

FireSmart Community Funding and Supports

Transition to 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake

Program Administration - Frequently Asked Questions

January 2026

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) work with the Ministry of Forests (Ministry) to deliver the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program.

As of February 2, 2026 the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program will transition to the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake. The program will no longer operate as an open intake and funding for fuel management activities will no longer be available under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program.

All applications for the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake will be required to be submitted in full by April 30, 2026 and will be adjudicated based on merit and priority.

Transition to 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake

1. Why is the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports (FCFS) program transitioning to the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake?

- *Current funding for the FCFS was projected to run to the end of fiscal 2026, however, interest in the program in 2025 exceeded forecasts and funds have drawn down faster than expected.*
- *FCFS is moving to a closed intake to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for all eligible applicants to apply for funding. The closed intake will be a competitive adjudication process and will be based on merit and priority. In comparison, the open intake operated under a first come, first-served model.*
- *The Province has provided over \$175 million for this program since 2018 and an estimated \$25 million remains for the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake.*

2. What are the key changes in the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake

- *Funding for fuel management is no longer available*
- *Funding for the impacts of wildfires is no longer available*
- *All funding requests will now be limited to one-year funding*
- *Minor changes have been made to eligible FireSmart activities*

3. Why did the program close suddenly?

- *Changes were announced on January 28, 2026; the current intake closed on January 30; and the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake opened on February 2.*
- *The rapid closure of the program is intended to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for all eligible applicants to apply for funding. The closed intake will be a competitive adjudication process and will be based on merit and priority. In comparison, the open intake operated under a first come, first-served model.*
- *If the open intake was continued, communities with more capacity to complete and submit applications quickly would have accessed the remaining funds.*
- *In all cases, applications that were initiated prior to January 30, 2026 will be considered provided the application is submitted in full by April 30, 2026.*

4. Who can apply under the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake?

- *All eligible First Nations and local governments that were not approved under the 2026 open intake (or that do not have an application currently under consideration under the 2026 open intake) and that have met the requirements for reporting on previous projects are eligible to apply.*

5. What activities will be eligible under the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake?

- *Eligible FireSmart activities are included in Table 1 in the program guide and all changes in eligibility are noted.*
- *Application-based and Allocation-based funding for FireSmart activities will continue.*

6. How will the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake be adjudicated?

- *The closed intake will be a competitive adjudication process and will be based on merit and priority. This means all applications received before the deadline will be considered together.*
- *Applications will be screened for eligibility and then scored based on alignment with the intent of the funding, merit and priority. Full scoring criteria are available in the program guide.*
- *This intake will have limited funds available. Due to the expected high volume of applications, it is likely that this intake will be substantially oversubscribed.*

7. What happens to current 2026 applications under the open intake?

- *Applications, requests for allocation funding, fuel management projects, and requests for additional funding for impact from wildfires approved prior to January 30, 2026 are not impacted by these changes.*

- *Eligible applications, eligible requests for allocation funding, eligible fuel management applications and eligible Worksheet 4 submissions initiated under the 2026 program (i.e. Step 1 has been submitted to UBCM) prior to January 30, 2026 will be considered provided the application is submitted in full by April 30, 2026.*

Fuel Management Funding

As of January 30, 2026, funding for fuel management is no longer available under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program

8. Why has fuel management funding been removed from FCFS?

- *Removing fuel treatment activities enables a priority focus on core FireSmart activities, fair and equitable funding approvals, and timely decisions.*
 - *Fuel treatments have high per-hectare costs that vary significantly throughout the province.*
 - *These challenges make it difficult to weigh fuel treatment activities equitably and ensure the timely distribution of the remaining funding under a closed intake.*
- *Although fuel management is no longer funded through FCFS, wildfire mitigation activities will continue around communities.*
 - *Ministry of Forests has ramped up and continues to support fuel management activities and funding in other areas to mitigate risk to communities, including the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. Government also funds external partners to plan and carry out wildfire mitigation with a priority on community values.*
 - *The Ministry has also expanded BC Timber Sales' mandate, which will apply wildfire risk reduction fuel management best practices to harvesting operations with a focus on mitigating risk to communities.*

9. Are there other funding opportunities for fuel management within the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake ?

- *Funding for wildland live fire training projects remain eligible for First Nation, local government and Crown land*
- *Funding for FireSmart Projects for Green Spaces remain eligible for First Nation and Local Government land*
- *Funding for FireSmart Projects for Cultural Sites remain eligible for First Nation, local government and Crown land*

Additional Funding for Impact from Wildfires

As of January 30, 2026, additional funding for impact from wildfires is no longer available under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program

10. Why has additional funding for impact from wildfires been removed from FCFS?

- *Funding for impacts from wildfires has been removed to ensure that as many communities as possible have access to funding for core FireSmart activities.*

Projects Approved Under 2025, 2024 and 2023 FCFS Intakes

11. What happens to 2025 approved projects?

- *Projects and activities approved prior to January 30, 2026 under the 2025 program, including fuel management and additional funding for impact from wildfires, are not impacted by these changes*
- *Eligible applications, eligible requests for allocation funding, eligible Worksheet 2 submissions and eligible Worksheet 4 submissions initiated under the 2025 program (i.e. Step 1 has been submitted to UBCM) prior to January 30, 2026 will be considered provided the application is submitted in full by April 30, 2026.*
- *For allocation-based funding only: requests to use approved 2025 allocation-based funding for fuel management will be considered if submitted in full by April 30, 2026*

12. What happens to 2024 approved projects?

- *Projects and activities approved prior to January 30, 2026 under the 2024 program, including fuel management and additional funding for impact from wildfires, are not impacted by these changes*
- *For allocation-based funding only: requests to use approved 2024 allocation-based funding for fuel management will be considered if submitted in full by April 30, 2026*

13. What happens to 2023 approved projects?

- *Projects and activities approved prior to January 30, 2026 under the 2023 program, including fuel management, are not impacted by these changes*

14. Will amendment requests for projects funded under past intakes continue to be considered?

- *Amendment requests will continue to be considered for projects funded under past intakes*
- *Requests for additional funding (i.e. top-up funding) to support previously approved FireSmart and fuel management activities will no longer be considered.*

FireSmart BC and the BC FireSmart Committee

15. Are FireSmart BC or the BC FireSmart Committee impacted by the changes

- *No, the changes in program administration for the FCFS program do not impact FireSmart BC or the BC FireSmart Committee*

Future Funding

16. Will the FCFS program continue after the closed intake?

- *All currently approved projects will continue.*
- *Future funding of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program is currently under review by the Province.*

Further Questions and Contact Information

17. How can I learn more?

- *UBCM will be hosting a webinar on February 4, 1:30 to 3:30 pm regarding program administration and the impacts that the transition may have on approved projects and local FireSmart programs. [Registration](#) is required.*
- *For questions regarding grant administration (e.g., impacts to previously approved applications, the 2026 closed intake, etc.), contact UBCM at cri@ubcm.ca.*
- *For questions regarding wildfire risk reduction in BC contact the BC Wildfire Service at fireinfo@gov.bc.ca.*