

## 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.

If you have questions, contact [info@fnps.ca](mailto:info@fnps.ca)

### 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: Wellness 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 cellphones?**

**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** - The funding maximum under Stream 1 is \$250,000 per project. Projects may receive up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities. Refer to **Section 7** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

**Stream 2** - The funding maximum under Stream 2 is \$50,000 per project. Projects may receive up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities. Refer to **Section 7** of the *Program and Application Guide*.

First Nations who received project funding in a previous phase of the First Nations Well Being Fund should contact FNPSS to discuss eligibility under the current funding opportunity.

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

**A:** Yes. First Nations may submit applications to both streams of funding. However, these applications must be submitted separately, as each stream has its own application form.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Q: Who is eligible for funding?**

**A:** Eligible applicants include:

- BC First Nations as either single or partnering First Nations
- Nation/Tribal Governments are only eligible if they are administering a project on behalf of one (1) or more member First Nation(s).

First Nations who received project funding in a previous phase of the First Nations Well Being Fund should contact FNPSS to discuss eligibility under the current funding opportunity.

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](mailto:info@fnps.ca) along with the requested documents, including a Letter of Support or First Nation Council Resolution/Band Council Resolution and a detailed budget.

For First Nation applications: please submit either a BCR or a Letter of Support. The Letter of Support for the project must be on the First Nation's official letterhead and signed by an individual within the First Nation who has delegated signing authority for the project.

For Nation/Tribal Government Applications and Partnership Applications only: each First Nation that the Nation/Tribal Government represents, and in the case of partnership applications, each partnering First Nation, must submit a First Nation Council resolution/Band Council resolution indicating support for the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

First Nations who received project funding in a previous phase of the First Nations Well Being Fund should contact FNPSS to discuss eligibility under the current funding opportunity.

Please see **Section 8** of the *Program and Application Guide* 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. Please note that each stream has its own application form.

First Nations who received project funding in a previous phase of the First Nations Well Being Fund should contact FNPSS to discuss eligibility under the current funding opportunity.

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

**A:** Please refer to the **checklist** in **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 application(s) and an opportunity for edits will be provided in advance of the application 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 [info@fnps.ca](mailto:info@fnps.ca)

**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 (Wellness 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 supporting documents?**

**A:** Applications will not be considered complete unless all supporting documents are submitted. Please be sure to 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 First Nations Public Service Secretariat at [info@fnps.ca](mailto:info@fnps.ca)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@fnps.ca)

**Q: Who can I contact to ask 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 [info@fnps.ca](mailto:info@fnps.ca)

## **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 90 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 the date specified in the contribution agreement provided to successfully funded applicants.

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

**A:** The Fund has been designed to make reporting as straight forward as possible and to help reduce the administrative burden on First Nations. All funded First Nations will receive a short reporting

form to fill out as part of their final reporting requirements. 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](http://www.fnps.ca).*