

Indigenous Languages in Education

What is the Indigenous Languages in Education (ILE) grant program?

The ILE grant program is a one-time funding initiative designed to facilitate support for early childhood education and Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) Indigenous language and culture programs across the province.

Research has demonstrated a strong correlation between language acquisition and positive student outcomes.

Indigenous stakeholders and provincial school jurisdictions have highlighted the scarcity of and demand for early childhood education and K-12 Indigenous language teachers, instructors and resources, and the pivotal role that education can play in revitalizing Indigenous languages.

What is the purpose of the ILE grant program?

The program will support Indigenous language and culture programs through two streams.

Teacher/instructor development

Activities that increase the number of Indigenous language training opportunities for early childhood education, and K-12 instructors and teachers.

Resource development

Activities that increase the number of early childhood education and K-12 teaching and learning resources in Indigenous languages of Alberta (Anishinabe [Saulteaux/Ojibway], Blackfoot, Cree,

Dene, Michif, Nakoda/Nakota, and Tsuut'ina languages).

What are some examples of teacher/instructor development activities?

The development and facilitation of:

- Indigenous language courses;
- curriculum and program development that promote language pedagogy;
- facilitating access to existing language instruction programs;
- development of transfer agreements with post-secondary institutions that have Bachelor of Education programs (i.e. Alberta Teacher Education Program); or
- development of bridging Indigenous language programs towards a Bachelor of Education.

What are some examples of resource development?

Resources can take various forms including:

- books;
- videos;
- audio;
- websites;
- applications;
- games; and
- other professional teaching and learning resources.

Resources should be specifically developed to teach Indigenous languages in early childhood education and K-12 classrooms.

Ownership of resources developed from ILE

Ownership of any resources which are developed or produced under this grant program will remain with the grant recipient. Upon completion of a grant agreement, the grant recipient grants a license to Alberta Education to use the resources developed, at no cost to the ministry.

Who is eligible for ILE?

Instructor development projects

Are only open to the First Nations colleges/universities and Indigenous organizations that have a primary mandate to train early childhood education and K-12 language instructors in Indigenous languages.

Resource development projects

Will be competitive and open to organizations that have expertise in developing Indigenous language resources, including First Nations and Métis communities, Indigenous organizations, and provincial school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions that partner with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities/organizations.

To ensure that resources are culturally appropriate, non-Indigenous organizations (i.e. provincial school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions) are required to partner with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities and/or organizations.

How much funding is available?

A total of \$6 million in funding for this grant program will be available over two years.

- Up to \$285,000 annually per approved applicant for the Instructor Development stream (non-competitive);
- Up to \$50,000 annually per approved project for the resource development stream will be available (competitive), with a minimum amount of \$10,000. There is a maximum of two approved projects per organization under this stream.

When is the deadline to apply for ILE?

December 18, 2018

Where does ILE funding come from?

Funding for ILE comes from the Government of Alberta. It is intended to enhance, not replace, federal funding for First Nations education.

Where can I get more information?

To get more information please contact:

Partnership Initiatives Branch

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Directorate
Alberta Education
10044-108 Street (11th Floor)
44 Capital Boulevard
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Phone 780-644-8415 (dial 310-0000 first for toll free access in Alberta)

Or by email to EDC.ILE@gov.ab.ca