

Rural, Remote and Indigenous Food Action Grant: Application Guide



RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS FOOD SECURITY ACTION GRANT: APPLICATION GUIDE

Northern Health (NH) has collaborated with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to create the Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Food Action Grant. This grant is intended to support community food action across northern BC with the goal of improving food security within the region. This funding is part of a broader Provincial and Health Authority commitment to advance food security in BC. Grants are available to a maximum of \$50,000.

Northern Health and the FNHA have heard that previous grant applicants have struggled with tight timelines, strict application criteria, and reporting requirements. To address these concerns, the granting committee has taken a partnership approach and included broader application criteria, as well as more open reporting requirements. We are hopeful that this increased flexibility supports the development of your application. We encourage you to reach out for further support and discussion during the application process.

FOOD SECURITY, FOOD INSECURITY, AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Food security exists when people have access to food that is affordable, culturally preferable, nutritious, and safe; and when communities have the ability to participate in, and to influence food systems. Food security means that food systems are resilient and adaptable, environmentally sustainable, socially just, and honour Indigenous food sovereignty.

Food insecurity is when factors outside an individual's control negatively impacts their access to enough food to support overall wellbeing. Economic, social, environmental, and geographical factors influence this access. Food insecurity is most acutely felt by those who experience the negative impacts of racism, discrimination and the ongoing effects of colonialism.

Food sovereignty has been central to Indigenous cultures since time immemorial. Indigenous food sovereignty (IFS) and food security are strongly linked in unique and complex ways that differ for each individual, community, and Nation. Both IFS and food security are also directly related to physical emotional, and spiritual connection with the land, air, and water. Therefore, access to traditional lands for the purposes of hunting, fishing, and gathering foods supports Indigenous food sovereignty and food security. Northern Health and the FNHA recognize that Indigenous food sovereignty can only be defined by the Indigenous person, community, or Nation working to achieve it.

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA

Projects can seek to address one or more parts of food security or work toward Indigenous food sovereignty. Here are some potential topics or themes your project could include

- Leadership and advocacy to advance food security
- Leadership and advocacy to reduce food insecurity
- Revitalizing and strengthening Indigenous food practices and systems
- Food and food security knowledge, transfer, promotion, and awareness initiatives
- Support for community capacity to deliver food security programs and services
- Surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation of food security program
- Building community participation to strengthen Indigenous food sovereignty →



northern health
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Projects should aim to consider the following key values that support food security:

Agency	Social Justice	Sustainability
People’s ability to have choice over the food they want, how they access it, how they use it and how they interact with their food systems	Recognizes the importance of human rights, fair treatment, and equal opportunities for everyone to participate in the food system, and benefit from it	Practices that support the health of people and food systems, while also addressing the impacts of climate change, and preventing further environmental harm

WHO CAN APPLY?

- First Nations Bands and Health Centres
- Indigenous Organizations
- Community Organizations/Service Agencies
- Not-for-Profits
- Public and Private Schools
- Municipalities/Regional Districts

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING LIMITATIONS?

Our grants DO NOT cover:

- Projects outside of the Northern Health region
- Large scale food aid/charitable food projects (for example: providing food to community via food banks, food bag programs, soup kitchens, etc.).
- Individuals or personal businesses
- Academic Research
- Programs that focus solely on nutrition education

*Northern Health employees, programs, or facilities cannot apply for funding but can be listed as a support or partner in the project.

The intention of this grant is to work as partners. Rather than requiring strict reporting, this project includes two check-ins and an End of Project Summary.

Check-ins will be done in the way that works best for you. The intention for the check-in to share any project changes, provide updates, and for the granting committee to offer support. This could be done via email, phone, video, or whatever works best for the applicant.

The End of Project Summary is intended to provide an opportunity for the grantee to share their experience, successes and challenges. This will allow the granting committee to incorporate feedback into the granting structure in the future.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Do I need a project partner to apply?

A Projects are not required to have partners working together. When listing partners on the application, they must be from outside of the applying organization and each partners' roles and responsibilities in the project should be clearly stated.

Q Can my group apply for a Rural, Remote & Indigenous Food Action Grant if we have previously received other funding from Northern Health?

A Yes. Applicants who have previously received funding from Northern Health can apply for this funding opportunity as well.

Q How detailed should my application be?

A When reviewing your application the screening committee should be able to easily understand your organization's need to adapt, respond or establish programming or practices regarding an emerging community health and wellness need. The more details included in your application, the better. Ensure that the project budget is clear and includes all costs that will be associated with the project activities.

Q Our project requires a lot of funding to achieve our goal. Can we apply for a “donation” to our funding pot?

A These funds are intended to support successful applicants with achieving timely projects. If other funding is also being used to support a project, it should be confirmed and complete. Donations to large capital projects with unsecured external funding will not be eligible.

Q Who can/should my project support?

A While Rural, Remote and Indigenous Food Action Grants aim to support Rural, Remote and Indigenous communities, within that, we are encouraging all folks to apply.