

# INFO

## INDIGENOUS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE (IELCC) FUNDING APPROACH AND GUIDELINES



*“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

### Purpose

To share information and describe the BCACCS funding approach to currently available funding streams.

### Background

BCACCS has been authorized by the BC First Nations Leadership Council to be the coordinating body for the implementation of the national Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework in BC. This includes providing leadership, oversight and accountability for \$8.9 million in new annual funding from Canada to support IELCC capacity development among BC First Nations and other Indigenous communities in BC.

BCACCS has developed a three-year community-driven investment strategy beginning in 2018-19 to respond to immediate ELCC needs of BC First Nations.

Areas of immediate need include:

- (1) increasing access for First Nations families;
- (2) enhancing the quality of ELCC services and supports; and
- (3) building capacity in the Indigenous ELCC sector.

### Early Learning & Child Care Defined

In Indigenous terms, early learning and child care programs, services and supports are holistic, inclusive, flexible and accessible to all children birth to six years, and their families. ELCC services and supports are offered in formal (centre-based) and informal (home, communal or on the land) settings where First Nations families and caregivers are supported in raising young children to flourish within the context of their cultures, languages and traditions.



## What is the BCACCS Funding Approach?

Flexibility and responsiveness are the key principles that ground the BCACCS funding approach and support the Society's goal and commitment to enable BC First Nations to meet their specific ELCC needs and priorities, support local capacity development (i.e., people, culture, and governance), ensure equitable distribution of IELCC funding across regions and communities, and address gaps in IELCC service delivery particularly in regions where few or no ELCC resources or infrastructure currently exist.

### Who is Eligible?

- All First Nations in BC; priority shall be given to First Nations that have submitted a Statement of Readiness
- Non-profit First Nations organizations in good standing with the BC Registrar of Companies that can demonstrate leadership/community support
- Community based licensed and unlicensed programs serving First Nations children birth to six years of age, their families and caregivers

## What should be Reflected in the Proposal?

Using the funding approach principles, proposals should:

- a) Demonstrate that children birth to six years of age, their families and caregivers are a primary focus and how an increased access or quality in ELCC supports or services will be part of the results;
- b) Show evidence of community partnerships or linkages (sectors, governments, parents and families);
- c) Show commitment to sharing evaluations and/or sharing stories of impacts with BCACCS;
- d) Show completeness and clarity of project/program goals, objectives and activities;
- e) Identify other funding sources and/or in-kind contributions;
- f) Be achievable with a realistic project timeline and budget.

### What is NOT Eligible?

- Conference Fees
- Any expenses incurred prior to the start date of the funding agreement with BCACCS





## What are the Funding Streams?

Based on the BCACCS three-year interim investment strategy, funds are meant to support access, capacity, and quality and will be allocated according to three distinct streams:

### 1. ECE Wage Enhancement

On-going annual funding support to Nations for wage enhancements to certified ECE/As.

### 2. Minor Capital

Funding to support minor capital renovations, improvements and/or equipment or fixed asset purchases (e.g., appliances, playground equipment or upgrades, computer equipment and technology).

### 3. Service and Planning

This funding stream builds on Nations' Statement of Readiness submissions by providing funding to invest in their ELCC priority areas. It supports quality, capacity and access to child care and other early childhood settings and/or begin or continue the community planning processes.

## What is the Funding Duration?

Intake dates are flexible. Nations are eligible to apply for up to a 15 month period, ending March 31, 2021. Nations are encouraged to submit applications and all relevant supporting information as soon as possible so that they can be processed swiftly.

Please note that budgets and workplans should be organized around the fiscal year, if possible. If you have any questions about when to submit or how to plan your project, contact your regional community facilitator. Please see the list provided at the end of this document.

## Who do I Contact for Help?

Regional community facilitators are available to support Nations to develop their IELCC proposals, plans, applications and answer questions. Please connect directly with the representative from your region:

Vancouver Island – Lisa Fenton  
lisa@acc-society.bc.ca | 250-213-5569

Vancouver Coastal – Jeanne Leeson  
jeanne@acc-society.bc.ca.ca | 604-849-1733

Fraser – Iain Marjoribanks  
iain@acc-society.bc.ca | 604-913-9128

Interior/Northern – IELCC Project Assistant  
IELCCprojectassistant@acc-society.bc.ca | 604-913-9128

More information can be found on our IELCC webpage:  
<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/ielcc/>



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