



May 7, 2017

Dear Education Directors/Managers:

Federal Budget 2016 committed an additional \$115.5 million nationally for the federal High Cost Special Education Program (HCSEP) on a yearly basis for 5 years. For 2017-18 the INAC Ontario region will distribute an additional \$25.1 million on top of the usual allocation of \$25.8 million. All HCSEP recipients will receive a letter from INAC by May 12, 2017, which provides specific HCSEP funding amounts for this fiscal year. Please note the letter will be addressed to Chief and Council for First Nation communities, therefore it may be necessary to request a copy from your Community Council Office or finance department.

In January 2017 INAC announced a change to the contribution funding approach for the HCSEP from "Set" to "Fixed". The Fixed Contribution funding approach enables recipients to retain any unexpended funding balances provided that program requirements set out in the funding agreement have been met and the recipient agrees to use the unspent funding for purposes consistent with the program objectives or any other purpose agreed to by the department in the following fiscal year. In other words you are now able to roll-over funding from year to year. Recipients retaining roll-over funding from 2016-17 will still be eligible to apply for Needs-Based Process funding. The Needs-Based application for 2017-18 requires you to identify the amount of roll-over funding to ensure you are taking this into account.

At the All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) in June 2016, in anticipation of additional HCSEP funding the Chiefs in Assembly specified the following via resolution:

- That adequate funding to support four HCSEP Research and Support Technicians for a period of two years (September 2016 – September 2018) will come off of the top of the Ontario region HCSEP additional allocation (will be less than 2% of the additional funding announced in Federal Budget 2016);
- That 75% of the remaining additional funding will be allocated through the existing funding formula passed; and
- That remaining 25% of the additional funding will be allocated to recipients through a needs-based process which will be developed by the Ontario First Nation Special Education Working Group (OFNSEWG).

One of the main purposes of this letter is to advise that the COO Political Confederacy has provided approval to continue with this funding methodology until further direction can be obtained at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) 2017 in June. Therefore, the OFNSEWG will proceed with the Needs-Based Process developed for 2016-17 for this fiscal to distribute \$6 million (25% of the remaining additional funding after 75% has been allocated through the existing funding formula).

In order to ensure there is funding available to accommodate needs for both calls for applications the OFNSEWG has recommended that INAC distribute \$4 million through the first call (June 16, 2017) and the remaining \$2 million plus any funding left over from the first call and any funding not required by some communities (identified surplus) in the second call (October 20, 2017).

The attached HCSEP Needs-Based Application Form should be used to identify your community's financial needs, over and above the funding formula allocation as indicated in the INAC letter which will be provided by May 12, 2017 as well as any roll-over funding. Please feel free to contact INAC Sr. Education Officer, Shelley Knott-Fife at Shelley.KnottFife@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca or (705) 768-3547 if you are unable to locate the letter sent to your community or organization.

Requests for additional funding must be for expenses deemed eligible as per National Guidelines for HCSEP. A guide for determining eligible direct and indirect expenses is provided at the end of this letter.

Submissions will be accepted for review by the Ontario First Nation Special Education Working Group (OFNSEWG): **June 15, 2017 and October 20, 2017**. Confirmation of additional funding will be provided by INAC approximately six weeks after the respective due date.

3 Ways to Submit – HCSEP NEEDS-BASED APPLICATION FORM 2017-18

1. Email to Julia Candlish at julia@coo.org
2. Fax to Julia Candlish, Director of Education, Chiefs of Ontario 416 597-8365
3. Mail to:
OFNSEWG c/o Chiefs of Ontario – Education
468 Queen St. E, Suite 400,
Toronto
M5A 1T7

If you have any questions about this communication please do not hesitate to contact one of the OFNSEWG members listed below or the Special Education Support Technician assigned to your community/organization.

Members of the OFNSEWG and Support Technicians

Name	Organization	Email Address
Julia Candlish	Chiefs of Ontario	julia@coo.org

Name	Organization	Email Address
Dobi-Dawn Frenette	Nishnawbe Aski Nation	dfrenette@nan.on.ca
Murray Waboose	Union of Ontario Indians	murray.waboose@anishinabek.ca
Gina McGahey	Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians	gmcahey@aiai.on.ca
Yolanda Fobister	Grand Council Treaty 3	Yolanda.Fobister@treaty3.ca
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Lisa Wabegijig	COO Special Education Support Technician – Central and Northeast	Lisa.Wabegijig@coo.org
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General Guide for Determining Eligible Expenditures

Direct Services:

Direct Services are those that are given to a specific student. Direct services must represent a minimum of 75% of the annual SEP resources. Generally, Direct Services are those services that can directly be linked to a specific student. The following is a sample of eligible expenditures for direct services:

Salaries/benefits for:

- special education teacher
- individual teacher aide/paraprofessional workers

Costs associated with:

- the acquisition of professional assessments
- completion of student assessments
- educational psychological services
- counselling/social work services
- Elder/mentoring/cultural services
- speech/language services
- occupational therapy services
- physical therapy services
- instructional/resource materials
- assistive technologies/equipment purchases

Indirect Services:

Up to 25% of the SEP allocation may be spent on school activities and services that will improve special education programs for students with high-cost special education needs or the potential to have high-cost special education needs. Indirect Services DO NOT have to be linked to a specific student.

The following is a list of eligible expenditures for indirect services:

Costs associated with:

- providing information services
- contracting and providing professional support services
- contracting and providing professional assessment services
- professional development for professional accreditations
- other professional (capacity) development (e.g., workshops, conferences)
- administrative support (not to exceed 10% of the amount requested before administration costs)
- accommodations (e.g., lodging/room and board)
- accommodating student learning needs and may include changes in the method of instruction, the curriculum, and the environment
- transportation to a maximum of \$5,000 per student

Ineligible Expenses

- Services required for students whose needs are mild to moderate.
- Enhanced programs and services for gifted students or enriched, are not eligible for HCSEP funding.
- Capital costs cannot be charged to HCSEP budget allocation.

- Expenditures already covered through other programs.

Sincerely,

Julia Candlish – on behalf of the OFNSEWG