

BC First Nations Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) 2020-2021 Guidelines and Call for Proposals

Questions and Answers

1. When can programs start?

Programs can start as soon as contribution agreements are in place. FNEC will work towards having contribution agreements in place by early February.

2. When do programs have to end?

Currently, this will depend on the source of funding. At this time, programs funded with Indigenous Services Canada PSPP funding must complete by March 31, 2022 (all funds must be expended and all activities completed by March 31, 2022). FNEC is exploring the possibility of extending this date with Indigenous Services Canada. Programs funded with Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training funding must complete by May 31, 2022 (again, all funds must be expended and all activities completed by May 31, 2022). FNEC will endeavour to match program funding and proposed end dates for programs to enable communities to deliver within their desired timeframe.

3. Would an on-reserve upgrading program for adult learners be eligible for funding?

Yes. The BC First Nations PSPP Guidelines (p. 2) state that PSPP funded programs and courses can include Adult Basic Education and University and College Entrance Preparation programs and courses that provide students with the academic level required for entrance into post-secondary programs. Generally, this will include grade 11/12 level courses. The curriculum must consist of courses offered through public post-secondary institutions' Adult Basic Education curriculum and not Ministry of Education grade K-12 courses.

4. Would developing curriculum for Early Childhood Educators that is play/object based be eligible for funding?

Yes, developing new curriculum for training Early Childhood Educators would be eligible for funding. The BC First Nations PSPP Guidelines state that PSPP funding is available for researching and developing new post-secondary courses and programs, or for adapting and converting existing post-secondary courses and programs to online delivery and distance education.

5. What kinds of expenses are eligible as student and cultural supports?

Expenditures must be directly related to the delivery of the program. Examples of student and cultural support costs that would be directly related to the delivery of a program include:

- Counselling
- Tutoring

- Transportation (for example, the cost of operating a van to pick up students or a travel stipend for students)
- Food (for example, lunches and other food provided to students on instruction days)
- Emergency child care

Given the limited budget, student and cultural support costs cannot total more than 20% of the total costs for the program.

6. Are capital costs (e.g., materials to build a new building) eligible for funding?

No, capital costs are not eligible expenditures under PSPP.

7. Could we use this funding to purchase seats in an existing program at a public post-secondary institution?

No, purchasing seats in an existing program would not be eligible for funding. Eligible expenditures for the PSPP include the direct costs for First Nations and First Nations established post-secondary education institutes to develop and deliver post-secondary education programs and courses in community.

If you have sufficient Post-Secondary Student Support Program funding, that program would be an option. Alternatively, your local Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) holder may be able to fund the students to attend. You may also wish to explore the possibility of provincial programs, such as the Employer Training Grant, which could fund the costs of either unemployed band members or members who are employed by your First Nation to take this type of training (information about this program is available here: <https://www.workbc.ca/Employer-Resources/BC-Employer-Training-Grant.aspx>).

8. We would like to adapt some courses in an existing program and then deliver the program when this work is complete. Would we need to submit one proposal, or two?

Please submit one proposal, under the Program/Course Delivery category, and include the program/course development or adaptation component in the proposal. Course adaptation costs are eligible in a Program/Course Delivery proposal if they are related to delivery of the program and if both can be accomplished within the time period for which funding is approved.

9. If the program spans more than one fiscal year, does the \$300,000 maximum apply to the whole time period?

The \$300,000 maximum would apply for the entire time period.