

# EARLY YEARS SERVICE FRAMEWORK| FAQ

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## ***1. What types of direct early years services will the ministry be funding?***

An early years direct service is an activity that engages supports or works with a child between the ages 0 and 6, or a family member such as a parent or a guardian, and it is typically face-to-face.

The Early Years Services Framework outlines five key direct service categories that will guide investments in the ministry's early years services:

1. Providing Family Navigation Services
2. Supporting Families Services
3. Providing Non-Child Care Early Learning Services
4. Promoting Community Belonging Services
5. Supporting Indigenous Culture, Language Revitalization, and Cultural Competency Services

The Ministry recognizes that these services are not mutually exclusive and one program may offer families a number of the key services.

Further detail about these service categories can be found within the [framework](#).

## ***2. Do these Request For Proposals represent net new money to support delivery of early years services?***

The ministry is reinvesting funding from Success by Six, Children First and non-Indigenous Early Years Centres programs, as well as adding new resources to support direct service delivery.

## ***3. When will new early years services be in place?***

It is expected that new services will be in place by April 1, 2019.

## ***4. Why are there 13 Requests For Proposals (RFPs)?***

The Ministry currently delivers services on the basis of 13 distinct Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) in the province, and the RFPs align with each of these areas. Each RFP is aimed at addressing the needs and opportunities unique to each SDA.

The Ministry expects that each region will provide services according to the *Early Years Service Framework* and recognizes that consistency of services across the province is important. But communities have varying geographic, population and service needs which will be reflected within the different RFPs.

Each SDA reviewed regional information – such as program and population data, summaries of past community projects and other information from health and education partners – to make decisions on the best way to customize their RFP within their region.

## ***5. Does 13 RFP's mean only 13 organizations will receive funding?***

No. Multiple organizations in many communities within each of the 13 Service Delivery Areas will be contracted through the RFP process. Funding levels to various organizations will likely vary because services could be delivered differently in some parts of the province to ensure local populations are served effectively.

## ***6. What is consistent across the 13 RFPs?***

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These five services are not being procured separately. These services will be delivered predominantly through well-established service delivery models including family drop-in style programming.

All of the RFPs reflect the *Early Years Service Framework* principles, including the following: families should be viewed as being at the centre, and involved in all aspects of their children's services; families may transition in and out of vulnerability during their children's early years, and addressing these vulnerabilities can result in better long-term developmental outcomes; and, services are co-located with the other services families may need wherever possible in order to reduce the challenges that come with having to access services at multiple different locations. Additional detail about these principles can be found within the [framework](#).

## ***7. How much funding for new services will come to communities?***

This will vary by the population served and geographic considerations of the Service Delivery Area. More specific details on the amount of funding is provided in each of the RFPs now posted to BC BID.

Provincially, over \$8M in funding will be allocated, inclusive of new funding.

## ***8. Have you hired the new positions within the ministry to support early years planning?***

Each of the 13 Service Delivery Areas (SDA) are hiring an Early Years Director of Operation who will manage and plan for early years services across communities within an SDA in alignment with the Early Years Services Framework. Some of these positions have already been filled. The Ministry expects all of these positions to be in place by late 2018.

In most parts of the province, the Director of Early Years will hold responsibility for other portfolios in addition to the Early Years – such as Children and Youth with Special Needs services.

It is intended to have these individuals participate together in a Community of Practice. The Community of Practice will consist of Ministry staff and newly contracted Indigenous early years positions. It is through this Community of Practice that early years challenges and opportunities will be discussed, as well as developing policies, service standards, quality assurance approaches and initiatives help address the emerging needs across the province.

### ***9. Has the ministry hired Indigenous specific Early Years planning positions?***

The Ministry has funded seven Regional Métis Navigator/Planner positions hosted by the Métis Nation of BC. In addition, through partnership with BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, four First Nations early years community capacity development positions have been established. The Province also recently entered into an agreement with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to host an urban Indigenous position.

The intention is to invite these colleagues to participate in the Community of Practice outlined above. These positions rest outside of government and do not administer contracts or distribute funding on behalf of the Province.

To find out more about these positions, please visit the [BC Government News Release](#).

### ***10. In the Early Years Service Framework, one of the key service categories is “Supporting Indigenous Culture, Language Revitalization and Cultural Competency.” Does this mean that all programs are going to be Indigenous-focused?***

No, this does not mean all programs are going to be Indigenous-focused. However, it is an expectation that all services delivered under the *Early Years Service Framework* are inclusive of Indigenous cultures and are delivered in a barrier-free way for Indigenous peoples.

The “Supporting Indigenous Culture, Language Revitalization and Cultural Competency” service category is about building cultural competence and ensuring organizations respect and value language, culture and traditions, and ensuring that services, resources and tools are culturally relevant and appropriate.

It is important to note that while all new early years services may not be Indigenous-focused, the Ministry is committed to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and to improving and expanding Indigenous-led planning and programming in the early years.

There are many new initiatives and investments happening concurrently to this procurement process that further support Indigenous self-determination and reconciliation. For example, the expansion of the Aboriginal Head Start programs both on and off-reserve to include full-day child care spaces for infants/toddlers and children aged three to five years.

***11. Given that one of the service categories is supporting Indigenous Culture, Language Revitalization and Cultural Competency does this mean that only Indigenous organizations can submit a proposal?***

No, this does not mean that only Indigenous organizations can submit proposals for the RFPs. All organizations interested in providing services in alignment with all five of the key early years services – including Indigenous organizations — are welcome to submit a proposal.

***12. What if my agency does not have experience delivering services that are inclusive of Indigenous culture?***

The Ministry recognizes that agencies have varying levels of capacity and experience in terms of delivering Indigenous programming and their degree of cultural competency. There is no intention to penalize those agencies who have limited experience delivering Indigenous programs. However, it is an expectation that organizations seek to improve their cultural competence by working in partnership with Indigenous communities, and transforming this knowledge and experience into policies, practices and attitudes that contribute to culturally safe services.

***13. What will happen with Indigenous early years Success by 6 funding?***

As of April 1, 2019 MCFD will invest the \$1.2 M previously allocated to Indigenous Success by 6 initiative to the expansion of the Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) in order to maximize direct and prevention focused services for Indigenous families and communities.

AIDP is a child and family wellness and preservation program open to all Indigenous families (i.e. it does not require a diagnosis or referral). AIDP offers programming such as home-visiting, baby welcoming ceremonies, traditional parenting programs, language and cultural teachings for families, and parent and tot drop-ins. It also offers a pathway to early intervention therapies such as speech/language, occupational and physical therapies.

***14. Who have you consulted with to inform changes to the way early years services are being delivered?***

The Ministry has worked with many internal government and external stakeholders, beginning with the information-gathering stages of the *Early Years Service Framework* up to our current procurement work. These stakeholders include:

- Community organizations that support families navigate the services they need
- Sector advocacy organizations;
- Families;
- Indigenous partners;
- Cross-government partners, including other ministries and Health Authorities; and
- Internal ministry service delivery and policy staff.

***15. Where has the money in Children First, Success by 6 and Early Year Centre funding been re-directed to? Have you directed some of these funds to the new Ministry planning positions?***

The total budgeted investments province wide in 2018/19 for Success by 6, Children First and Early Years Centres were \$3.4M, \$3.7M and \$2.6M, respectively. This totals \$9.7M. The new total going to direct services in 2019/20 is expected to be over \$9.9M. This new total can be broken down as such:

- \$7.1M - The Request for Proposals process will see the allocation of \$7.1M in funding.
- \$0.4M (per year) - In addition to the Request for Proposals process, \$0.4M is expected to be issued via direct award for services to remote communities where only one provider exists, or for Indigenous communities.
- \$1.2M (per year) - Approximately \$1.2M will be allocated through contract amendments to support the continuation of direct services, the majority of which is being directed to Indigenous communities.
- Please note, over and above the amounts defined above (totalling approximately \$8.7M), \$1.2M in funding traditionally used for Aboriginal Success by 6 is being provided to Indigenous communities to enhance or provide Aboriginal Infant Development Programs – this funding will be allocated through an engagement process over coming months.

No funds from Children First, Success by 6 or Early Years Centres have been, or will be, used for the purpose of hiring the new Ministry Early Years Director of Operation planning positions. Any funding required for these positions has been separate, and above and beyond the \$9.9M that has been redirected from these initiatives and into direct service delivery.

***16. My community is seeing a decrease in funding. I thought that you were adding money to the sector?***

Province wide, the investment in Ministry early years direct services is increasing. The total investment province wide in Success by 6, Children First, and Early Years Centre funding was \$9.7M. A significant portion of funding under these programs was historically allocated to activities that were not direct services. The intention of the reallocation is to significantly expand access to direct-service early years programs that families need and want in community.

A community's calculation of funding prior to this shift *may* now reflect a change. This is for three key reasons:

- We are moving towards having a more equitable distribution of programming across the province. For example, there are communities receiving funding in this reallocation that have never before received MCFD early years resourcing.
- Previously, funding provided to a particular agency did not always align with the geographic areas where the money was ultimately invested/expended (e.g. agency X received \$200K and then distributed it to 7 communities to convene local tables; in the reallocation, community X will see a decrease in funds).

- Community boundaries are defined differently by many. Community can be understood differently by agencies, MLAs, policy makers, MCFD service delivery staff, families, etc. For example, for some, Saanich East and Saanich West are different communities. However, in the reallocation of funding, they are both seen to be part of “Greater Victoria area.”

### ***17. Why are some communities not being invited to submit a proposal under this new RFP process?***

The decision to identify specific communities to apply for funding was based on careful review of various information including census data, regional ministry priorities, community plans and current Ministry early years investments and programs. As a result, there are communities that will receive funding through this process that have never before received Ministry early years resources.

Some communities who are not mentioned in the RFP may be receiving funding directly from the Ministry and did not need to apply for funds. Service Delivery Area staff will work directly with communities/agencies regarding these allocations.

Additionally, \$1.2M will be allocated to Indigenous communities to address the needs and gaps to support the Aboriginal Infant Development Programs. A process is underway to understand the gaps and work with provincial and regional partners and funds will be allocated accordingly.