



Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation

INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS AND PATHWAYS

2026-27 OFNEDA Information Session

13 November 2025

Our OFNEDA Coffee Chat

Who we are – Introductions and overview

Where we've been so far

Funding and Program Opportunities

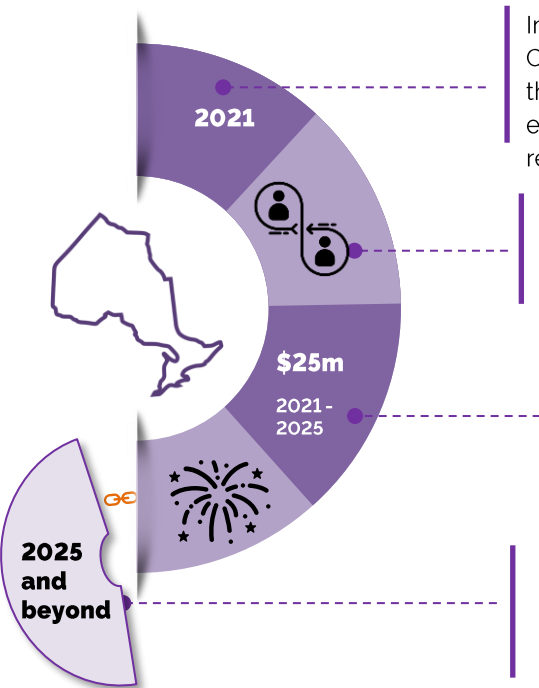
- Overview of the Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP)
- Overview of the Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF)
- Support for the Indigenous Procurement Program – Business Directory

Smoother Journeys – Share your Thoughts

Contacts and Closing



Our Indigenous Economic Development Journey > 2021 to 2025 and Beyond



In May 2021, **Ontario announced** support for the **First Nations' Economic Growth and Prosperity Table (PT)**. Led by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) with **Anishinabek Nation a key member on the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development**, the PT brings together First Nations leadership, IAFNER, other provincial ministries and other entities to support the economic advancement and well-being of First Nation communities while enabling relationships with surrounding regional and larger economies, industries and business partners.

In 2021, IAFNER launched the **Wealth Creation Table (WCT)**, a technical advisory group with 9 Indigenous economic development experts, providing **12** recommendations to guide the province's Indigenous economic development policy and programs.

2022 to 2025 focused on **delivery of the \$25M Indigenous-led programs and initiatives**, shaped by the priorities identified by the PT and WCT in 2021-2022. During this time, IAFNER also worked closely with OFNEDA and Chiefs of Ontario via **engagement sessions throughout the province around how we can augment** Ontario's Indigenous Procurement Program and guide future priorities.

2025 delivered unprecedented challenges, with changing opportunities and new ways of working together, IAFNER is deeply committed to working in close, **collaborative partnership with OFNEDA**, the Prosperity Table and a soon to be formed and new technical advisory Wealth Creation Table. Alongside work to **improve our Indigenous Procurement Program**, we are ready to support Ontario's Indigenous Economy with multiple partnerships across the province, including **Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities**

Overview: Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF)

- The IEDF helps to promote economic development and improvement employment opportunities for Indigenous people.
- Funding is currently available through IEDF's two streams:
 - **Economic Diversification Grant** supports strategic economic planning to assist Indigenous communities in Ontario to expand their economic base and explore opportunities for job creation.
 - **Regional Partnership Grant** supports access to skills training for Indigenous people at the regional or provincial level.
- EDG and RPG are administered through a competitive, application-based process.

Economic Diversification Grant (EDG)

- Supports strategic economic planning to assist Indigenous communities in Ontario to expand their economic base and explore opportunities for job creation.

What funding is available?

- EDG is now multiyear. You may now apply for a 1-year or 2-year project. The funding cap is \$100,000 per year.
- 1-year project: up to \$100,000 total.
- 2-year project: up to \$100,000 per year, for a maximum of \$200,000 across two years.
- No cost matching is required by recipient for EDG

Economic Diversification Grant (EDG)

Who is eligible to apply?

- Political Territorial Organizations (PTO)
- Tribal Councils
- First Nations communities
- Métis communities
- Regional or provincial organizations representing First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or urban Indigenous peoples
- Indigenous service providers in Ontario

Regional Partnership Grant (RPG)

- The RPG improves access for Indigenous people to the skills training required to gain sustainable employment and support Indigenous business development and economic growth in Ontario. The program is intended to support projects that provide skills training on a regional or province-wide basis.

What funding is available?

- Up to 50% of eligible project costs, with a maximum contribution of \$250,000 per fiscal year

New this year:

- RPG can support projects over a one-year funding term or a two-year funding term.
 - Note: Each applicant can submit for two-year funding but can only receive a maximum of \$250,000 per year for a total of \$500,000 over two years.

Regional Partnership Grant (RPG)

Who is eligible to apply?

- Political Territorial Organizations (PTO)
- Tribal Councils
- First Nations communities
- Métis communities
- Indigenous businesses
- Indigenous organizations recognized by the Province of Ontario

Applicants must apply along with:

- First Nations community
- Métis community
- Political Territorial Organization (PTO)
- Tribal Council
- Indigenous business
- Indigenous organization recognized by the Province
- Non-Indigenous business and/or organization.

Overview of the Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP)

The ICCGP supports Indigenous communities and organizations building important community infrastructure projects that promote long-term economic growth, job creation and local prosperity.



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ICCGP Applicant Eligibility

The following Indigenous communities and organizations are eligible to apply for ICCGP funding:

- First Nations communities in Ontario;
 - Métis communities in Ontario; and
 - Indigenous not-for-profit organizations in Ontario
- *NOTE: One application per benefiting community or organization will be accepted per intake period.*

Overview of Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP) project stages

ICCGP supports the planning, construction, and renovation projects of community, learning, and/or business facilities by providing funding for three Project Stages in the capital project process.

Annual funding is available for each stage of a capital project cycle including:

Stage 1: Feasibility Study, up to \$75,000

Stage 2: Detailed Design plans, up to \$150,000

Stage 3: Renovation/Construction

- Construction up to \$600,000
- Major Renovation, up to \$600,000
- Minor Renovation, up to \$240,000
- *NOTE: funding amounts are higher for remote communities*



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ICCGP Eligible Projects

To be considered for funding, community capital Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Project supports Indigenous communities or Indigenous organizations in Ontario to realize **social, cultural, and economic development objectives**;
- Project is limited to on-site capital asset development and associated on-site land development;
- Project supports the development of a:
 - Learning Centre;
 - Community Centre;
 - Business Centre; or
 - Combination of the above



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Application process

The ICCGP and IEDF application forms and their accompanying application guides are available in English and French through **Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON)**, which is the province's online application system for grant funding.

After logging into Transfer Payment Ontario, you will be able to:

- See the 2026-27 funding opportunities
- Access the application guide
- Complete the application form
- Upload the supporting documentation
- Submit your application by the deadline

If you experience any difficulties, please reach out to the TPON Customer Service team at TPONCC@ontario.ca. And you can start here: **www.ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government**

Evaluation Approach

The Ministry will coordinate a multi-ministry panel to evaluate all completed applications with all required supporting documentation received by the deadline based on the following:

- alignment with program objectives;
- strength and clarity of Project objective and community-identified need;
- thorough documentation of Project financial and technical readiness (e.g., attached supporting documents),



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Key Dates for IEDF

Date	Activity
October 21 st	Application window opened
December 1st	IEDF application window closes at 5pm (EST)
December 2025-February 2026	Application review period
March 2026	Applicants notified of outcome
April-May 2026	Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) finalized with successful applicants

Support for the Indigenous Procurement Program




Launch of the Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Business Directory with plans for more resources.

Help your businesses register via the Chiefs of Ontario Website:

chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/economic/ofnbd-listing/

Questions and Discussion

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- *How could we help ensure your application journey is clear and smooth?*
 - *What other gaps are you and your communities facing across Economic Development opportunities?*

Our Key Contacts

Please reach out to the team with any additional questions regarding your 2026-27 application.

ICCGP contact:

IndigenousCommunityCapitalGrantsProgram@ontario.ca

IEDF contact: IndigenousEconomicDevelopmentFund@ontario.ca

Thank you!!

