
Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Frequently Asked Questions

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

General Questions

Q 1: Does the CEPF replace federal Joint Emergency Preparedness Program?

A: No. CEPF is funded through the Province of BC and administered by UBCM.

Q 2: Is this a one-time funding program?

A: Yes. The CEPF is supported by a one-time \$32 million contribution. However, the intent is to offer two funding application deadlines for each of the funding streams, except for Evacuation Route planning, which is presently planned to have one intake in the fall of 2018.

Q 3: Can the Council, Board or Band Council resolution be submitted after the application deadline?

A: Yes. The application with all other required materials must be submitted by the deadline, but the resolution can follow at a later date. Applications will be reviewed without a resolution but funding cannot be released until the resolution is received.

Q 4: Does the budget have to be specific?

A: Yes. The budget must clearly identify which expenditures are proposed to be paid for with grant funding. The budget should identify the total project cost, include any community and/or in-kind contributions, and state the CEPF funding request. Excel files are welcome, and quotes are recommended.

Eligibility

Q 5: Who is eligible to apply for the program?

A: All local authorities (as defined by the *Emergency Program Act*) and Treaty First Nations (as defined by the *Interpretation Act*) in BC are eligible to apply.

Water districts and electoral areas are not eligible to apply but can work with their respective regional district to submit an application.

Q 6: Are First Nations that are in the treaty process able to apply?

A: No. Only Treaty First Nations as defined by the *Interpretation Act* in BC are eligible to apply. The Province of BC has defined this as First Nations that have enacted treaties reached through the BC Treaty Process with the exception of the Nisga'a Nation.

Q 7: Can eligible applicants combine efforts towards a regional initiative?

A: Yes. The second funding intakes for ESS and EOC will allow one local government to apply for two or more local governments. The maximum eligible funding is based on the number of local governments applying together multiplied by the funding maximum per applicant. The local government submitting the application must manage the grant funds, and each participating local government must be eligible to apply and must submit a Board or Council resolution. Group applications will not be accepted for the Flood Risk Assessment, Mapping and Mitigation Planning or the Structural Flood Mitigation program streams.

Emergency Social Services & Emergency Operations Centres

Q 8: Can ESS funding be used to contract third party organizations?

A: The intent of the ESS funding stream is to increase the capacity of eligible applicants to deliver emergency social services in their community.

Approved applicants can use ESS funding to contract third party organizations to assist in building local capacity for ESS. Funding cannot be used to contract third party organizations to deliver emergency social services on behalf of the local authority.

Q 9: Can ESS or EOC funding be used purchase TTY (text telephone) equipment to communicate with the hearing impaired?

A: Yes, if the equipment will be utilized in relation to ESS and EOC activities.

Q 10: Can ESS funding be used for C-MIST training (training for emergency responders helping people with disabilities)?

A: No. C-MIST training is intended for first responders and not designed for volunteers.

Q 11: Can ESS or EOC funding be used to pay for subscription-based communications services?

A: No. This funding stream is for the one-time, hard costs of equipment and supplies, and not for ongoing services.

Flood Planning & Structural Flood Mitigation

Q 12: Can funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and CEPF be jointly applied to a Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping, Flood Mitigation Planning project or a Structural Flood Mitigation project?

A: No. Applicants may apply to both funds, but NDMP does not allow projects to use other funding sources for NDMP-funded projects.

CEPF is designed to allow communities to access funds for flood hazard assessments, flood mapping and flood mitigation planning, and small-scale structural mitigation projects. Applicants with higher cost projects should consider applying to NDMP as it does not have limits to the cost for risk assessments, flood mapping or mitigation planning, and has a \$3 million maximum on structural mitigation projects.

For flood planning projects, an applicant could receive Flood Risk Assessment funding from NDMP, and then Flood Mapping funding from CEPF, but flood planning activities must be done in sequential order for NDMP funding (flood risk assessments, followed by flood mapping and then flood mitigation planning). CEPF does not require projects to be done in this order if a sufficient rationale for doing otherwise is provided.

UBCM will provide a list of all CEPF-funded projects to EMBC, who will also review NDMP applications, and to Public Safety Canada.

Q 13: Are dike repairs eligible within the Structural Flood Mitigation stream?

A: Yes, provided the work is outlined in a Flood Mitigation Plan and/or has been certified as necessary by a qualified professional to mitigate flood risk.

Q 14: Can a dam assessment be completed under CEPF?

A: Yes. A condition assessment of existing dams for risk of failures is considered an eligible flood risk assessment activity. The scope of the work includes a condition assessment and consequence rating that relate to flood risk. A higher priority would be given to proposals that indicate social and economic consequences of failure related to the dams included in the assessment.

Q 15: Can a flood risk assessment be used to assess the risk of landslides?

A: Yes, if landslides may be caused by flooding, or a landslide could cause flooding, assessing the risk of landslides may be considered an eligible flood risk assessment activity.

Q 16: Are debris flows considered flood hazards, and can a debris basin be funded under the structural flood mitigation stream?

A: Yes, EMBC's Disaster Mitigation Branch considers debris flow as a potential cause of flooding, so structural mitigation projects that address this risk are eligible under CEPF.

Background information that strengthens the rationale for any project includes a risk assessment (likelihood of various magnitude events and corresponding impacts), mapping (extent of impacts for various magnitude events and assets at risk), and mitigation planning (including comprehensive scoping/cost-benefit analysis for a range of structural and non-structural options, with recommendations matching the proposed project).

Q 17: Can dredging or log jam removal be funded by CEPF?

A: No. Only permanent structural projects are eligible for the structural flood mitigation stream.

Additional Information

For enquiries about the application process or questions about the program not answered here, please contact:

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