COVID-19 UPDATE

Federal Financial Benefits and Support to Ontario First Nations for COVID-19 Response

What funding is available to support the COVID-19 response in Ontario communities?

SOURCE OF FUNDS	DISTRIBUTION DATE			
	March	April	May	June
ISC (request-based) $8M	▇			
Indigenous Community Support Fund (formula-based) $37.6 M		▇		
FNIHB (request-based)		▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇➤		

ISC continues to respond to community driven needs to augment existing health services by providing request-based funding for initiatives that apply to security for health assets. Funding requests may be submitted by individual communities or as an aggregate by tribal councils, or other organizations. Funding decisions take into account the presence, or absence of cases of COVID-19 in the community at present and consideration that there may be a requirement, in the future, to escalate the response. A staged approach to responding to the immediate needs is supported so that, should the situation in the community be altered in either direction, ISC may assess and respond accordingly.

For more information, see:
- letter on managing COVID-19 expenses;
- funding request form; and
- COVID-19 Community Guide

Can a First Nation use core funding to support COVID-19?

Yes, core funding allocations not currently being used to deliver regular programming may be used to support COVID-19 response activities that are consistent with the terms and conditions of the program in question (e.g. the purchase of distance learning equipment to continue to deliver education programming, or where Mental Wellness Programming is being delivered by another means).

To help mitigate the risk of potential program funding shortfalls once the pandemic subsides, we recommend that a forecast of core expenditures be conducted on a quarterly basis before funds are applied to response efforts.

> **!** ISC cannot commit to the reimbursement of any expenses above current funding allocations, or shortfalls that may be experienced in regular program funding where resources have been redirected to emergency activities.

What is ISC doing to remove funding obstacles?

To assist First Nations during this time, ISC is providing greater operational stability. For example, ISC stopped all scheduled funding recoveries, lifted non-essential funding halts associated with overdue program reports, and expanded carry-over provisions for unspent funding.

A complete listing of program terms and conditions is available at: Terms and Conditions for CIRNAC and ISC Transfer Payments. Should you have any questions on the eligibility of a planned expenditure, please contact your Funding Services Officer or Senior Program Officer.

What other support is available?

A number of resources are also available for individuals and families living both on and off reserve. More information about these resources may be found at:
Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan.