

**Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure  
Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**



**INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM:  
COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake  
Questions and Answers – For Applicants**

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November 2020

**Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure  
Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

**Table of Contents**

GENERAL..... 3

ELIGIBILITY..... 3

TIMELINE ..... 4

FUNDING ..... 5

PROJECTS..... 6

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS..... 8

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

### **GENERAL**

#### **Q: Is there any other funding under the COVID stream besides the Local Government Intake?**

A: Yes, there will be two other intakes launched on similar timelines as the Local Government Intake under the COVID-19 stream, which will be delivered by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Long-Term Care, supporting their respective sectors. Questions on these intakes can be directed to [Cettina.Cuffaro@ontario.ca](mailto:Cettina.Cuffaro@ontario.ca) (EDU) and [MLTC.Correspondence@ontario.ca](mailto:MLTC.Correspondence@ontario.ca) (MLTC).

#### **Q: Do you have any advice for preparing to apply to the program?**

A: Yes, please see below for:

- Read the Program Guide to ensure that the project(s) comply with a project category and asset type in the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Project Categories Table found in Appendix B.
- Attach all mandatory documents including the KML file and ACEA smart form. Please refer to Appendix C of the program guide on Application Form Completeness Check.
- Ensure that the project timeframe aligns with program timelines (must start construction before September 30, 2021 and must be completed by **December 31, 2021**, and projects in remote communities must be completed by **December 31, 2022**
- Ensure you are not exceeding the funding amount allocated to your municipality, (which was indicated in the letter sent to you November 6, 2020) and the total eligible cost for the project does not exceed \$10 million.
- Submit the completed application form and all the required documents before the deadline. Late submission will not be accepted.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

#### **Q: Who is eligible to apply to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream - Local Government Intake?**

A: All 444 municipalities in Ontario are eligible for funding under this intake of the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream.

#### **Q: Can I partner with another municipality?**

A: Yes, a municipality may partner with one or more municipalities to combine their funding allocations on a joint project. However, the total eligible cost for the project must not exceed \$10 million and the partners' total combined allocated funding amount. The Province will require a partnership agreement to be in place between all parties outlining ownership and operating structure.

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

### **Q: Can I partner with other organizations?**

A: Municipalities are also able to partner with not-for-profit and broader public sector organizations (e.g. any public sector body) and submit projects on their behalf, using their municipal allocations. This will be subject to the municipality's own project evaluation prior to submission to the province. Not-for-profits and broader public sector organizations are not eligible to apply on their own, and the Province will also require a partnership agreement to be in place between all parties outlining ownership and operating structure.

The municipality will be the Ultimate Recipient and will be responsible for signing the Transfer Payment Agreement with the province, and for all cost claims and reporting.

## **TIMELINE**

### **Q: What are the application timelines?**

A: The application intake for the Local Government Intake opens November 16, 2020 and closes 4:59p.m. EDT on January 7, 2021. Please refer to the program guide for further details on how to submit an application. For applicants with one project, the deadline to submit application is by **4:59 p.m. EDT on December 21, 2020**, and applicants with more than one project the deadline to submit applications is by **4:59 p.m. EDT on January 7, 2021**.

### **Q: What is the timeline for project completions?**

A: Projects may not begin work until after federal approval. All projects must start construction before **September 30, 2021** and must be completed by **December 31, 2021**, and projects in remote communities must be completed by **December 31, 2022**.

### **Q: What is a remote community?**

A: For the purposes of the COVID stream, a remote community is one with a population under 5,000 and/or no year-round road access. Your municipality was told whether or not they meet this definition in their notification letter. Contact MOI if you have concerns or questions about this.

### **Q: When will applicants be notified if their project was successful?**

A: Applicants will be notified if their project was successful upon federal approval. Due to the streamlined nature of the program, the federal government has committed to a shorter project approvals window than other streams under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

### **FUNDING**

**Q: Do applicants need to contribute any funds under the COVID-19 stream?**

A: No. Recipients will not be required to participate in cost-sharing, to ensure they receive as much fiscal support as possible. The federal government will be responsible for cost-sharing 80% of project costs and the remaining 20% will be cost-shared by the Province.

**Q: Is there a project funding cap?**

A: Under the COVID stream, projects cannot exceed \$10 million in total eligible costs (i.e. combined federal and provincial shares). Projects submitted under the Local Government sub stream also cannot have total eligible costs that exceed the applicant's allocation amount.

**Q: When will funding decisions be announced?**

A: Funding decisions are expected to be announced in Spring 2021, pending federal approval timelines.

**Q: How did you determine how much a municipality receives?**

A: The funding distribution is based on a guaranteed minimum allocation of \$100,000 to all 444 municipalities in the Province.

Additional "top up" funding has been allocated to municipalities based on a variety of factors including the value of infrastructure and median household income in each municipality. This formula is in alignment with the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund.

**Q: Can recipients re-allocate funding from different ICIP streams to their COVID-19 stream allocation to increase available funding?**

A: No. Funding for the COVID stream cannot be stacked with other ICIP funding to support projects. Additionally, recipients cannot apply for funding under the COVID stream with a project already approved under a different ICIP stream.

Applicants can apply for a project at the same location as a project already receiving funding from another capital program (including ICIP) where the project in question would be ineligible for funding, but the applicant must clearly scope out the component that is unique to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure funding stream application.

**Q: Can projects be over \$10 million in total costs if the recipient funds the excess?**

A: No. Projects cannot exceed \$10 million in total eligible costs.

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

### **PROJECTS**

#### **Q: What type of projects will the COVID-19 stream be supporting?**

A: According to federal parameters, eligible infrastructure projects under the stream could include:

- **Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- **COVID-19 Response Infrastructure**, infrastructure to support physical distancing, safety retrofits, and expansions;
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure**, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

For more information on category, asset type and asset sub-type, please refer to Appendix B in the program guide.

#### **Q: Is there a limit on how many projects a municipality can submit?**

A: There will be a project cap based on your municipal allocation:

- 1 project submission for those receiving a maximum of \$100,000;
- 2 project submissions for those receiving \$100,001 to a maximum of \$500,000; and
- 5 project submissions for those receiving \$500,001 and above.

#### **Q: Can I start a portion of a project prior to provincial nomination or federal approval?**

A: No. As your project has not yet been approved by the Province or the federal government, no work should begin on this project. Applicants are advised not to start the project or award any tenders for any portion of their project to avoid the potential risk of the federal government deeming their entire project ineligible, should it be approved by the Province and nominated to the federal government.

#### **Q: Can I submit an application for a project that was unsuccessful under a previous infrastructure grant program?**

A: Yes, applicants are allowed to submit projects that were previously unsuccessful under a previous infrastructure program as long as it complies with requirements under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure – Local Government Intake.

#### **Q: Can I bundle projects from different categories and asset type?**

A: No, the federal government requires that each project application be only for assets under one Category only. If your project cap allows, you could submit two projects for two different categories, for example, a municipality could submit an application under Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for asset type – “Government Building” as

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

one application and the second application under Category 4: Disaster Mitigation for asset type – “Flood and Fires”.

Applicants are not allowed to bundle multiple asset types. For example, under Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades, applicants are not allowed to bundle asset types “Government Buildings” and “Health Infrastructure” under one application.

### **Q: What if I have multiple sub asset types?**

A: For multiple sub-asset types (e.g. a park and a trail in the same project), applicants are required to select the main sub asset type in the application form and provide detailed explanation of **all** sub asset types in the project description box.

### **Q: What types of broadband and/or mobile/cellular projects are eligible for funding?**

A: Under the Local Government Intake, broadband and mobile/cellular projects are eligible under two categories **for municipal applicants**:

- **Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** – under “Education Infrastructure” asset type only. Examples from the federal government include computer labs and web infrastructure; and,
- **Category 2: COVID-19 Response Infrastructure** – under “Building or modifying infrastructure to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples from the federal government include “broadband or mobile/cellular projects”.

These projects may not be stacked with those submitted under MOI’s ICON program. In addition, for-profit organizations are not eligible for funding under the Local Government Intake. If a for-profit organization is a joint partner to the application, it will not be eligible for funding.

For more information on eligibility or partnerships please contact [ICIPCOVID@ontario.ca](mailto:ICIPCOVID@ontario.ca)

## **APPLICATION FORM**

### **Q: How do I apply?**

A: Applicants must register or login online through the Province of Ontario’s online grant portal, [Transfer Payment Ontario](#). Step by step support for working with the online grant portal are found [here](#).

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Ontario - Questions and Answers**

### **Q: What does a complete application submission consists of?**

A: A complete application submission includes the following:

- ☐ A completed Project Application Form
- ☐ KML file with project location details. A map in PDF format is **not** acceptable.
- ☐ Signed attestation by Ultimate Recipient (in the Application Form)
- ☐ The federally-required Aboriginal Consultation and Environmental Assessment Smart Form, including supporting documentation (e.g. the consultation file and the follow-up table on concerns) if available. The ACEA Smart Form is available through TPON.

For questions about the form please contact Infrastructure Canada at:  
[INFC.AboriginalConsultEnv-Consultaautochtonesenv.INFC@canada.ca](mailto:INFC.AboriginalConsultEnv-Consultaautochtonesenv.INFC@canada.ca)

**Note:** A municipal council resolution or by-law affirming intent to proceed with the project is required at the time of provincial nomination to the federal government and is encouraged to be included when application is submitted.

### **Q: I don't know how to answer one of the questions on the application form. What should I do?**

A: Please contact program staff for guidance at [ICIPCOVID@ONTARIO.CA](mailto:ICIPCOVID@ONTARIO.CA) if you do not know how to answer a question.

## **SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS**

### **Q: How do I get reimbursed for expenditures?**

A: To receive both the federal and provincial governments' contributions for approved projects, claims must be submitted for eligible costs through TPON. Only costs incurred, paid and consistent with and comparable to those identified in the signed shared cost agreement are eligible for reimbursement.

### **Q: What should I expect in terms of reporting requirements for an approved project?**

A: Ultimate Recipients will be required to submit quarterly progress reports. Further details will be outlined in individual transfer payment agreements.

**-END-**