



# **Indigenous Relations Community Support Fund (CSF) Guidelines**

*Alberta* 

The Government of Alberta is committed to building a future where Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus (2S+) people live in safety and security, free from violence, and are treated with dignity and respect.

### **1) Purpose and Objectives**

As part of government's commitment, Indigenous Relations developed the Community Support Fund (CSF), a \$4 Million annual grant program to improve the well-being of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people by supporting community-based initiatives that address violence and increase safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

### **2) Program Outcomes**

The CSF will achieve the following outcomes for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people:

- a) Reduction in violence.
- b) Increase in safety.
- c) Increase in economic security.

### **3) Eligibility**

a) Eligible Applicants include:

- First Nations
- Metis Settlements and Metis Settlements General Council
- Métis Nation of Alberta
- Aseniwuche Winewak Nation
- Other incorporated Indigenous communities and organizations
- Municipal governments and non-Indigenous organizations working in partnership with Indigenous people, organizations, and communities where the initiative primarily benefits Indigenous people.

All applicants must be in compliance with the terms and conditions of any previous Indigenous Relations funding. If an applicant is a corporate entity, it must be in good standing.

b) Ineligible Applicants

Individuals are not eligible for funding under this program.

c) Eligible Projects/Initiatives and Expenses

The CSF provides financial support for Indigenous-led projects and initiatives that meet the purpose and objectives of the CSF.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project or initiative achieves the CSF outcomes and fall under one of the following funding streams:

- **Addressing Violence** supports projects and initiatives that address or prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people through activities such as raising awareness of violence; engaging Indigenous individuals and communities; supporting survivors, families and loved ones; improving healing and wellness; and researching and sharing of wise practices.
- **Increasing Safety** supports projects and initiatives that increase safety for Indigenous women, girls 2S+ people through activities such as examining environmental factors that contribute to lack of safety; creating safety strategies through community partnerships; raising awareness of safety strategies; and creating individual and community safety plans.
- **Increasing Economic Security** supports projects and initiatives that will increase economic security for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people through activities such as building skills and/or leadership capacity; creating partnerships to address Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people's basic needs; and developing and implementing strategies and/or initiatives to assist Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people strengthen their economic independence.

Applicants can submit up to two proposals per funding cycle. Project funding must not overlap, and budget line items can only be paid on one project.

d) Ineligible Projects/Initiatives and Expenses:

The following projects/initiatives and expenses are not eligible for funding under this program:

- Projects or initiatives that:
  - Do not meet the CSF's purpose and objectives.
  - Primarily benefit non-Indigenous individuals.
  - Are not Indigenous led. Non-Indigenous entities or communities will be required to demonstrate the initiative is Indigenous led by declaring the initiative is administered by an Indigenous individual and providing two letters of partnership from Indigenous communities or organizations.
- Costs incurred before the program funding was approved.
- Payments for services that would normally be provided without charge.
- Existing staff salaries or wages.
- Corporate/business projects intended to make a profit.
- Capital expenditures.
- Out of province travel & expenses.

#### **4) Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) The project or initiative must address the needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.
- b) The project or initiative is Indigenous led and, where appropriate, distinctions based.
- c) The project or initiative identifies actions and performance measures to demonstrate how CSF outcomes will be achieved.
- d) The application demonstrates organizational capacity, sustainability, and community accountability/transparency.

#### **5) Funding**

Applicants may receive up to \$200,000. Multi-year projects will also be considered.

Applicants that have outstanding deliverables for Indigenous Relations grants, past and ongoing, are ineligible for further funding until the outstanding deliverables are submitted.

#### **6) When to Apply**

This call for proposals opened on August 1, 2023 and will close on October 6, 2023.

#### **7) How to Apply**

Step 1. Read the guidelines.

Step 2. Fill out and sign the Grant Application Form.

Applications must include:

- a) A date and signature.
- b) Description of proposed activities.
- c) Expected outcomes and performance measures.
- d) Detailed timeline of the project activities.
- e) A detailed budget.
- f) Letters of partnership and support, if required.
- g) The organization must designate one member who is the primary contact for all requirements of the grant.

#### **8) Other Requirements**

Upon approval for funding, grant recipients must sign and return the grant/contribution agreement, which details the conditions under which the funding is to be used, including reporting requirements.

## 9) Submit Your Application Package

- a) By email: [indigenouswomensinitiatives@gov.ab.ca](mailto:indigenouswomensinitiatives@gov.ab.ca); or
- b) By mail:

Community Support Fund  
Indigenous Women's Initiatives  
Indigenous Relations  
10th floor, Forestry Building  
9920 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4

## 10) After You Apply

Once an application is received, Indigenous Relations will:

- a) Do a preliminary assessment to ensure the application is complete.
- b) Ask for more information if the application is incomplete.
- c) Do a full assessment of the application to confirm eligibility and suitability for CSF funding.
- d) Communicate the status of the application by sending written notice of a final decision via email or mail.

## 11) Reporting and Deliverables

Once an application is approved, Indigenous Relations will enter into a grant contribution agreement with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will be required to report on the activities and outcomes of the initiative as detailed in the grant contribution agreement and provide financial statements.

## 12) Contact

Indigenous Women's Initiatives staff are available to discuss proposed projects or initiatives, or answer questions regarding the CSF program guidelines.

Connect via email at [indigenouswomensinitiatives@gov.ab.ca](mailto:indigenouswomensinitiatives@gov.ab.ca).