Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative - Economic Stream

Application guidelines

Alberta

Contents

Classification: Public

Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative - Economic Stream (IRI-ES)

Application guidelines

The Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative - Economic Stream funds Indigenous-led capacity and opportunity development projects that improve economic outcomes for communities.

Capacity development funding, such as training and strategic planning sessions, enables communities to strengthen the skills and structures necessary to make informed decisions about their economic future.

Opportunity development funding supports community efforts to explore and evaluate new business opportunities through activities such as conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans. This funding can help identify economic drivers and opportunities for growth.

Capacity and opportunity development funding helps create a strong foundation for communities to plan and achieve their economic goals.

The IRI-ES offers flexible funding that supports Indigenous communities, organizations, and businesses in pursuing priorities based on their unique needs.

The IRI-ES:

- aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #92 ii., to ensure that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Indigenous communities gain long-term benefits from economic development projects; and
- provides funding that increases opportunities for collaboration and economic participation.

Funding

IRI-ES applicants can receive a maximum of $100,000 to support an Indigenous-owned economic development project.

There is no requirement for the applicant to contribute financially; however, all sources of funding should be disclosed in the proposal.

The IRI-ES may be stacked with other government and industry funding sources. For the purpose of this grant, the grant stack funding level to a recipient from all government sources (including federal, provincial, and/or municipal) for any initiative can be up to 100 per cent of eligible costs.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for IRI-ES are businesses that are owned by Indigenous communities located in Alberta, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous organizations, including:

- First Nations

- Metis Settlements General Council and Metis Settlements

- Métis Nation of Alberta

- Aseniwuche Winewak Nation

- Tribal councils and Treaty organizations;

- Indigenous not-for-profit organizations, including Friendship Centres

- Inuit organizations

Classification: Public

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

If the applicant is a business or joint venture, communities must own and/or control 51% or more.

Indigenous entrepreneurs

Indigenous entrepreneurs may be eligible if the applicant can demonstrate community support for their project.

Eligible projects

The intent of the IRI-ES program is to improve economic outcomes by funding capacity and opportunity development projects.

Capacity projects strengthen organizational effectiveness, increase a program's impact, and address emerging issues and trends. Eligible projects may include:

- economic development strategic planning
- governance development
- corporate or community restructuring
- human resources best practices development
- training sessions that support communities to develop their own capacity projects

Opportunity projects will allow communities to explore new opportunities or assess the viability of a proposed project. Eligible projects may include (but are not limited to):

- environmental impact assessments
- build surveys
- feasibility studies
- opportunity assessments
- economic leakage studies
- asset inventories
- marketing strategies
- business cases/plans/proposals
- training sessions that support communities in developing their own opportunity projects

Multiple projects

Applicants can submit multiple projects for IRI-ES funding. Project funding must not overlap and budget line items can only be paid on one project.

Classification: Public

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible:

- operating costs such as salaries, utilities, or rent

- studies related to labour market participation and employment (e.g., analysis of labour market trends, future skills development, labour market issues or shortages)

- payments for services that would normally be provided without charge

- capital expenditures

- expenditures not related to economic development

- costs incurred before the program was announced

When to apply

This is an open enrollment and applications will be reviewed as received.

How to apply

Step 1. Read the guidelines

Step 2. Fill out and sign the application form

[IRI Grant Application Form](#)

Applications must include:

- a date and signature

- description of proposed activities

- expected outcomes, results and community reconciliation benefit(s)

- detailed timeline of the project activities and qualification of professionals, where applicable, and

- a detailed budget

Step 3. Demonstrate community support

You must demonstrate organizational support for your project by providing **at least one of the following**:

- Band Council Resolution for a First Nation

- Council Resolution for a Metis Settlement

- Board Resolution from a community-owned company/development corporation

- Board Resolution from a not-for-profit Indigenous organization

- Letter of support from an Indigenous community or organization

Step 4. Submit your application package

Email your application package to IR.Reconciliation@gov.ab.ca.

After you apply

Once your application is received, the following will happen:

1. We will do a preliminary assessment to ensure your application provides enough information to undertake a full assessment.
2. We will do a full assessment to confirm your eligibility and suitability with the IRI-ES.
3. We may ask for more information if your application is incomplete.
4. We may provide recommendations on how your proposal could be improved to better align with the funding stream.
5. A grant manager will communicate the status of the application and a final decision will be sent through email.

Decisions are final and there is no appeal process.

Reporting and deliverables

- If your project is approved, we will enter into a funding agreement with you.
- You are expected to report on the activities and results of the projects as detailed in the funding agreement and provide financial statements.

Contact

Staff are available to discuss economic and cultural development opportunities with Indigenous community representatives.

To connect with the Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative program:

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)
Email: ir.reconciliation@gov.ab.ca.

Classification: Public