

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training

2026 Program and Application Guide

Updated September 2026

Applications will be accepted September 1, 2026 to October 16, 2026 using the [LGPS Online Application Tool](#)

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.

1. Introduction

The [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

As of August 2026, the funding streams include:

- Emergency operations centres equipment and training
- Emergency support services equipment and training
- Foundations of disaster risk reduction
- Public notification and evacuation route planning

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for definitions of terms used in this guide. All defined terms are in **bold** in the program guide.

Background

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a First Nations Government and Local Authority based provincial emergency response program designed to meet the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support in a compassionate manner. ESS is designed to provide support for disasters ranging from a single house fire to provincial level events involving large evacuations. These supports enable people to re-establish themselves as quickly as possible after an emergency or disaster.

Under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, local authorities must plan for the evacuation and care of individuals, which may include the provision of **emergency support services**. Under the 10-year agreement between Indigenous Services Canada and the Province, First Nations in BC may elect to provide **emergency support services** to their residents.

Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training Funding Stream

The intent of this funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide **emergency support services** through ESS volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of essential ESS equipment.



This includes ensuring communities have the tools and equipment required to respond using the [Evacuee Registration and Assistance \(ERA\) Tool](#), promoting knowledge sharing, enhancing mutual aid, and building the capacity of host communities.

2. Eligible Applicants

All First Nations (bands, modern Treaty First Nations with treaties that are in effect, and Indigenous National Governments with authority for lands and resources) and local governments (municipalities and regional districts) in BC are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants can submit one application per funding stream intake. This includes applying as a **sub-applicant** in a regional application. For the purpose of CEPF funding, the following agencies are able to act as a **primary applicant**:

- An emergency management organization that is created by a regional district service establishing bylaw and approved by the Province of BC may act as the **primary applicant** on behalf of eligible applicants that participate in the established emergency management service. When acting as a **primary applicant** on behalf of eligible applicants, the regional emergency management organization may submit more than one application per funding stream intake provided that each eligible First Nation or local government that is included as a **sub-applicant** is only funded once per intake.
- An Indigenous governing body with authority for emergency management may act as the **primary applicant** on behalf of eligible First Nations. The Indigenous governing body may submit more than one application per funding stream intake provided that each eligible First Nation that is included as a **sub-applicant** is only funded once per intake.

Emergency management organizations created by a regional district and Indigenous governing bodies that are interested in submitting an application to act as the **primary applicant** must contact UBCM in advance of submitting an application and will be required to provide appropriate documentation related to membership, authority, and area of service.

3. Grant Maximum

The Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training funding stream can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$30,000.00.

Eligible applicants that can demonstrate geographical constraints (e.g., significant distance and/or barriers, such as mountain ranges, between reserves or communities) and a clear case for **ESS** service delivery in each reserve or community may be eligible to exceed the funding maximum. For more information, please contact UBCM in advance of submitting an application.

As required, the Evaluation Committee may recommend that an application be approved in part, based on available funding and the merit of the proposed project.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds, all other contributions for eligible portions of the project must be declared and, depending on the total value, may decrease the value of the funding. This includes any other grant funding and any revenue that is generated from activities that are funded by the CEPF.

4. Eligible Projects

To qualify for funding, proposed activities must support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide **emergency support services** through ESS volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, the purchase of essential ESS equipment, and be:

- A new or a subsequent phase of a project (retroactive funding is not available).
- Capable of completion by the applicant within one year from the date of grant approval.
- Where applicable, eligible for required approvals, authorizations, and permits.
- In alignment with Provincial [Emergency Support Services](#) policies and operational guidelines.
- Updated September 2026 - In the case of applications that include grant requests for the Network of Emergency Support Services Teams conference (NESST), inclusive of eligible activities in addition to NESST attendance.

Regional Projects

Funding requests from two or more eligible applicants for regional projects may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative projects. In this case, the maximum funding per applicant (\$30,000) would still apply and the total maximum funding available would be based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application. It is expected that regional projects will demonstrate cost-efficiencies in the total grant request.

The **primary applicant** submitting the application for a regional project is required to submit a resolution as outlined in [Section 7](#) of this guide. Each **sub-applicant** is required to submit a resolution that clearly states their approval for the **primary applicant** to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

5. Requirements for Funding

As part of both the development of the application package and the delivery of the **approved project**, local governments are encouraged to proactively engage with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations, such as Friendship Centres and Métis Chartered Communities. Engagement by local governments both locally and regionally can help build relationships with First Nations, benefit both communities, and enhance reconciliation. More information on engagement best practices is available [here](#).

As part of the Approval Agreement, approved applicants must agree to the following requirements for funding:

- Activities must comply with all applicable privacy legislation under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information while conducting funded activities. Personal information is any recorded information about an identifiable individual other than their business contact information. This includes information that can be used to identify an individual through association or inference.
- Where applicable, the Qualified Professionals that manage the proposed project must be subject matter experts and any professional activities must be developed and signed by a qualified professional as per the *Professional Governance Act*.

6. Eligible and Ineligible Costs and Activities

Eligible Costs and Activities

Eligible costs are direct costs that are approved for funding, properly and reasonably incurred, and paid by the applicant to carry out eligible activities. Eligible costs can only be incurred from the date of application submission until the final report is submitted.

Eligible costs and activities are limited to Table 1 and must be cost-effective.

Table 1: Activities Eligible for Funding

1. Purchase of essential supplies and purchase and installation of essential equipment specific to the function of ESS

*For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of **group lodging** facilities or **reception centres** are proposed, the facilities must be located in a **First Nation owned building** or **publicly owned building** or an asset owned by the **primary applicant** or a **sub-applicant**.*

Applicants are advised to review the [Occupational Health & Safety Regulation](#) in relation to first aid training and equipment and the provision of personal protective clothing and equipment for employees.

- Purchase of essential **ESS** supplies and equipment for local **ESS** programs and, where a community has demonstrated capacity, to support as an **ESS** host community:
 - **Reception centres**; including vests, name tags, signage, office supplies, flashlights, megaphones, extension cords, radios, minor tools, etc.
 - **Group lodging**; including comfort kits, hygiene kits, cots and bedding, pet supplies, supplies for infants and children, mobility aids, culturally appropriate supplies for evacuees, minor tools, etc.
 - **ESS** responders:
 - 72-hour supply of food and water
 - Basic/Level 1 and/or Intermediate/Level 2 first aid kits
 - Personal protective equipment limited to masks, respirators, eye protection, gloves, and high visibility apparel
 - Personal protective clothing limited to weather-proof clothing
 - Identification and branded clothing to identify **ESS** volunteers
 - Vehicle emergency supply kit
 - Basic supplies (i.e., flashlights, minor tools, and go-bags)
 - Technology for **ESS** delivery; including computers, printers, power supply, connectivity devices, and mobile devices (e.g., tablets, satellite phones, mobile phones).
- Purchase of storage containers for eligible supplies and equipment.
- Purchase and installation of portable generators, portable air purifiers, portable air conditioners, and portable water filtration devices.
- Trailers for the purpose of transportation, storage, and mobile **ESS** operations, including hitches and towing equipment, identification decals, portable heaters, solar panels, and personal hygiene equipment required for ESS responders only.
- Minor renovations (wiring, cabling, installation of shelving, etc.), including in mobile trailers for **ESS** purposes.
- Training in order to support installation and use of eligible supplies and equipment (note that first aid training is limited to Basic/Level 1 and/or Intermediate/Level 2).

Table 1: Activities Eligible for Funding (cont'd)

2. Training for ESS responders and exercises specific to ESS

Updated September 2026 - For all virtual courses, eligible costs include: course fee, required course materials, and cost-effective, reasonable travel costs (including accommodations and per diems) only if required for internet connection or access to necessary technology. For all in-person courses, eligible costs include: course fee, required course materials, and cost-effective, reasonable travel costs (including accommodations and per diems).

*Pre-identified **Community Navigators** and **First Nations Community Navigators** are eligible to participate in ESS training.*

Staff wages and costs related to back-filling positions are not eligible for funding.

If approved applicants attend training through the Provincial Emergency Management Training Program, only travel costs (including accommodations and per diems) will be eligible for funding.

Qualified trainers are required to be used and approved applicants are encouraged to identify local providers for training. The following list includes examples of commonly used course names.

- ESS Courses
 - Intro to ESS (e.g., EMRG-1600)
 - Level 1 ESS (e.g., EMRG-1607)
 - Intro to Reception Centres (e.g., EMRG-1610)
 - Intro to Group Lodging (e.g., EMRG-1612)
 - Reception Centre Applied Training (e.g., EMRG-1617)
 - Group Lodging Applied Training (e.g., EMRG-1618)
 - Paper-based Registration and Referrals (e.g., EMRG-1619)
 - Resource Acquisition (e.g., EMRG-1625)
 - Introduction to Evacuee Registration and Supports (e.g., EMRG-1635)
 - ESS Director (e.g., EMRG-1681)
 - ESS Community Trainer (e.g., EMRG-1685)
- Emergency Management Courses
 - Intro to Emergency Management in Canada (e.g., EMRG-1100)
 - ICS Level 100 (e.g., EMRG-1200)
- *Updated September 2026* - Network of Emergency Support Services Teams conference (NESST).
 - NESST Conference attendance cannot be the only proposed activity included in an ESS application.
 - Intended participants (examples include but not limited to ESS leaders, deputy, or mentors, training leads, reception centre leads, or volunteers whose ongoing commitment and response contributions warrant recognition) will be required to be identified in the application worksheet and should be based on each community's ESS team structure and needs.
 - Travel methods should be cost-effective and appropriate, such as carpooling or driving where more economical than air travel.

Table 1: Activities Eligible for Funding (cont'd)

- Other training specific to the function of ESS
 - Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training, in alignment with the CEPF funding stream
 - OCAP® training
 - Interpersonal communication/mentorship training
 - First aid training (limited to Basic/Level 1 and Intermediate/Level 2 only)
 - C-DART pet training as related to ESS
 - Meet and Greet training
 - Mental Health Courses (e.g., psychological First Aid, psychological First Aid Train the Trainer)
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion training
 - Radio and communications training to ensure effective communication
 - Training to handle difficult conversations/people
 - Workplace violence prevention and de-escalation training
 - Stress and trauma management for volunteers
 - CISM training: CISM-1005 (Diversity & Trauma), CISM-1025 (Managing Responses to Community Disasters)
 - Fire extinguisher training
 - Mutual aid training (travel costs to participate in/observe eligible, ESS-related training activities in other jurisdictions).
- Exercises designed to increase the capacity of **ESS** (i.e., mock **reception centre** and/or **group lodging** activations, table-top exercises, mock registration of evacuees using the Evacuee Registration and Assistance Tool, exercises with mutual aid partners).

3. Volunteer recruitment and retention activities

- Recruitment activities (e.g., advertisements, purchase of branded pop-up tent for recruitment events).
- Purchasing awards and small gifts for **ESS** responders.
- Hosting volunteer recognition events including venue rentals, food, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Additional Eligible Costs and Activities

The following expenditures are also eligible provided they relate directly to the eligible activities identified in [Table 1](#):

- Incremental applicant staff costs (e.g., creating a new position or adding new responsibilities to an existing position). Eligible expenses include wages/salary, mandatory employment related costs as required by federal or provincial law, and other employment related costs as required by the approved applicant.
- Incremental administrative and/or operating costs that are directly related to eligible activities (e.g., lease and insurance costs for storage of **ESS** materials).

- Consultant/contractor costs. Please note: if you intend to hire a qualified professional to support proposed activities, professional consultant rates will only be considered for activities that represent respective professions. For other activities (e.g., event planning), consultant rates are expected to be commensurate with the type of activity being undertaken and where relevant, consultant rates are expected not to exceed respective professional fee guidelines, for example the [ACEC BC fee guideline for Consulting Engineers](#).
- Identification/incorporation of community and cultural values. This includes seeking advice from Indigenous Knowledge Holders and other experts (e.g., health authorities, First Nations Health Authority, etc.) and the community (e.g., equity-denied populations, Indigenous organizations such as Friendship Centres and Métis Chartered Communities, Indigenous Nations, local governments, pet-care organizations, organizations involved in a web of support network), etc.
- Honoraria for cultural leaders, Elders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, and/or cultural keepers. Note: these honoraria should reflect the role of Indigenous Peoples as subject matter experts and be equitable to consultant rates.
- Costs related to local cultural protocols (e.g., gifts, cultural ceremonies).
- Honoraria for equity-denied populations or service organizations that support equity-denied populations.
- Translation costs and the development of culturally appropriate education, awareness, or engagement materials.
- Expenses related to first aid training and kits that are incremental to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation requirements for a workplace/employer and that are required specifically for eligible activities.
- Presentations to Band Council, Treaty First Nation government, local government Council or Board, or community organizations, etc.
- Where applicable, costs related to required approvals, authorizations, and permits.
- Public information costs (e.g., workshops, printed materials) that align with the intent of the funding stream and provide benefit to the community at large.

Ineligible Costs and Activities

Any activity that is not outlined in [Table 1](#) or is not directly connected to activities approved in the application is not eligible for grant funding. This includes:

- Routine or ongoing operating costs or activities (e.g., heating, cooling, and lighting; security; software or service subscriptions; or membership fees) that are not incremental to the project or not directly related to eligible activities.
- Routine or ongoing planning costs or planning activities that are not incremental to the project.
- Regular salaries and/or benefits of **primary applicant** or **sub-applicant(s)** staff or partners.
- Duplication of recently developed information, maps, or imagery (e.g., LiDAR that is currently available through the [Open LiDAR Data Portal](#)) provided the information remains accurate.
- Project-related fees payable to the **primary applicant** or **sub-applicant(s)** (e.g., permit fees).
- Costs related to individual or household preparedness, including the purchase of emergency supplies (e.g., first aid kits and/or training, evacuation supplies).
- Training of general public.
- Development of curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education.
- Major capital improvements or major renovations to existing facilities, and/or construction of new, permanent facilities.
- Purchase of promotional items, door/raffle prizes, give-away items, and/or gifts for community members (except costs related to local cultural protocols).

- Delivery of **emergency support services** during an emergency.
- Activities intended to increase the capacity of third-party organizations to deliver **emergency support services** on behalf of the approved applicant.
- Purchase of first aid kits and/or first aid training that are required to meet Occupational Health and Safety Regulation requirements for a workplace/employer and/or intended for occupational first aid, disaster first aid, and/or wilderness first aid.
- Training and exercises not specific to the function of the **ESS**.
- Training provided and paid by the [Provincial Emergency Management Training Program](#) (excluding travel costs).
- Purchase of defibrillators.
- First Aid Transportation endorsement.
- Purchase of vehicles or vehicle canopies.
- Emergency preparedness marketing campaigns.
- Development or update of Emergency Management Plans and/or emergency response plans.
- Conferences, excluding NESST.

7. Application Requirements and Process

The LGPS Online Application Tool is required to be used. Refer to Appendix 2 for full information.
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Application Deadline and Process

The application deadline is October 16, 2026. Applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 120 days of the application deadline.

Required Application Contents

EMCR and GeoBC respect and are committed to the First Nations principles of OCAP®. Any product, data, or information which may include Indigenous knowledge as identified by the applicant may be submitted at the discretion of the applicant.

All applicants are required to complete the LGPS Online Application Form and submit an electronic copy of the following:

- Completed Application Worksheet with all required attachments.
- Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution **OR** a letter of support from the Band Manager, CAO, or CFO for applications that are from a single applicant and request less than \$50,000 in funding. Resolutions and letters need to indicate support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management. All regional applications, or applications requesting more than \$50,000 in funding, will require resolutions to be submitted.
- Detailed budget:
 - Indicating the proposed expenditures from CEPF and in alignment with the proposed activities outlined in the Application Worksheet.
 - Although additional funding or support is not required, any other grant funding or **in-kind contributions** must be identified.
 - Applicants are encouraged to use the [ESS Budget, Amendment Request, Financial Summary Form](#).
 - Where possible, additional information to support proposed costs, such as vendor quotes or workplans, should be submitted

- For regional projects only:
 - Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution from the **primary applicant**, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management; and,
 - Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution from each **sub-applicant** that clearly states their approval for the **primary applicant** to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf. Resolutions from **sub-applicants** must include this language.

Submission of Applications

Applications are required to be submitted in two steps prior to the application deadline:

1. [LGPS Online Application Form](#): This online form must be completed for all applications to LGPS funding programs and includes questions that are common to all grant applications. When the LGPS Online Application Worksheet is submitted, the applicant will receive an email confirmation including the file number that has been assigned to the application, and a copy of the Application Worksheet that must be completed as part of Step 2.
2. Application Worksheet: This worksheet contains questions that are specific to the funding stream and must be submitted by email to UBCM with all other required attachments.

Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for more information the information that will be required to be submitted during each step, including all application questions.

Worksheets and required attachments should be submitted as Word, Excel, or PDF files. Total file size for email attachments cannot exceed 20 MB. All materials should be submitted to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities by email: cepf@ubcm.ca

Review of Applications

UBCM will perform a preliminary review of applications to ensure the required application contents have been submitted and to ensure that basic eligibility criteria have been met. Only complete application packages will be reviewed.

As required, the Evaluation Committee will assess and score all eligible applications. Point values and weighting have been established within each of these scoring criteria. Only those applications that meet a minimum threshold point value will be considered for funding.

Higher application review scores will be given to projects that:

- Are from applicants that have not received funding under the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training funding stream or have received minimal funding from the funding stream.
- Are from applicants that can demonstrate recent history of local emergencies requiring ESS support (as either local ESS program or as host community) and/or evidence of local risk.
- Align with the intent of the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training funding stream:
 - Support the ability of local **ESS** programs to provide electronic registration and reporting through the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) Tool.
 - Clearly demonstrate how the capacity of the eligible applicant to deliver **emergency support services** in their community and act as a host community will be increased.
- Demonstrate evidence of engagement with First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations in advance of submitting the application and as part of the proposed project (e.g., collaborative planning tables; incorporating First Nation values and perspectives in proposed activities; existing outreach, plans, engagement reports or processes; including First Nation engagement costs in the budget; completion of Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training).

- Effectively engage with neighbouring jurisdictions, and other impacted or affected parties (e.g., equity-denied populations, pet-care organizations, organizations involved in a web of support network) as appropriate to the project. Rural and remote communities may want to consider engaging with regional districts and/or health authorities, and First Nation applicants may want to consider engaging with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society or the First Nations Health Authority.
- Contribute to a comprehensive, cooperative, and regional approach.
- Are cost-effective. In cases where costs are higher than expected, the project may be approved at a lower grant amount.

As required, the Evaluation Committee may consider the provincial, regional, and urban/rural distribution of proposed projects, and previous CEPF funding. Recommendations will be made on a priority basis. All funding decisions will be made by UBCM.

UBCM will share all applications with the Province of BC.

8. Grant Management and Applicant Responsibilities

Grants are awarded to approved applicants only. The approved applicant is responsible for completion of the project as approved, and for meeting reporting requirements.

Approved applicants are responsible for proper fiscal management, including maintaining acceptable accounting records for the project. UBCM reserves the right to audit these records.

Notice of Funding Decision and Payments

All applicants will receive written notice of funding decisions. Approved applicants will receive an Approval Agreement, which will include the terms and conditions of any grant that is awarded. The Approval Agreement is required to be signed and returned to UBCM within 30 days.

Grants are paid at the completion of the project and only when the Final Report requirements have been met.

Please note that in cases where revisions are required to an application, or an application has been approved in principle only, the applicant has 30 days from the date of the written notice of the status of the application to complete the application requirements. Applications that are not completed within 30 days may be closed.

Payment by Direct Deposit

Approved applicants may request to have all grant payments made by direct deposit. Please note that all payments to local governments are already made by direct deposit.

In order to receive payments by direct deposit, approved applicants are required to submit:

- UBCM Direct Deposit Authorization Form for a bank account registered in the name of the approved applicant. Direct deposit payments will not be made to accounts registered to an individual or to an entity that is not the same as the approved applicant.
- Resolution or motion from the approved applicant (e.g., Band Council, Treaty First Nation, local government Council or Board, society Board of Directors) authorizing UBCM to make all future grant payments by direct deposit.

Progress Payments

To request a progress payment, approved applicants are required to submit the [Interim Report Form](#). The form will require the following information:

- Description of activities completed to date.
- Description of funds expended to date (applicants are encouraged to use the [ESS Budget, Amendment Request, Financial Summary Form](#)).
- Written rationale for receiving a progress payment.

Changes to Approved Projects (Amendment Requests)

Approved grants are specific to the project as identified in the approved application, and grant funds are not transferable to other projects. Generally speaking, this means funds cannot be transferred to an activity that was not included in the approved application or to a new or expanded location.

Approval from UBCM and/or the Evaluation Committee will be required for any variation from the **approved project**. Depending on the complexity of the proposed amendment, requests may take up to 120 days to review.

To propose changes to an **approved project**, applicants are required to submit the [Interim Report Form](#). If UBCM determines the amendment is eligible for consideration, applicants will be required to submit:

- Amended application package, including updated Application Worksheet, detailed budget (applicants are encouraged to use the [ESS Budget, Amendment Request, Financial Summary Form](#)), required attachments, and an updated resolution/letter of support.
- For regional projects only: evidence of support from **sub-applicants** for proposed amendments will be required.
- Written rationale for proposed changes to activities and/or expenditures.

Applicants are responsible for any costs above the approved grant unless a revised application is submitted and approved prior to work being undertaken. Amendment requests to increase the approved budget of a project will not be considered.

Extensions to Project End Date

All approved activities are required to be completed within the time frame identified in the Approval Agreement and all extensions beyond this date must be requested in writing and be approved by UBCM.

The [Interim Report Form](#) will be required to be submitted for all extension requests over six months. Extensions will not exceed one year from the date of the original Final Report deadline.

Recognition of Funding and Funders

Updated September 2026 - Approved applicants must acknowledge the financial contribution of the Province of British Columbia in all public communications and promotional materials related to the project. The Province of British Columbia wordmark and/or approved program logo may only be used with prior written approval and in accordance with the Province's visual identity standards.

Requests to use provincial branding should be submitted through EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca. Approved applicants must not use the Province's logo, wordmark, or other official marks without authorization.

When recognizing funding, please state that the Emergency Support Services funding stream is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities and funded by the Province of BC. UBCM is active on X, Bluesky, LinkedIn and Facebook. When possible, please mention or tag UBCM and the Province on social media posts that are related to projects that are funded through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

9. Final Report Requirements and Process

All funded activities must be completed within one year of notification of funding approval and the Final Report is due within 30 days of project completion.

EMCR and GeoBC respect and are committed to the First Nations principles of OCAP®. Any product, data, or information which may include Indigenous knowledge as identified by the applicant may be submitted at the discretion of the applicant.

Final Reports

Applicants are required to submit an electronic copy of the completed Final Report, including the following:

- Completed Final Report form with all required attachments.
- Detailed financial summary that indicates the actual expenditures from CEPF and other sources (if applicable) and that aligns with the actual activities outlined in the Final Report Form. Applicants are encouraged to use the [ESS Budget, Amendment Request, Financial Summary Form](#).
- Examples of any materials that were produced with grant funding.
- Photos of funded activities and/or completed projects.
- Links to media related to the funded project.

Submission of Reports

Reports should be submitted as Word, Excel, or PDF files. Total file size for email attachments cannot exceed 20 MB.

All reports should be submitted to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities by email: cepf@ubcm.ca.

Review of Final Reports

UBCM will review Final Reports to ensure the required report contents have been submitted.

UBCM will share all report materials with the Province of BC.

10. Additional Information

Union of BC Municipalities

Email: cepf@ubcm.ca

Phone: 604-270-8226 ext. 220

Appendix 1: Definitions

The following definitions apply to the Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training funding stream.

Approved project: Activities included in the approved application and costs included in the approved budget.

Community Navigator: an individual who acts as a liaison between the Emergency Operations Centre, Emergency Support Services Reception Centre, support agencies, and evacuees. The Community Navigator advocates for evacuees and facilitates solutions to complex or unique evacuee needs ([EMCR Policy 2.14 Community Navigator - First Nations Community Navigator for Emergency Support Services](#)).

Cultural safety: Indigenous cultural safety is the process of making spaces, services, and organizations safer and more equitable for Indigenous people by considering current and historical colonial impact and seeking to eliminate structural racism and discrimination ([BC Centre for Disease Control](#)).

Emergency Support Services (ESS): Services provided on a short-term basis to evacuees in emergency situations ([Emergency Support Services Program](#)).

In-kind contribution: The use of resources of the approved primary applicant or sub-applicant(s) for the development or implementation of the approved project. For example, the use of meeting rooms owned by the approved primary applicant or sub-applicant(s) can be an in-kind contribution.

First Nations Community Navigator: an individual who has in-depth knowledge of affected Indigenous Peoples, community, or the First Nation. This role supports, demonstrates, promotes, and facilitates the implementation of culturally safe practices within the delivery of Emergency Support Services. The First Nations Community Navigator advocates for evacuees and facilitates solutions to complex or unique First Nations evacuee needs ([EMCR Policy 2.14 Community Navigator - First Nations Community Navigator for Emergency Support Services](#)).

First Nations land: First Nation reserve land, land owned by a Treaty First Nation, land under the authority of an Indigenous National Government, or other land owned or governed by a First Nation or Treaty First Nation.

First Nations owned buildings: Buildings owned by a Treaty First Nation or buildings owned by a First Nation band.

Group lodging: Congregate care facility for the lodging and feeding of evacuees ([Emergency Support Services Program](#)). For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of group lodging facilities are proposed, the group lodging must be located in a First Nation owned building or publicly owned building or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.

Hazard: A process, phenomenon, or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

Primary applicant: Eligible applicant that is the primary contact for the application and that is responsible for project oversight, grant management, and all reporting requirements.

Publicly owned buildings: Buildings owned by a local government or public institution (such as health authority or school district).

Publicly owned land: Provincial Crown land, land owned by a local government, or land owned by a public institution (such as a health authority or school district).

Publicly, provincially, and First Nations owned critical infrastructure: Assets owned by the Provincial government, local government, public institution (such as health authority or school district), First Nation, or Treaty First Nation that are either:

- Identified in a Local Authority Emergency Plan;
- Essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of society.

Reception centre: A safe gathering place where evacuees can register, are interviewed to determine their immediate emergency needs, and are referred to suppliers for assistance ([Emergency Support Services Program](#)). For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of reception centre facilities are proposed, the reception centre must be located in a First Nation owned building or publicly owned building or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.

Sub-applicant(s): In the case of regional projects, the sub-applicants are eligible applicants that are included in an approved application.

Appendix 2: LGPS Online Application Tool

As outlined in [Section 7](#), applications are required to be submitted in two steps **prior to the application deadline**:

1. [LGPS Online Application Form](#): This online form must be completed for all applications to LGPS funding programs and includes questions that are common to all grant applications. When the LGPS Online Application Form is submitted, the applicant will receive an email confirmation including the file number that has been assigned to the application, and a copy of the Application Worksheet that must be completed as part of Step 2.
2. Application Worksheet: This worksheet contains questions that are specific to the funding stream and must be submitted by email to UBCM with all other required attachments.

STEP ONE: LGPS Online Application Form

The following questions are required to be answered on the LGPS Online Application Form:

1. Name of the intake of the funding program that you want to apply for (select from menu).
2. Name of the Primary Applicant (select from menu). Please note: if the name of your organization is not included in the menu, contact UBCM in order to determine eligibility and next steps.
3. Primary and secondary contact information: full name, position, email, phone.
4. Primary applicant mailing address.
5. For regional projects only: name of sub-applicant(s) and rationale for regional project.
6. Project title. Project titles should be brief but include key project activities, the area where the work will be undertaken, and the intended outcome/deliverable.
7. Proposed start and end date.
8. Estimated total project budget.
9. Estimated total grant request.
10. Other funding amount and source.
11. Project summary (provide a brief summary, no more than 500 characters).
12. Progress to date. Provide an update on the status of previously approved projects if previously funded under same funding program/funding stream.
13. Certification that the information is complete and accurate.
14. Name and email of person submitting application.

When the LGPS Online Application Form is submitted, the applicant will receive an email confirmation including the file number that has been assigned to the application, and a copy of the Application Worksheet that must be completed as part of Step 2.

STEP TWO: Application Worksheet and Required Attachments

Application Worksheet

The following questions will be required to be answered on the Application Worksheet:

1. Primary Applicant full name (local government or First Nation).
2. File Number (this can be found on the confirmation email you will receive after the LGPS Online Application Form is submitted).

3. Current ESS Protocol and Ability to Act as Host Community. Please describe how ESS is currently managed in your community (e.g., act as host community, evacuees are sent to host community; third party approach, own local program) and identify any significant gaps that have been identified in terms of equipment, training, or volunteers.
4. Activation of Local ESS Program or Host Community. Please provide a summary of recent local emergencies requiring ESS support (as either local ESS program or as host community) and/or evidence of local risk.
5. Location of Proposed Activities. For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of group lodging facilities or reception centres are proposed, the facilities must be located in a First Nation owned building or publicly owned building or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.
 - Facility is located in a First Nation owned building (buildings owned by a Treaty First Nation or a First Nation band).
 - Facility is located in a publicly owned building (buildings owned by a local government or public institution, such as health authority or school district).
 - Asset (e.g., trailer for mobile ESS) is owned by the primary applicant or sub-applicant.
6. Proposed Activities. Description of the proposed specific activities that will be undertaken. Refer to Section 6 of the *Program and Application Guide* for eligibility.
 - a) Based on your response in Question 3 above, please describe how the proposed activities will address any gaps in the current ability to purchase equipment, deliver training, and recruit and retain volunteers.
 - b) Proposed purchase of essential equipment and supplies, including installation and training for eligible equipment, for local ESS program, and/or to increase capacity to act as a host community.
 - c) Proposed training for local ESS program and/or to increase capacity to act as a host community. Where possible, please list specific courses. If training has been funded in past ESS intakes, please include a rationale for additional training. *Where possible, please submit training recurrency plans, information on current levels of training, or any other information related to completed or proposed ESS training in your community.*
 - d) Updated September 2026 - Where applicable, please indicate the job titles of the intended NESST conference participants (examples include but not limited to ESS leaders, deputy, or mentors, training leads, reception centre leads, or volunteers whose ongoing commitment and response contributions warrant recognition).
 - e) Proposed exercises, including tabletop exercises and mock ESS activations.
 - f) Proposed volunteer recruitment and retention activities.
7. Alignment with funding stream. Description of how activities will align with the intent of the funding stream.
 - a) Description of how proposed activities align with the intent of the funding stream (build local capacity to provide emergency support services through ESS volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, and the purchase of essential ESS equipment).
 - b) Description of how proposed activities will support the modernization of the local ESS program. Will the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) Tool be implemented?
 - c) Description of how the proposed activities will increase emergency response capacity as a host community.

8. Engagement with First Nations and/or Indigenous Organizations. Please identify the specific bands, Treaty First Nations, and/or Indigenous organizations as well as the specific traditional territory, reserve, or other First Nations' land that may be impacted by the proposed project.
 - a) Which First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations were proactively engaged as part of the development of this application?
 - b) Which First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations will participate in the proposed activities and what specific role will they play?
 - c) Please indicate the extent to which staff and/or elected officials have undertaken Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training.

If applicable, evidence of support for the proposed activities from First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations has been submitted with this application. This could be in the form of a letter, email, or other correspondence.
9. Engagement with neighbouring jurisdictions and affected parties. Description of any neighbouring jurisdictions and/or affected parties (e.g., equity-denied populations, pet-care organizations, organizations involved in a web of support network) you will engage with as appropriate to the project.

Rural and remote communities may want to consider engaging with regional districts and/or health authorities, and First Nation applicants may want to consider engaging with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society or the First Nations Health Authority.

If applicable, evidence of support for the proposed activities from neighbouring jurisdictions or other parties has been submitted with this application. This could be in the form of a letter, email, or other correspondence.
10. Comprehensive, cooperative, regional approach and benefits. Description of how the proposed activities will contribute to a comprehensive, cooperative, and regional approach to ESS and any regional benefits.
11. Additional Information. Any other information you think may help support your submission.

Required Attachments

The following attachments will be required to be submitted with the completed Application Worksheet:

- Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution **OR** a letter of support from the Band Manager, CAO, or CFO for applications that are from a single applicant and request less than \$50,000 in funding. Resolutions and letters need to indicate support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management. All regional applications, or applications requesting more than \$50,000 in funding, will require resolutions to be submitted.
- Detailed budget:
 - Indicating the proposed expenditures from CEPF and in alignment with the proposed activities outlined in the Application Worksheet.
 - Although additional funding or support is not required, any other grant funding or **in-kind contributions** must be identified.
 - Applicants are encouraged to use the [ESS Budget, Amendment Request, Financial Summary Form](#).
 - Where possible, additional information to support proposed costs, such as vendor quotes or workplans, should be submitted
- For regional projects only:

- Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution from the primary applicant, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management; and,
- Band Council, Treaty First Nation, or local government resolution from each sub-applicant that clearly states their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf. Resolutions from sub-applicants must include this language.