

Background & Frequently Asked Questions

Background

The Aboriginal Youth and Community Empowerment Strategy, or AYCES, was developed to support First Nation and Métis communities in suicide prevention by building capacity in mental wellness, resiliency, and healthy lifestyle promotion. AYCES funding only supported 20 First Nations communities, Métis Settlements and urban/rural Indigenous agencies in Alberta. It was identified that in order to address suicide prevention in First Nation and Métis youth additional funding would be required throughout the province of Alberta.

In 2018 Alberta Health committed \$15 million over 3 years, \$5 million per year, to Alberta Health Services (AHS) to operate and coordinate the “**Honouring Life: Indigenous Youth Suicide Prevention - Aboriginal Youth Communities and Empowerment Strategy**”. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the current grant agreement between AHS and Alberta Health has been extended an additional year; the funding period will now last until March 31, 2022.

The funding is meant to allow all of Alberta’s First Nations, Tribal Councils, First Nation organizations, Métis Settlements and Métis organizations to develop programming to support Life Promotion activities for their youth.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS HONOURING LIFE?

Honouring Life is part of a larger Provincial Action Plan for Youth Suicide Prevention, and the intention is to increase resiliency and holistic wellness in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth.

Honouring Life has been blessed through ceremony and aligns with the vision of the Elders. Honouring Life is built on the foundation of **The Community is the Medicine Model** (CITM) which supports Caring Connections, Respectful Empowerment, Purposeful Roles and Cultural/Spiritual Vision and builds upon the strengths identified by the community to support resiliency and Community-Based Wellness.

The vision of Honouring Life is that Indigenous youth in Alberta experience life with hope, meaning, belonging and purpose. That Indigenous communities have the knowledge, vision and capacity to support joyful, vibrant and purposeful youth. Funding for Honouring Life is available through an application process and funds must be **expensed by March 31, 2022**.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HONOURING LIFE FUNDING?

First Nations, Tribal Councils, First Nation organizations, Métis settlements and organizations are eligible for Honouring Life funding.

Communities are encouraged to partner and work together to submit a joint proposal whenever possible.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

A total of 15 million dollars has been guaranteed by the province to be distributed among successful grant applicants from April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2022.

Funding amounts will vary by community and the activities planned.

Funding for the contract will be paid in installments: 90% once the contract is signed, and the final 10% when the final report and financials are submitted at the end of the contract term.

IS THIS FUNDING ON-GOING?

No, funding has been committed until March 2022. Avenues to secure more sustainable funding are a focus of the grant evaluation.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Interested applicants are asked to send inquires to honouringlife@ahs.ca. A member of the Honouring Life team will then contact the applicant.

Communities will work with a Coordinator from the Honouring Life team to complete the application. Completed Applications are to be submitted by email to: honouringlife@ahs.ca

Once the application is approved, it is forwarded to AHS Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM) for final review and drafting of the contract documents. Once the contract documents are completed, they will be signed by AHS and then sent to the applicant for signing.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

As funding is only guaranteed through March 2022, a closing date for applications will be established in the near future.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

In order to qualify for the Honouring Life funding, the Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Originate from a First Nation, Tribal Councils, First Nation organizations, or Métis Settlements and organizations
- Describe the community context, including challenges you face and priorities regarding youth suicide
- Indicate strengths, existing resources and partnerships, or collaborative opportunities in the community
- Engage Youth and Elders in the community, enhance capacity, and aim to develop sustainable suicide prevention programming that contributes to the well-being and resiliency of Indigenous youth and communities
- Describe including the purpose and outcomes, activities that are grounded in the Community is the Medicine model
- Provide a detailed budget for each activity
- Develop or follow a pre-existing community-driven evaluation plan for the grant funded activities
Complete all reporting requirements as per contract agreement

HONOURING LIFE APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR FUNDING APPLICATION:

- Completed Honouring Life funding application. **Note: All in-person gatherings need to adhere to current COVID public health guidelines** A signed and dated Declaration – Appendix I
- Proof of CURRENT organizational liability insurance for no less than \$2,000,000 (\$2 million) – Appendix II

EXAMPLES OF ACITIVITES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING:

- Participation in cultural activities/events that encourage Elder and youth engagement (e.g. activities with elders, feasts, etc.)
- Mentorship and peer support
- Training programs that build community capacity or individual skills
- Community Sessions that focus on identification of community strengths and areas for growth based on the pillars of The Community is the Medicine Model
- Attending or hosting conferences and workshops (e.g. self-esteem building workshops)
- Cultural teaching and traditional land based programs, music programs, etc.
- Sports and recreation programs
- Use of technology to record histories and traditions for future generations
- Camps and youth retreats, youth nights

WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

- Honouring Life will not fund the following:
 - New Infrastructure & Renovation (i.e.: Constructing building space)
 - Honouring Life contracts being outsourced to third party companies or agencies to execute the approved programming. All programming must be delivered by your agency
 - Administrative costs in excess of 10% of your total allocated funding or \$10,000, whichever is less
 - Applications which do not align with the guiding principles of Honouring Life and the Community is the Medicine model, as outlined above.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

You can reach the Honouring Life team via email: honouringlife@ahs.ca

DISCLAIMER

AHS reserves the right to request additional information. AHS makes no representation on the number of grants that will be awarded and reserves the right not to award any grant/contract. AHS reserves the right to refuse funding. Each successful applicant will be required to enter into a contract with AHS. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.