

FAQ

FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE (ELCC) COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING GRANT



“To support the development of high quality, culturally appropriate, sustainable programs, services and supports for children and families through ongoing community engagement, collaborations, partnerships and coordinated approaches to planning, implementation and governance.”

BC First Nations
ELCC Framework –
Draft Mission
Statement

What is the purpose of this grant?

This \$15,000 planning grant offers First Nations in BC funding to support the work needed for Nations to engage in a collaborative planning and community development process focused on families with young children. Nations are encouraged to involve a full range of community members including Elders, elected and hereditary leaders, early childhood educators (ECEs), families, and health professionals in a community-led dialogue. This will ensure that the next rounds of First Nations ELCC investments respond to community needs and local decision-making, a key principle of the National Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework.



BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

I do not recall applying for this grant. Why did we receive it?

All Nations in BC received these funds. Communities did not have to apply to receive the grant, which is intended to support Nations to prepare for the next round of ELCC funding.

What can we use this grant for?

This is an open grant to support local planning and priority-setting through community engagement. For example, funds can be used to conduct a community needs assessment, or to host special events that bring community members, families and elected and hereditary leadership together to share concerns and ideas about how to support young children in ways that are impactful and meaningful to the Nation and families. Nations that already have ELCC services may use the funds to plan for

expansion or quality improvements in programming and service delivery; Nations that do not currently have ELCC services may use the funds to plan for the creation of new services. The *BCACCS Elements of Quality Child Care from the Perspectives of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia* has been provided as a tool to help Nations focus on key elements of quality and engage in important conversations surrounding the planning process.

Our Nation already has a community plan for ELCC? Can we direct these funds to our plan?

Yes. However, Nations with existing ELCC plans are encouraged to share their plan with BCACCS so that we can support your implementation efforts.

Our Nation wants to consider new or innovative programming. Is this possible?

Absolutely. We know that many communities, especially small, remote and coastal ones, face unique challenges that require local solutions or innovation. This grant is intended to allow Nations to opt for new approaches that make sense for their communities and support cultural and language revitalization.

Is this funding just for children and families living at home?

No. If Nations want to consider the needs of families with young children living away from home, they can do so. As noted elsewhere, this funding is intended to fill service gaps where it makes sense and is practical to meet the needs of all First Nations families.

Is there a specific date our Nation must spend the funding by?

There is no specific date. However, communities wishing to access ELCC funding opportunities in early 2020 are encouraged to use the funding to develop their plans so that they can be ready to access future grants.

Can our Nation plan for major capital projects?

Yes. Communities may use this grant to support planning for major capital projects. However, it should be noted that due to limited funding, future grants through this initiative will only be able to support minor capital improvements. Nations will need to leverage other funding partners to support major capital projects.

What if our community cannot submit a Statement of Readiness plan by May 15, 2019?

We understand that communities may need more time and support to prepare a Statement of Readiness. Please contact us at planninggrant@acc-society.bc.ca to discuss your particular needs.

What are the financial reporting requirements?

For this grant, Nations will need to submit a financial report with their Statement of Readiness.

