

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.

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)

Reporting Requirements: DCI #4548549 due on March 31, 2020

Indigenous Community Support Fund - Q3FP RESPONSE

- ▶ 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.

*Funding provided in two ways: an allocation-based amount and a needs-based process, application required. Details on the criteria and process for accessing funding through the needs-based process will be forthcoming.

Reporting Requirements: DCI #4548549 due on June 30, 2021

For More Information:



[COVID-19: First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports](#)



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Indigenous Community Business Fund - Q3QP COVID-19 LEDSP

- *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

Funding will be proposal-based. No application deadline.

Reporting Requirements: [DCI#472939](#) and the ICBF Benefits Chart (which was included as an attachment to the letter sent to Chief and Council). These interim and final reports are due November 30, 2020 and May 31, 2021 respectively.

Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities - Q2DW PROGRAMS & SERVICES OTHER

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.

Call for proposals process closed

[DCI #4548549](#) due on July 29, 2021

Public Health Measures (Education) - Q36M FIT UP EDUCATION FACILITIES

To assist with immediate COVID-related public health measures under minor education capital for First Nation schools.

Eligible activities:

- Additional hand washing stations
- Signage to reinforce social distancing and consistent with local public health guidance
- Plexiglass barriers for distancing/partition
- Cleaning supplies and sanitizers
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff or students
- Flushing of water lines

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Education

Education (Elementary and Secondary Education – First Nation Schools) - Q24F 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)

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.

Reporting Requirements - No changes to original reporting requirements.

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.

Reporting Requirements - A separate financial schedule within your annual audit (due July 29, 2021) that breaks down the funding expenses by category will be required. It can be combined with the financial schedule required for all other health funding received.

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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

Reporting Requirements - A separate financial schedule within your annual audit (due July 29, 2021) that breaks down the funding expenses by category will be required. It can be combined with the financial schedule required for all other health funding received.

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.

Reporting Requirements - A separate financial schedule within your annual audit (due July 29, 2021) that breaks down the funding expenses by category will be required. It can be combined with the financial schedule required for all other health funding received.

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.

Reporting Requirements - A separate financial schedule within your annual audit (due July 29, 2021) that breaks down the funding expenses by category will be required. It can be combined with the financial schedule required for all other health funding received.

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Safe Return to Schools - Minor Capital (Education Measures) - Q36R RENOVATION/ADDITIONS <1.5M

To assist with immediate COVID-related public health measures under minor education capital for First Nation schools.

Eligible activities:

- Additional hand washing stations
- Signage to reinforce social distancing and consistent with local public health guidance
- Plexiglass barriers for distancing/partition
- Cleaning supplies and sanitizers
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff or students
- Flushing of water lines
- Safety checks and updates of existing HVAC systems

Reporting Requirements: DCI #4548549 (Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program Special Initiatives Report) due on May 31, 2021. Expenditures for Public Health Measures funding will be identified on a separate Schedule within the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statement's Program Schedules. Expenditures for Safe Return to Schools – Minor Capital funding will also be identified on a separate Schedule within the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statement's Program Schedules.

Income Assistance

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) 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.

DCI #4548549 due on July 30, 2021

Information for regular Income Assistance funding is not to be included in the Activities and Expenditures Report (DCI# 4548549). Activities funded from other sources of COVID-19 funding, for example funding from the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF), that also supported Income Assistance clients and their dependents are not to be reported in this report. This will allow the department to report back on these expenditures for COVID 19.

**Note recipients are only required to fill in one report for the COVID-19 funding allocations for all Income Assistance.



DCI#4548549 is a multi-faceted DCI used to report on various functional areas. Each funding stream must have a separate report linked to it, therefore funding from numerous streams cannot be reported in just one DCI. Please work with your CLT if you have any questions or concerns regarding DCI#4548549.