs; and some transportation costs. Other eligible costs for project supports may include wood stoves, freezers, and digital devices. For further information on **eligible and ineligible costs and activities** please refer to **Sections 5-6** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Can the funds be used to make capital purchases such as microwaves or cell phones?

A: Yes. Some capital purchases are eligible. Please see **Section 5** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Does this fund offer salary support?

A: The First Nations Well Being Fund does not offer regular salary support. However, **incremental staff costs** to support projects or programs under this Fund are permitted. Refer to Section 5 of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Where does the funding for the First Nations Well Being Fund come from?

A: The Province of British Columbia has provided funding for this initiative as part of its actions to reduce poverty in British Columbia. For more information about the BC Government's poverty reduction strategy, see: [TogetherBC: British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#). The fund is being administered by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, an Initiative of the First Nations Summit.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Q: How much can a First Nation apply for?

A: Grant maximums are:

Stream 1 - \$35,000 for a single applicant; \$70,000 for two First Nations, and \$105,000 for regional applications of three (3) or more partnering First Nations. Projects may receive up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities. Refer to **Section 7** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Stream 2 - \$25,000 for one First Nation, \$50,000 for two First Nations; or \$80,000 for a regional application involving three (3) or more partnering First Nations. Projects may receive up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities. Refer to **Section 7** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Can a First Nation apply to both streams of funding?

A: Yes. First Nations may make an application to both streams of funding, however, all projects from both streams of funding must still be completed by July 31, 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who is eligible for funding?

A: Eligible applicants include:



- BC First Nations as either single or partnering First Nations
- Regional applications on behalf of three (3) or more First Nations
- Nation/Tribal Governments on behalf of three (3) or more member First Nations

For a list of **ineligible applicants** please refer to **Section 2** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Q: How do I apply for funds?

A: Download the application form from the website, fill it out and email it to info@fnps.ca along with the requested documents, including a First Nation or Band Council Resolution and detailed budget. Please see the application forms for additional details. Paper application forms may also be mailed. See the mailing address on the website.

Q: Can a First Nation submit more than one application?

A: First Nations may apply to both funding streams for two separate projects. However, a First Nation may not submit more than one application to a single funding stream.

Q: When is the application deadline?

A: Applications open on March 25, 2021 and close at **11:00pm on May 30, 2021**. If funding is still available, applications will continue to be received on a rolling basis until July 31, 2022.

Q: What information do I need to complete my application?

A: Please see the checklist of all the information you will need to complete your application. Please refer to **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Can I submit a paper application?

A: Yes. Applications can be submitted by mail. Our mailing address can be found in **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Will you provide feedback on my proposal?

A: Yes. Where required, or requested, feedback will be provided on the applications and an opportunity for edits will be provided in advance of the May 30, 2021 deadline. The earlier an application is submitted, the more time there will be to make alterations prior to the May 30, 2021 deadline.

Q: What happens if I make an error in the application form that has already been submitted?

A: In cases where revisions are required to an application, or an application has been approved in principle only, the applicant has 30 days from the date of the written notice of the status of the application to complete the application requirements. Refer to **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide*. Please reach out to staff at the First Nations Public Service Secretariat if you need assistance at email: info@fnps.ca phone: 604-328-5052 or 604-619-9118

Q: How will applications be evaluated?

A: Applications will be evaluated against the program objectives of the First Nations Well Being Fund as outlined for both Stream 1 (Community Projects) and Stream 2 (Planning). Funding decisions will be made on a priority basis and additional evaluation criteria will include:

- Demonstrated community need;
- Geographic distribution across British Columbia;
- Urban/rural distribution;
- Anticipated outcomes and positive impact on community members;
- How the project or program will build capacity within the First Nation; and
- Cost-effectiveness.

For more information see **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: Will I still be eligible for funding if I do not have all my financial documents?

A: Be sure to please attach the appropriate financial documents to match the grant amount requested in your application. If you have questions about the details required for the budget, please reach out to the staff at First Nations Public Service Secretariat at email: info@fnps.ca phone: 604-328-5052 or 604-619-9118.

Q: What should we do if our funding situation changes – for example if we secure funding from another source for the same activity as we have applied for?

A: All grant contributions for eligible portions of the project must be declared and, depending on the total amount, may decrease the amount of the grant. Please submit any new information to info@fnps.ca with “attn: First Nations Well Being Fund” in the subject line.

Q: What should I do if I experience a technical difficulty with the application form?

A: If you experience a technical difficulty, please notify us by email at info@fnps.ca or phone 604-328-5052 or 604-619-9118.

Q: Who can I contact about questions or to discuss my application?



A: If you wish to discuss your application and its eligibility prior to applying, contact the First Nations Public Service Secretariat at email: info@fnps.ca phone: 604-328-5052 or 604-619-9118

FUNDING DECISIONS & REPORTING

Q: **When will applicants be advised on the status of their application? When will we know if we receive funding?**

A: Applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 60 days of the application deadline. All applicants will receive written notice of funding decisions. For more information refer to **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

Q: **When does the funding need to be used by?**

A: Funding must be used by **July 31, 2023**. Successfully funded applicants will have 23 months to complete their project, or by July 31, 2023, whichever comes soonest.

Q: **What are the reporting requirements of this Funding?**

A: The Fund has been designed to make reporting on the funding as straight forward as possible and to help reduce the administrative burden on First Nations. Funded First Nations will need to submit reports on funding: all funded First Nations will receive a short reporting form to fill out as part of their final report. Please see **Section 11** of the *Program and Application Guide* for more information on what the final report will need to include and how to submit it.

ABOUT THE FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE SECRETARIAT

The First Nations Public Service Secretariat is an initiative of the First Nations Summit Society. Through partnerships, we work collaboratively with various organizations and levels of government to help First Nation communities excel and build capacity. Our mission is to strengthen and enhance capacity in First Nations communities and organizations, on an individual, organization, and Nation level. For more information, see www.fnps.ca