

Path Forward

Community Fund for Safety Planning & Capacity Building

Applicant Guide

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

December 2021

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APPLICANT GUIDE

PURPOSE

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) is investing up to \$4.55 million to address safety for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples (MMIWG2S+). This money will be made available through a community fund for safety planning and capacity building (the Path Forward Community Fund). To ensure an Indigenous-led approach, an Indigenous organization will develop and administer the Path Forward Community Fund, awarding medium-sized grants to other organizations to support initiatives that build capacity and increase safety so that Indigenous communities can create and implement their own culturally safe solutions.

This Applicant Guide (Guide) provides an overview of the Path Forward Community Fund and outlines the application requirements and process to assist applicants with completing the Application to Develop & Manage the Path Forward Community Fund. The application will be used to identify which Indigenous organization will take on the role of managing and dispersing the Path Forward Community Fund.

NOTE: Applications must meet the eligibility criteria on page 5 to be considered eligible. All eligible applications will be reviewed and scored based on the information applicants provide in the Application.

The Application closing date and time is 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

COMMUNITY FUND FOR SAFETY PLANNING & CAPACITY BUILDING (THE PATH FORWARD COMMUNITY FUND)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In September 2016 the federal government established the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The National Inquiry's purpose was to examine and report on systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls and their greater vulnerability to violence. The National Inquiry's Final Report, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (the Final Report) was released on June 3, 2019.

Following the release of the Final Report, the province of British Columbia (the Province) committed to developing a path forward to end violence. The Province supported Indigenous-led engagement in 2019 and 2021 facilitated by an Indigenous planning firm, Alderhill Planning, Inc. (Please see Appendix A – Path Forward Engagement for additional information.)

On June 3, 2021, the second-year anniversary of the release of the Final Report, the National Action Plan, a path towards ending violence against Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples was released. On that day, BC also released its own plan, A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC (the Path Forward) and secured new funding of \$4.55 million to establish the Path Forward Community Fund.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PATH FORWARD COMMUNITY FUND

Participants in the Path Forward Engagement Sessions identified safety planning as central to Indigenous communities' path to addressing systemic causes of violence and self-determination. A lead Indigenous organization will develop and distribute medium-sized grants to support initiatives and projects that meet this need.

Examples of projects that the lead Indigenous organization may award funding through include engagement and facilitation services to host planning sessions, support to develop crisis response plans, mechanisms and materials for communications plans, information sharing including tools to navigate the justice and public safety systems, culturally appropriate safety training, and healing and cultural supports.

Recognizing the diversity of Indigenous communities across BC, the medium-sized grants dispersed through the Path Forward Community Fund will be accessible to First Nations communities, urban / off reserve communities, Métis and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be an Indigenous organization which may include one of the following:

1. Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations;
2. Indigenous non-profit societies or registered charitable organizations;
3. First Nations, Bands and Tribal Councils;
4. Treaty First Nation Governments;
5. Métis Chartered Communities;
6. Métis organizations or service providers; and,
7. Urban / off reserve Indigenous organizations.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Ineligible applicants include but are not limited to:

1. Individuals;
2. Federal Government;
3. Provincial and Municipal Governments;
4. Public Institutions (i.e. schools and universities); and,
5. Unincorporated committees, groups or task forces.

FOUNDATIONAL FUND REQUIREMENTS

As part of the grant program development, the selected organization must commit to undertaking engagement with eligible communities and to work collaboratively with PSSG to inform and develop the parameters, outcomes, performance measurements, and key indicators of the Path Forward Community Fund.

The organization must be able to develop and operate the grant program, as well as report to the Province on the status of the program on a quarterly basis (e.g., engagement outcomes, program development and launch, number of applicants to the program, number and dollar amount of grants disbursed etc.).

The Path Forward Community Fund amount of \$4.55 million will be transferred to the selected organization chosen through this application process. Up to 10% (\$455,000) of this transfer may be used on administrative costs, and the remaining 90% (\$4,095,000) must be dispersed as medium-sized one-time grants that are equitably distributed both geographically and distinctions-based (i.e., 2SLGBTQQIA+, urban / off reserve, Metis, and First Nations).

While the unique circumstances of each proposed project will be taken into account by the lead Indigenous organization that will administer the Path Forward Community Fund, consideration

should be given to the scope and reach of each project in comparison to the amount of the budget (e.g. value for money).

KEY ATTRIBUTES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

KEY ATTRIBUTES

Based on input received by community engagement sessions, the following key attributes were identified as important elements that the selected organization should honor when developing and implementing the Path Forward Community Fund. How well your organization aligns with these elements will inform the evaluation of your proposal:

- A. Collaborative organization that is engaged and connected to community and demonstrated to hold the best interests of the community in mind;
- B. Fosters transparent, accountable, and culturally safe processes;
- C. Trauma-informed, able to reduce/eliminate lateral violence;
- D. Able to validate diverse visions of healing / holistic approaches;
- E. Demonstrably implement the Calls for Justice and Calls to Action, and;
- F. Understands and defers to Indigenous governance and dynamics in various communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Based on input received through community engagement sessions, the following guiding principles were identified as values that your organization should demonstrate and uphold to be eligible for leading the Path Forward Community Fund. How well your organization aligns with these principles will inform the evaluation of your proposal.

1. Centres Indigenous-Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+: The fund engages and is informed by the knowledge and expertise of Indigenous-Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people with understanding and connections to work in the MMIWG2S+ space.
2. Accessible: The application process that the selected organization employs is accessible, provides support to applicants throughout the process, and the selected organization has a track record of accessibility.

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- a. This is pertinent as often communities in most need have the least capacity (e.g., lack of technology, time to complete complex applications, etc.).
 3. An Equitable, Regional Approach: The approach is equitable and geographically representative; the selected organization has established networks / connections across the diverse mosaic of Indigenous communities across BC.
 - a. Establishing pots of funding by geographical region as well as types of entities (e.g., grassroots organizations), establish approaches to avoid duplications and over-solicitation of certain entities.
 4. Communicative: The process is transparent; communication and collaboration are prioritized throughout the selection process and by the selected organization.
 5. Inclusive: The funding is inclusive of families, First Nations, Metis, Inuit, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, grassroots organizations, rural remote, on and off reserve and urban people – “nothing about us, without us” – while prioritizing a bottom-up approach that starts with those with lived experience.
 6. Holistic: An Indigenous holistic approach to validating work and dispersing funds is taken that recognizes diverse set of needs of each community and relies on Indigenous interpretations of useful applications of funding, rather than colonial ones.
 - a. For example, many Indigenous communities think in nested systems, where the individual is surrounded by family, which is surrounded by community, which is surrounded by the land. Each layer of this nest relates to, ripples across, and influences all the others, and so responses to MMIWG2S+ might appear not to be directly related to the issue, but absolutely are.
 - b. Valid uses of funds include but are not limited to immediate crisis response funding for search and rescue, legal fees, money for safety planning, healing circles, and educating communities.
 7. Accountable – Balancing Transparency and Privacy: There is transparent reporting through which communities can assess the validity of the entire process, and that the process honours the inherent rights identified in the Final Report.

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- a. Publicly available financial reports, underlying policies, decision-making criteria, and dynamics of their relationship networks / community reach / partners.
 - b. Applicants can provide feedback on the process to the funding organization; while privacy is upheld.
8. Cultural Safety and Innovation Held in Balance: The selection process and selected organization demonstrates, on balance, a track record of cultural awareness and fostering safe environments with the capacity, efficiency, and innovation needed to govern and administer the fund.
- a. Steps will be taken to limit lateral violence and burnout throughout the process (e.g., use of ceremony in practice, uphold traditional values, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCESS

KEY APPLICATION PHASES

Follow the steps below when applying to develop and manage the Path Forward Community Fund.

Phase 1 – Prepare and Submit Your Application

- Review this Applicant Guide.
- Participate in the Information Webinar on December 29, 2021 at 10:00 to 11:30 AM or watch the recorded version which will be shared with you if you register at the email below.
- Prepare and submit your completed application by February 1, 2022.

On December 29, 2021 at 10:00 to 11:30AM, a webinar will be hosted and recorded to provide applicants additional information and guidance on how to complete the application. If you are interested in joining the webinar or reviewing the recording please email PathForwardMMIWG@gov.bc.ca to register.

Please direct all other inquiries related to the Application process, including requests for information and clarification to PathForwardMMIWG@gov.bc.ca.

Phase 2 – Review and Evaluation (February 2022)

- Applications assessed.
- Organization selected.

Phase 3 – Results Notification (February to April 2022)

- All applicants notified of results.
- Grant letter delivered to successful organization.
- Moneys transferred to successful organization.

KEY STEPS

STEP 1: CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY

If you are applying you must be an Indigenous organization. If you are not an Indigenous organization then you are not eligible to apply and your application will not be accepted.

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

Please ensure that you complete all fields in the application form. Leaving section blank will affect your evaluation.

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please provide up-to-date contact information, as well as alternate contacts to ensure that communication on the results will not be delayed. If there are any changes to your contact information after the application has been submitted, please email PathForwardMMIWG@gov.bc.ca.

SECTION 2: ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Please describe how your organization is well suited to develop and manage the fund by demonstrating it has the resources, experience, or expertise needed to meet the needs of Indigenous communities that will be applying to access funds. Or how it will meet those requirements through partners / collaborators.

SECTION 3: RESPONSIVENESS TO KEY ATTRIBUTES AND PRINCIPLES

Describe how your organization aligns with the key attributes on page 7 of this guide to provide a sense of how your organization holds suggested characteristics, values, and safe spaces for Indigenous communities that the fund will serve.

Describe how your organization currently upholds or will apply the guiding principles on page 7 of this guide as you work to develop and operationalize the Path Forward Community Fund.

SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Please describe a high-level work plan, including timelines and steps you would take to demonstrate alignment with the objectives of the fund, guiding principles, and priorities communicated through the Path Forward community engagement sessions.

SECTION 5: BUDGET

Complete your budget in as much detail as possible (a template is provided in Appendix A of the Application Template). For salary expenses include hours, wages, and number of weeks per staff expense anticipated. You may round up to the nearest dollar amount (do not use cents).

Examples of eligible expenses include staffing costs, honouraria, cultural safety, etc. Also, expenses to ensure your work is implemented in a manner consistent with the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC as related to the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible.

SECTION 6: LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT MAXIMUM THREE (3)

Preference may be given to groups with letters of support from diverse references. Letters of support from any applicant may be contacted to verify statements made in the application. If the references are found to be unsatisfactory the evaluation of the application will be impacted.

SECTION 7: DECLARATION AND AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE(S)

The authorized signatory of your organization must sign this section in order to be awarded the funds, if selected.

STEP 3: SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

Submit your application by email to PathForwardMMIWG@gov.bc.ca by 5:00 PM PST on February 1, 2022. You will receive a confirmation message that the application has been received.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Applications will be reviewed following a two-step process:

1. Applications will initially be reviewed for administrative completeness, comprehensiveness and accuracy.
2. Each application will be assessed by a review team to evaluate the responsiveness to the key attributes and guiding principles outlined in this guide. The review team will use a formalized process to evaluate each question.

APPENDIX A – PATH FORWARD ENGAGEMENT

Since 2019, the Ministry has been collaborating with the Indigenous planning firm, Alderhill Planning, Inc. (Alderhill), to facilitate engagement with Indigenous communities across B.C. Three phases of engagement were conducted.

Phase One

The initial phase of this work saw twelve sessions hosted by Alderhill in which participants from Indigenous communities around the province were invited to come together in a safe space to collaboratively develop strategies and initiatives related to systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls in B.C. That year, over 300 people joined the sessions, sharing fears, uncertainties, hope, feelings of empowerment, ideas for solutions and possible steps forward. The result of these first 12 sessions was a What We Heard Report, where four core themes were identified:

1. Safe spaces and safety plans
2. Healing support
3. Strengthening relationships with our partners
4. Access to resources and recommendations

Phase Two

In Spring of 2021, five additional sessions were held to identify further detail around the priorities that emerged during the 2019 sessions as well as to provide an opportunity for communities to connect. All participants from the 2019 sessions were invited to return to contribute to the second phase 2021 sessions and registration was not restricted to specific communities. As was done in the initial phase, efforts were made to establish safe spaces for hosting these challenging discussions. During the second phase, the four core themes from 2019 were built upon and a second What We Heard Report and Community Toolkit were also developed.

What We Heard

The number one priority identified across these community engagement sessions was the need for safe spaces and safety plans with increased community capacity as part of self-determination. Indigenous communities are the experts at implementing their own solutions. Participants made it clear that funds were required to do this.

The Path Forward

On June 3, 2021, the second-year anniversary of the release of the report, the National Action Plan, a path towards ending violence against Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples was released. On that day, the Province also announced new funding in 2020/21 as

part of the release of the [*Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC*](#) report; up to \$4.55 to be allocated towards the Path Forward Community Fund. Through the Path Forward Community Fund, PSSG will invest directly in a community fund that will be accessible to First Nations communities, urban / off reserve communities, Métis citizens and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. These dollars will be administered and delivered by an Indigenous organization.

Phase Three

In October 2021, PSSG and Alderhill brought community members and past participants from phase one and two of the Path Forward engagement sessions together to get input on a process to determine an Indigenous organization to operate the Path Forward Community Fund. An online survey was also developed. A third What We Heard Report was completed by Alderhill to reflect feedback received.

To reflect feedback from the consultations, PSSG is incorporating three key features into the Application. Through the application the selected Indigenous organization is asked to:

1. Commit to the ongoing involvement of families, communities, and impacted individuals.
2. Demonstrate that they have critical key attributes on page 6.
3. Commit that activity will be aligned with the identified Guiding Principles on page 6.

PSSG acknowledges it is not possible to address all concerns expressed during the engagement sessions. For example, the current funding must be distributed to a lead Indigenous organization this fiscal year, so there are timeline constraints on the process.