

Urban Initiatives Program

Over 40% of all Indigenous people in Alberta live in the six largest urban centers in the province¹. The growing rate of urbanization of Indigenous people in Alberta creates unique opportunities and challenges for communities and government. The Urban Initiatives Program (UIP) supports projects that remove barriers and strengthens economic and social opportunities for urban Indigenous people. The UIP also encourages collaboration among governments, Indigenous communities and private and not-for-profit sectors to better serve and meet the needs of urban Indigenous people.

Project Criteria

Projects will be evaluated and assessed on how they contribute to and attempt to achieve outcomes for the five main priority areas listed below. Grant funding must support one or more of the following project criteria.

1. Transitional supports for urban Indigenous people

Provide assistance for Indigenous families and individuals in urban centers to access programs and services by developing strategies and actions for supporting Indigenous people in transition. Transitions can be moving from reserves or settlements to urban areas for employment, education, training, health services, family reasons, safety, housing, etc. Transitions could also include transition between schools, employers, workplaces, or from the justice or health care system within urban areas.

2. Urban initiatives and projects

Support project-based initiatives that serve the urban Indigenous population, often provided by incorporated urban Indigenous not-for-profit service delivery organizations. Programs can include, but are not limited to, a range services in areas such as transition, multi-sector coordination, and supporting Indigenous women and youth.

3. Municipal relations and collaboration

Regional collaboration and capacity building activities by working in partnership with municipalities, local governments, and First Nation or Metis communities to develop strategies and joint solutions to increase the socio-economic well-being of urban Indigenous people. Key program outcomes could include:

- Increased partnerships, cooperation and coordination among governments, business, service providers and the Indigenous community in the delivery of supports in urban areas.
- regional approaches to exploration, implementation, and increased access to new or enhanced services in urban areas;
- Improved capacity to respond to regional priorities;
- Build and maintain effective inter-municipal relations through joint and collaborative activities; and
- Develop inter-municipal relations that result in strengthened community identities and improved quality of life.

4. Culturally appropriate initiatives

Improving existing service delivery by embedding an urban Indigenous lens (an understanding of Indigenous cultures, histories and perspectives). UIP is not intended to replace funding for existing programs and services. Key program outcomes could include:

- Improved service delivery and/or informing social policy initiatives
- Assisting service providers and organizations to increase their accessibility to urban Indigenous individuals needing services in more culturally appropriate ways; and
- Assisting urban Indigenous people with knowledge of and access to programs and services.

5. Indigenous Awareness

¹ These cities include Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. Fort McMurray, while not defined as a city, is also home to a large number of Indigenous people. This data is based on 2006 census data.

Strengthen the knowledge within governments, urban communities, and organizations about Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives.

Eligibility

UIP eligible recipients are:

- Indigenous serving organizations
- Registered not-for-profit organizations
- municipal governments
- Indigenous governments
- for-profit enterprises*

*For-profit enterprises will only be eligible to receive UIP funds in instances where the funds received do not contribute to a profit for the enterprise.

Grant Funding

The UIP complements other funding programs and is not intended to replace or duplicate other sources of financing that may be available. If applicable, Indigenous Relations will inform applicants if their project is better suited under other government programs or funding agencies.

The amount of funding awarded will vary based on the project details as there is no minimum or maximum grant amount. UIP contribution amount will be determined based the degree of priority for department, local, regional or provincial conditions, and the ability of other partners to make financial and/or in kind contributions. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year and are subject to approval based on availability of funds. The duration of funding will vary based on the project time frame and scope. It is recommended that applications be submitted a minimum of three months prior to the start of the project, to allow adequate time for processing.

Grant Applications

[Submit a completed Grant Application form.](#)

Grant applications can be submitted by mail to:

Alberta Indigenous Relations
Attention "Aboriginal Initiatives"
19th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4G8

Please note applications can also be submitted by emailed or fax to initiate the review process, however, Indigenous Relations requires applicants to provide the original, signed applications by mail or in person.

Supporting Documents

Please ensure any additional or supporting documentation (i.e. letters of support) are included as an appendix or an attachment to the proposal.

Final Reporting and Deliverables

All projects need to be evaluated upon completion. Applicants should indicate who will be responsible for reporting project progress, final technical reports, and for the accounting of expenditures, to be submitted to Indigenous Relations.

Financial Statement: Description of expenditures of the project. The financial statement should be signed by an officer of the organization with signing authority and an original should be forwarded to Indigenous Relations.

Narrative Report could include:

- Description of actual results achieved
- Employer and other stakeholder engagement

- Key findings or highlights from program evaluation or reviews
- Success stories
- Summaries of client or stakeholder satisfaction surveys
- Summary of skills learned by the client or stakeholder