



FORWARD TOGETHER – Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund, under the Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy, will provide opportunities for communities throughout Yukon to fund activities and learning to improve mental wellness for residents. The fund will be available for First Nations, community organizations, and non-governmental organizations with preference for funding given to initiatives that are focused on communities outside of Whitehorse.

Objectives:

- to allow organizations to test out new models of delivering services that promote wellness
- to build capacity in Yukon to deliver effective services
- to learn from promising and emerging practices that promote wellness
- to increase coordination and collaboration among care providers
- to allow communities to take action on issues of particular priority in their community, in a way that best suits the community

Projects should focus on:

- Addressing gaps in community programming or services
- Including collaborative efforts with multiple partners to serve populations who have, or are at risk of mental health, trauma, and/or substance use problems
- Demonstrating how the project/initiative will address an identified need in their community.
- Strengthening connection between providers, programs, partners and/or transition points

Who is eligible to apply?

- First Nation Governments
- Non-profit organizations (NGO's)
- Local governments/municipalities/hamlets in partnership with community-based groups
- Community-based groups

Eligible Costs:

- Wages, salaries, honorarium (for speakers, project coordinators, etc.)
- Rental or lease of premises or equipment
- Program materials for the project such as books, videos, flip charts, etc.
- Advertising/promotion of the project
- Production of resources such as pamphlets, posters or manuals
- Travel in the Yukon (or in some instances to bring speakers, facilitators to the Yukon)
- Child care costs (where directly related to the project)

Funding is not available for:

- Delivery of on-going or recurring services or programs
- Core or O&M funding for a group
- Feasibility studies/needs assessments
- Travel of individuals or groups to conferences/courses outside the Yukon
- Projects which are within the areas of responsibility of existing government programs
- Retroactive funding of projects that have already taken place
- Computers or word-processing equipment or software
- Purchase of capital equipment
- Construction or renovation of facilities

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Application forms are available from:

- Department of Health & Social Services internet.
- They can also be provided to you from Whitehorse, if you contact the Fund Administrator at email
- Online at: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/forwardtogether.php>

2. Fill out the application form, and send it to:

Dallas Smith (dallas.smith@gov.yk.ca) OR
Sonya Parsons (sonya.parsons@gov.yk.ca)

3. The application will be reviewed and will be either:

- approved in full
- approved in part
- approved with conditions; or
- rejected

*note: after submission of Innovation Fund application, the Fund Administrator may need to follow up with applicants to get additional details, or to discuss changes/alterations to fund request. This will allow the selection team to ensure a broad representation of successful applications and initiatives across Yukon.

4. Once a decision has been made about your project, your group will received a letter by mail to let you know if your project is going to be funded.

5. Upon project approval, the Fund Administrator will send you a written contribution agreement that your group must sign and return to the government. Once this signed agreement is received by the government, a cheque can be issued.

6. No expenses which are incurred by a group before it receives such notice of project approval will be paid out of the approved contribution agreement.

7. Any funds provided through contribution agreement must be used by March 31, 2018.

8. There may be a 5% holdback on funding until the evaluations and summary of expense form are complete. The applicant will be advised of this when they are notified that their project has been approved.

As part of the contribution agreement, you will be required to submit a short written evaluation of your project once it is completed. Applicants may use alternate methods of reporting to supplement their evaluation report, such as videos, photographs, etc. A summary of expense form, with receipts attached, (photocopies of receipts are sufficient) must also be submitted upon completion of the project.

As part of ongoing capacity building initiatives training and/or assistance and coaching in program evaluation methods will be provided to organizations who request it.