



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Frequently Asked Questions

Funding Implementation of Tripartite MOU on Mental Health and Wellness

The questions below reflect feedback voiced through various engagement opportunities including the First Nations Health Directors Association Annual General Meeting and regional caucuses held in the fall of 2018. This Frequently Asked Questions document will continue to evolve as implementation gets underway.

Q: How much funding is available?

The total funding commitment is \$30 million—Canada, BC and the FNHA each contributed \$10 million to be allocated over the next two years. Target regional allocations have been set and may need to be adjusted as needed to respond to the decisions of communities and Nations on how they wish to work together. Importantly, these won't be constrained by regional health boundaries.

In addition to this core funding, both levels of government have committed to working throughout their systems to explore opportunities to align existing funding and services to support Nations' mental health and wellness plans and demonstration sites.

For more information see [funding guidelines page 3](#).

Q: Is this funding intended to cover the treatment centre renovations and construction of new treatment centres?

No, additional funding is being identified by the tripartite partners to support the build, repair, renovation and expansion of a number of FNHA funded treatment centres in BC. This additional funding has been earmarked to renovate six existing treatment centres and build two additional ones.

Q: How do Nations and communities access the \$30 million in new funding?

Nations and communities will develop a Statement of Readiness with the support of the regional FNHA team that outlines the activities and outcomes that the funding will support. Each Statement of Readiness will be submitted to the Mental Health and Wellness Table for

review and approval of funds. Collaboration is strongly encouraged and is a core criteria for funding. The governments of Canada and BC will facilitate departmental and ministerial partnerships as appropriate.

No specific format is required; however, templates are available to support development of Statements of Readiness. Use of these templates is optional. The DRAFT Health and Wellness Planning Toolkit is also available and can be used to help develop mental health and wellness plans. Statements of Readiness can be sent to mhwmou@fnha.ca

For more information see [funding guidelines page 5-7](#).

Q: Who can access the \$30 million in new funding?

Funding will be provided directly to Nations and communities as per the identified body (i.e., Nation, Tribal Council, etc.) in the Statement of Readiness. Nations and communities may choose to collaborate with others, such as a health service delivery organization, in the design and delivery of their plan.

Q: What are the funding quadrants?

Funding is available for the each of following quadrants:

- Pre-planning/Planning
- Collaborate
- Design
- Demonstrate

Statements of Readiness can be submitted for any quadrant. For more information see [funding guidelines page 4-5](#).

Q: What is the deadline to submit a Statement of Readiness?

Statements of Readiness will be accepted on an ongoing basis. A number of demonstration sites will be selected early on in the process as they are intended to inform the development of the ten-year tripartite social determinants of health strategy. Please note that plans for demonstration sites that are ready later in the process may still be submitted for two year funding and will depend on timing and funding availability.

Q: Who will review and approve Statements of Readiness?

The Mental Health and Wellness Table will review and approve Statements of Readiness. The Table is comprised of representatives from multiple ministries in the Province of BC

(Ministries of Mental Health and Addictions, Health, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Children and Family Development) and the First Nations Health Authority. While representatives of Indigenous Services Canada also participate on the Mental Health and Wellness Table, it is in an advisory capacity only as it relates to funding matters consistent with the agreements signed under the BC Tripartite Process.

Q: How will funding be approved?

The Mental Health and Wellness Table will be reviewing Statements of Readiness from a wholistic, strengths-based, family-focused and Nation-based perspective in alignment with the Guiding Principles (see [funding guidelines appendix B](#)). We are encouraging a new, innovative and transformative approach to services that meets the needs of the Nation.

Funding for each Statement of Readiness submitted to the Mental Health and Wellness Table may be fully approved, approved in principle, or recommended for further development with specific guidance and support provided. If a request is approved in principle, requestors will have a two-month window to bring the request back to the Mental Health and Wellness Table for approval, or funding may be reallocated.

For demonstration sites, the Mental Health and Wellness Table will be reviewing Statements of Readiness for the following:

- Nation-based governance structure for the project in place
- Readiness to implement
- Integration of culture and traditional wellness
- Builds on existing assets
- Wholistic approach
- Partnerships in place
- Detailed plan for people and budget

For more information see [funding guidelines page 7](#).

Q: Can Nations and communities apply for funds more than once?

Yes. Statements of Readiness can be aligned to any of the planning quadrants (pre-planning/planning, collaborate, design, demonstrate) to support each community and Nation wherever they are on their journey to health and wellness. Nations that are ready to implement demonstration sites immediately can request support accordingly.

Q: Can funding be used to support projects that broadly address the social determinants of health and wellness?

Yes. The MOU recognizes that wellness at the individual, family, community and Nation level is affected by housing conditions, concern for child welfare, cultural connectedness, employment or underemployment, access to education and involvement in the criminal justice system to name a few. Statements of Readiness that address these social determinants are encouraged alongside those that promote prevention and early intervention to address root causes.

Q: Can Nations and communities use this funding for capital projects?

Capital funding for new buildings or assets are out of scope of this investment, however, some leased costs could be covered. For example, if additional leased office space is needed to deliver new demonstration site services or a vehicle is needed for mobile team services then the associated lease payments could be included as part of the costs detailed in the Statement of Readiness. Provincial and federal partners may also be able to assist in identifying potential capital funds for specific projects within their existing programs.

Q: When will funds be released?

The Mental Health and Wellness Table will meet monthly to review and approve Statements of Readiness. Release of funding for approved initiatives will occur shortly thereafter if all necessary information is available.

Q: When does the funding need to be used by?

Funding is intended to be used prior to 2021.

Q: Will I have to report on this funding?

Yes, and reporting will be as simple as possible. Reporting on the planning quadrants will be on an annual basis, the demonstration sites may need to report more frequently.

Q: What are the overall timelines?

- **October 2018** Implementation plan finalized
- **December 2018** Caucus engagement completed and funding guidelines finalized
- **January 2019** Begin reviewing Statements of Readiness and administer funding
- **Summer 2019** Review early reporting and share learnings to date

For more information, please visit www.fnha.ca