

Aboriginal Community Development Fund



Guidelines

1. Objectives

The Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) supports community-led initiatives and projects that generate community economic benefits for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal people in the Province through a variety of business, cultural, social, ecological and economic development activities. The total ACDF budget is \$75,000, and therefore the fund is intended to leverage other resources within and outside of government to support a variety and diversity of projects and initiatives that are community-led and First Nation driven.

2. Eligible projects and costs

The Aboriginal Community Development Fund can support the following types of strategic projects, under four main streams:

A. Community and Economic Development Projects

Activities related to this stream include:

- Organizational / Community / Business Planning
- Feasibility/Market Studies
- Conceptual Designs
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing Plans

B. Strategic Capacity Building

Activities related to this stream include:

- Projects that support industry sector development with potential to attract private sector funding
- Own source revenue development (excluding gaming activities)
- Start-up support for entrepreneurial ideas that are band, industry or Nation led
- Nation and community led initiatives that enhance quality of life outcomes for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and are jointly funded through other sources

C. Conferences, Workshops and Event Support

Activities related to this stream include:

- Hosting events in Nova Scotia or the Atlantic region that provide educational and networking activities to advance community and economic development

D. Aboriginal / Mi'kmaq Innovation

This category supports opportunities that leverage funding from other sources for initiatives of a strategic and one-time only nature. The opportunity must be presented to fit within broader economic development activities as a community, group of communities or Mi'kmaq Nation. The opportunity may be innovative or time sensitive or of a unique nature requiring flexibility of approach with demonstrated funding partnerships. Funding in this category may serve as a pilot project, research initiative, demonstration project or best-practice.

3. Eligible Applicants

All projects or initiatives must be supported by a Mi'kmaw community or an Aboriginal organization. Applicants should be currently registered with active status under the Registry of Joint Stocks, and include:

- Mi'kmaq Band councils and their agencies
- Aboriginal organizations serving Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal communities
- Aboriginal initiatives led by a provincial or federal department/agency or non-profit

4. Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- Privately-owned businesses and for-profit co-operatives
- Federal Government and Crown Corporations
- Licensed Liquor establishments
- Private membership clubs
- Gaming agencies
- Individuals

5. General Funding Criteria

- Minimum of 10% cash contribution required from the applicant (in-kind contributions are not preferred but may be considered).
- The total government (i.e. federal and provincial) investment should not exceed 90% of the total project costs.
- All projects are subject to budget availability and will be reviewed as received.
- Projects are to be completed within the provincial government fiscal year (April 1 – March 31) for which they are approved.
- The ACDF cannot replace funding that can be obtained from other government departments or agencies, or provide financial assistance for projects that are the responsibility of another level of government.
- Projects being supported through the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum Project Fund are generally not eligible for ACDF funding.

6. Ineligible Project Costs

General ineligible project costs for all categories include, but are not limited to:

- Credit card service charges, bank/finance charges, deficit financing
- Regular operating costs (payroll, bookkeeping services)
- Subsidies for training / wage subsidies
- Other government employees time
- The amount of HST that is refundable
- Alcohol or bartending services

7. Application Procedure

Proposals must include:

- Description: Describe the project/initiative briefly but comprehensively, including the purpose, timelines, project personnel and collaborators. Demonstrate how the project aligns with the applicant's mandate. Attach letters of support and other project information as appendices, as applicable.
- Objectives & Outcomes: Include a work plan that describes what the project aims to achieve, what specific outcomes are expected, and how you will know when you have realized your goal(s).
- Budget: Provide a detailed budget with specifics of project income (including all sources of funding, cash or in-kind) and expenditures. The budget should clearly specify the amount requested from OAA. Note that the total government (i.e. provincial and federal) investment should not exceed 90% of the total project costs.

Proposals may be rejected or delayed if insufficient information is provided.

8. Proposal Assessment & Review

Priority consideration based on available funding will be given to projects and initiatives that:

- Complement other Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal strategies and provincial economic development objectives
- Have secured additional funding through other sources (from the proponent/applicant, public and/or private), and have demonstrated management capacity
- Employ an innovative or creative approach
- Demonstrate partnership and collaboration

Review process and conditions of funding:

- Proposals are received and reviewed by OAA on an ongoing basis.
- Decisions are made subject to budget availability.
- Applicants will be informed of funding decisions, typically within 60 days after the department receives a complete proposal.
- Approved projects typically require a contribution agreement with the recipient, which confirms payment details, required interim and final reports, financial statements and any other conditions. Exceptions may apply to one-time short term events and smaller projects.
- All required reporting must be submitted to and approved by OAA before subsequent funding is released.

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