
Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP)

Program Guidelines
Version 3.0
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IESP resources are available at:

[IESO website – IESP](#)

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1. Background

The Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) (as successor to the Ontario Power Authority) has designed, administered and managed a portfolio of Energy Support Programs (“ESPs”) since 2009 in accordance with directions from the Minister of Energy. For additional information on the history of the ESPs and predecessor support programs, please visit the [IESO website](#).

From time to time, the IESO makes updates to the ESPs, informed by feedback from Indigenous communities and program recipients. In 2023, following engagement with Indigenous communities, organizations and program recipients, the ESPs were redesigned under a single Indigenous Energy Support Program (the “Program” or “IESP”) structure. Pursuant to a Ministerial Direction dated July 20, 2025, the IESO has expanded the scope of the Program and increased available funding.

2. Program Objectives and Overview of Areas of Funding

The objective of the Program is to promote broad equitable participation in Ontario’s electricity sector by First Nation and Métis communities, and First Nation and Métis organizations, by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and energy infrastructure development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects.

Unless otherwise defined, capitalized terms used in these Program Guidelines have the meanings set out in section 6.

The Program provides support through the following three Areas of Funding (“AOF”):

2.1 Capacity Building

The Capacity Building AOF provides funding to First Nation and Métis communities, and First Nation and Métis organizations to support awareness, education, skills, and capacity building initiatives to help prepare them to fully leverage energy opportunities and contribute to cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable energy systems. Initiatives funded through this AOF include:

- hiring a designated Community Energy Champion (CEC) within their community or organization;
- expenses such as equipment, training, engagement, or travel related to the work of the CEC;
- community energy engagement;
- energy skills building, project training and certifications; and
- innovative knowledge and data sharing models.

2.2 Economic Development

The Economic Development AOF provides funding to support equitable access to project partnerships and development leading to clean, reliable and affordable supply-side solutions for the economic development opportunities for First Nation or Métis Communities, and First Nation or Métis Organizations. Initiatives funded through this AOF include:

- feasibility studies;
- due diligence work required to assess and develop opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects, including projects being developed as part of a government procurement or policy and non-rate-based private ventures with commercial partners;
- costs associated with developing energy infrastructure projects, including renewable energy, battery storage and other emerging technologies; and
- other innovative electricity supply-side solutions.

2.3 Energy Resiliency & Monitoring

The Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF provides funding to support First Nation and Métis Communities, and First Nation and Métis Organizations with community-led development of new and updated community energy plans, designed to enhance community energy security. Initiatives funded through the Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF include:

- development of a new community energy plan; and
- updates to an existing community energy plan.

In practice, the community energy plan can include any number of elements, including the identification of challenges and opportunities related to energy security, but at a minimum, it must contain the six components described in Appendix A, which is incorporated by reference into these Program Guidelines.

3. Participation in the Indigenous Energy Support Program

3.1 Maximum Funding Amount

The maximum funding amount available to any particular applicant is subject to the following rules:

- (a) an applicant may be eligible to apply for funding under more than one AOF, subject to the maximum values listed for each Project Type, as specified in Table 1;
- (b) the aggregate maximum funding requested from an applicant per calendar year cannot exceed \$730,000;
- (c) any funding amounts provided to an Identified Remote First Nations Community under the Remote Projects Development Project Type shall be excluded from the calculation of an applicant's aggregate maximum approved funding in item (b);

- (d) all IESP funding (including any applicant's maximum funding amount is subject to the aggregate funding limit for each AOF, the IESP Budget and any other requirements set out in these Program Guidelines).

3.2 Eligible Applicants

- In order to be eligible for funding under the Program, an applicant must be:
 - a First Nation or Métis Communities; or
 - a First Nation or Métis Organizations (including Friendship Centres, Indigenous housing providers, and others) ("Eligible Applicant").
- In the case of the Project Types listed under Capacity Building (Part B), non-Indigenous entities working in partnership with, and for the benefit of, a First Nation or Métis Community, or a First Nation or Métis Organization, are eligible co-applicants (Note: Non-Indigenous entities may only apply as joint applicants working with a First Nation or Métis Community or First Nation or Métis Organization as the lead applicant).
- Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the Remote Projects Development Project Type, listed under the Economic Development AOF, the applicant must be one of the following remote First Nations Communities, or, if approved by the IESO in its sole and absolute direction, a legal entity wholly-owned and controlled by such community:
 - Marten Falls First Nation;
 - Webequie First Nation;
 - Eabametoong First Nation;
 - Nibinamik First Nation;
 - Neskantaga First Nation;
 - Fort Severn First Nation;
 - Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Gull Bay);
 - Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck); and
 - Whitesand First Nation(each an "**Identified Remote First Nations Community**").

Funding is not provided to individuals. Joint applications for a shared single Project may be submitted by two or more Eligible Applicants. Applicant eligibility for the IESP is determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the IESO or the Ministry of Energy and Mines, as applicable.

3.3 Eligible Project Types and Funding Amounts under Areas of Funding

3.3.1 General:

Funding is provided under the Program for eligible expenses that are directly related and reasonably necessary to complete the Project or for the employment of a CEC, as the case may be. Please note that in-kind contributions (if any) are not reimbursable under the IESP.

All applications to the IESP must fit within one or more of the Project Types described in Table 1. Subject to any other requirements outlined in these Program Guidelines, where an applicant is applying to the IESP for more than one Project, the applicant must submit a separate application in respect of each Project.

More than one application may not be submitted in relation to a single Project.

3.3.2 Capacity Building (Part A):

An applicant under Capacity Building (Part A) may be eligible for funding up to a maximum of \$195,000 per application, inclusive of any Additional Qualification Top Up, subject to the limitations specified in Table 1.

Applicants may not apply for funding under another AOF within the same application if applying for funding under Capacity Building (Part A). For the avoidance of doubt, applicants seeking to access funding under Capacity Building (Part A) must submit a separate application for such funding.

While all applicants are encouraged to have identified a CEC candidate at the application stage, in order to be eligible for funding under Capacity Building (Part A):

- Applicants that have applied for the Additional Qualification Top Up are required to have (i) identified a CEC candidate at the application stage, and (ii) hired that CEC prior to the execution of a Funding Agreement; and
- Applicants that have not applied for the Additional Qualification Top Up are required to have hired a CEC prior to the execution of a Funding Agreement.

Additionally, applicants that apply for the Additional Qualification Top Up must complete and submit the Additional Qualification Information form, which is Appendix C to the IESP Application Form.

3.3.3 Capacity Building (Part B):

Applicants may submit multiple Project applications under Capacity Building (Part B) and may be eligible for funding up to a maximum of \$150,000 per application, subject to the limitations specified in Table 1.

Where an application under Capacity Building (Part B) includes expenses related to the services of one or more consultants or contractors ("External Resource"), expenses related to a single External Resource may not exceed the Threshold Amount.

3.3.4 Economic Development:

An applicant under Economic Development may be eligible for funding up to a maximum of \$250,000 per calendar year, which may include funding across multiple applications, subject to the limitations

specified in Table 1. The maximum Economic Development funding of \$250,000 per calendar year applies to the applicant and any Affiliate First Nation or Métis Community, or First Nation or Métis Organization (e.g., if ABC First Nation receives Economic Development funding of \$250,000 in any calendar year, no First Nation or Métis Organization that is Affiliated to ABC First Nation may receive any Economic Development funding in that same calendar year).

In addition to the funding above, an Identified Remote First Nations Community applying under the Remote Projects Development Project Type may be eligible for funding up to a maximum of \$500,000 per calendar year towards eligible expenses associated with the development of energy-based solutions to help reduce diesel reliance in their respective communities.

The maximum amount of funding provided for a Project under each Project Type included in the Economic Development AOF (with the exception of the Remote Projects Development), is the lesser of 80% of the total Project costs and the maximum funding amounts per Project Type set out in Table 1. For example, if you are applying for funding for a Feasibility Study (subject to a maximum of \$50,000 in funding) and your total Project cost is \$60,000, you would be eligible for up to \$48,000 of funding, as this is the lesser of 80% of the Project costs and the maximum funding amount for a Feasibility Study. However, if the Project costs were \$65,000, then you would be eligible for up to \$50,000 of funding, which is the lesser of 80% of the Project costs (i.e. \$52,000) and the maximum funding amount for a Feasibility Study.

Applicants seeking to access funding for a Feasibility Study may not apply for funding for Project Development or Innovation within the same application, if the Project Development or Innovation funding request relates to the same Project as, and is contingent on the results of, the Feasibility Study. Funding for the related Project Development or Innovation activities may be requested in a subsequent IESP application, following completion of the Feasibility Study.

Applicants seeking to access funding for Project Development are encouraged, but not required, to have an existing community energy plan prior to applying for funding under this Project Type, in order to link the Project with long-term community energy visioning. Applicants seeking funding for Project Development, Feasibility Study or Innovation that have an existing community energy plan are required to include the following data in the application: baseline energy data and energy profile, and justification of project for future community energy development.

3.3.5 Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF:

An applicant under the Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF may be eligible for funding up to a maximum of \$135,000 per application in connection with either the development of a new community energy plan or an update to an existing community plan (not both), which meets the Mandatory Components listed in Appendix A, subject to the limitations set out in Table 1.

Applicants seeking to access funding for the development of a new community energy plan are encouraged, but not required, to have hired a Community Energy Champion (CEC) prior to applying for funding under this Project Type.

Applicants with an existing or previous Funding Agreement for the development of a new community energy plan are not eligible to receive further funding support under the Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF, except for the development of an updated community energy plan.

Applicants will not be eligible to receive funds to update a community energy plan for a period of two years following the Contract End Date of their previous Funding Agreement for a new or updated community energy plan.

Where an application under the Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF includes expenses related to the services of one or more External Resource, expenses related to a single External Resource may not exceed the Threshold Amount.

Table 1: Eligible Project Types and Funding Amounts under Areas of Funding

AREA OF FUNDING	PROJECT TYPES	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT PER PROJECT TYPE (subject to aggregate AOF funding limits)
CAPACITY BUILDING (PART A) Aggregate funding limit of \$195,000 per application	Community Energy Champion (CEC) Salary: Eligible expenses associated with the salary, wages and benefits, contributions, and assessments associated with employing a CEC as set out below: - Up to <u>\$55,000 per year</u> for three (3) years; or - Up to \$60,000 per year for three (3) years, if applying for and approved for the Additional Qualification Top Up of \$5,000 per year, provided, in each case, adequate progress is being made, as determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the IESO.	Up to \$180,000 per application
	CEC Expenses: Eligible expenses for relevant training costs for the CEC, and costs for related materials, equipment, travel, products and services that are required to carry out the work of the CEC.	Up to \$15,000 per application

AREA OF FUNDING	PROJECT TYPES	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT PER PROJECT TYPE (subject to aggregate AOF funding limits)
CAPACITY BUILDING (PART B) Aggregate funding limit of \$150,000 per application	Community Energy Engagement: Projects that enhance awareness of, and knowledge about, energy-related issues in First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations, including, but not limited to, the following: • Community workshops and meetings • Youth and Elder specific projects • Activities that educate and enhance energy-related capacity to understand and navigate the current energy environment.	Up to \$75,000 per application
	Energy skills building, project training and certifications: Energy sector skills training programs and certifications that build job-ready capacity and develop tangible skills within First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations, to prepare them to participate in, develop, manage and own energy projects or initiatives, including, but not limited to, the following: • Technical capital project training • Energy efficiency technical training • Energy project management certification • Operation and maintenance • Energy financial modeling • Certified Energy Manager (CEM) training	Up to \$75,000 per application

AREA OF FUNDING	PROJECT TYPES	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT PER PROJECT TYPE (subject to aggregate AOF funding limits)
	Innovative knowledge/data sharing models: Projects that demonstrate and deploy novel initiatives, approaches, or delivery models related to energy issues in First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations. The application must clearly demonstrate how the Project approach or delivery method is unique or innovative within the context of the community or organization, and how the unique or innovative approach will contribute to the success of the Project, including, but not limited to the following: • Learning or teaching about new and emerging energy topics and projects • New energy skills training and delivery methods • Research and data incorporating Traditional Knowledge • Innovative knowledge sharing among youth and Elders	Up to \$60,000 per application
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Aggregate funding limit of \$250,000 per applicant per calendar year, which only applies to the following Project Types: Project	Feasibility Study: Eligible expenses associated with permitting, technical and design assessments, economic assessments, or diesel offset or technology assessments by First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations.	Up to \$50,000 per application

AREA OF FUNDING	PROJECT TYPES	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT PER PROJECT TYPE (subject to aggregate AOF funding limits)
Development, Feasibility Study, Partnerships, and Innovation. <i>(The maximum amount of funding provided for a Project under each Project Type included in the Economic Development AOF (except for the Remote Projects Development), is the lesser of 80% of the total Project costs and the maximum funding amounts per Project Type in this table.)</i>	Partnerships: Eligible expenses associated with due diligence work required to assess and develop opportunities for partnerships and participation by First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations in new or existing energy infrastructure projects, including projects being developed as part of a government procurement or policy and non-rate-based private ventures with commercial partners.	Up to \$85,000 per application
	Project Development: Eligible expenses associated with the development of energy infrastructure projects by First Nation or Métis Communities, or First Nation or Métis Organizations, on their own or in conjunction with commercial partners. For the purposes of the IESP, project development includes equipment procurement, construction, installation, operations and maintenance and capital investments in renewable energy projects, battery energy storage, transmission development and emerging technologies	Up to \$250,000 per application
	Innovation: Funding support for the demonstration and deployment of innovative delivery models and/or technologies related to energy infrastructure projects. For the purposes of the IESP, this may be demonstrated through emerging technologies, new business models, new practices, regulatory/policy constructs, and existing solutions that are used in novel ways.	Up to \$250,000 per application

AREA OF FUNDING	PROJECT TYPES	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT PER PROJECT TYPE (subject to aggregate AOF funding limits)
Aggregate funding limit of up to \$500,000 per Identified Remote First Nations Community per calendar year, which only applies to the following Project Type: Remote Projects Development.	Remote Projects Development: Funding support for eligible expenses associated with supporting diesel reduction initiatives in Identified Remote First Nations Communities.	Up to \$500,000 per application
ENERGY RESILIENCY & MONITORING Aggregate funding limit of \$135,000 per application	Development of a new community energy plan, which meets the Mandatory Components listed in Appendix A	Up to \$135,000 per application
	Updates to an existing community energy plan, which meets the Mandatory Components listed in Appendix A	Up to \$75,000 per application

3.4 Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Additional criteria regarding eligible expenses and a list of ineligible expenses are set out in the Funding Agreement, which must be signed by all successful applicants in order to receive funding.

3.4.1 Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses can include:

- Costs associated with Project-related activities carried out by, and deliverables delivered by:
 - duly qualified internal resources, including the salary, wages and benefits, contributions, and assessments paid to internal resources; and

- duly qualified External Resources, provided that the costs incurred for the services of a single External Resource shall only qualify as Eligible Expenses up to the applicable Threshold Amount, if any
- Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the Capacity Building (Part A) AOF, eligible expenses are:
- Salary, wages and benefits, contributions, and assessments associated with employing a CEC, inclusive of any Additional Qualification Top Up where applicable;
- Relevant training costs for the CEC; and
- Costs for related materials, equipment, travel, products and services that are required to carry out the work of the CEC.

The IESO may, in its sole and absolute discretion, consider other costs and activities as eligible expenses.

3.4.2 Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for funding under the IESP:

- Costs that are not directly related to the Project, activities or the work of the CEC;
- Costs related to activities for which funding was received in relation to the Project or the work of the CEC from another source;
- Costs that the applicant or joint applicant(s) did not directly incur;
- Costs incurred, or relating to any Project, Project Type, matter or thing carried out before the start of, or after the end of, the Funding Agreement;
- Costs associated with meeting the administrative obligations of the application or Funding Agreement under the IESP, including preparing status and other reports as may be required under the Funding Agreement;
- Costs associated with preparing the application or applications under the IESP, entering into a Funding Agreement under the IESP, preparing the applications or proposals under any other IESO program, or entering into any other IESO program agreement;
- Costs related to meetings with or the lobbying of any governmental authority or the IESO;
- Costs associated with the use of personal devices (e.g. personal mobile or landline phones, laptops or internet service provider fees, etc.);
- Costs related to administrative or operating expenses such as real estate expenses, insurance, utilities, memberships, dues, subscriptions, accounting, or maintenance of equipment;

- Costs incurred that are not evidenced by deliverables, including any supporting documentation required under the Funding Agreement, or other evidence of payment satisfactory to the IESO in its sole and absolute discretion;
- Costs not approved by the IESO as part of the application and budget, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IESO in its sole and absolute discretion;
- Costs for travel, hospitality or meals within Ontario that do not comply with the [**Ontario Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive**](#);
- Costs that in the IESO's view, in its sole and absolute discretion, materially deviate from the approved application in relation to the eligible activities, work plan, budget, project team, timelines or Project description;
- Costs paid by means of services in-kind, cash, bonds, promissory notes or barter;
- Costs in respect of HST;
- In respect of the Project Types listed under Capacity Building (Part A), costs related to the provision of legal advice or the development or distribution of legal templates, precedent agreements, or materials that are considered or could be considered legal or financial advice; and
- In respect of the Economic Development AOF:
 - Any amounts paid to a governmental authority, including fees paid for governmental certifications;
 - Partnership-related costs incurred after the applicant's acquisition of an economic interest in a renewable energy project partnership or transmission project partnership;
 - Costs associated with participating in Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") proceedings related to an electricity transmission project; and
 - Costs incurred after the OEB designates a transmitter to develop an electricity transmission project, if the designated transmitter is not the applicant or its proposed project partner (or their affiliate).

In addition to the above, the IESO may, in its sole and absolute discretion, consider other costs and activities to be ineligible expenses.

4. Application Submission Process

Applications to the IESP will be accepted on an ongoing basis, with application review windows throughout the year. The application review window dates will be published on [the IESO website](#). Before applying to the IESP, applicants should review these Program Guidelines and the Funding

Agreement carefully, and are encouraged to seek independent legal, business and other professional advice, as appropriate.

Applicants are encouraged to contact IESP staff prior to submitting an application at IESP@ieso.ca. IESP staff will be available to provide feedback and guidance throughout application development, and may ask for additional information or references.

A Project Overview Form (POF) is required to be completed and submitted by an applicant prior to formal application submission. Please allow sufficient time for application review and feedback prior to submitting your final application. As a condition of funding support, the IESO may request changes to your application.

All applications must be submitted via email to IESP@ieso.ca, using the IESP Application Form found on [the IESO website](#). Additional details regarding the application submission and review process are found in Appendix B which is incorporated by reference into the Program Guidelines.

5. Application Review Process

Applications that meet the completeness and eligibility requirements of the IESP will be assessed by a review committee comprised of IESO staff that are not responsible for the delivery and oversight of the IESP. The IESO review committee will provide recommendations to the IESO as to whether to approve the application for funding and recommend an amount of funding, if any, from the funding allocated under the IESP Budget.

Notwithstanding such recommendation, the IESO maintains the right to accept or reject an application or approve less than the funding amount requested in the application or recommended by the IESO review committee, for any reason, in its sole and absolute discretion, and the allocation of available funding among applications to the IESP is in the sole and absolute discretion of the IESO.

Funding decisions will be based on the extent to which a proposed Project or CEC, as the case may be, addresses community energy needs and the degree to which it satisfies the IESP application review criteria outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Application Review Criteria

Review Criteria	Description
Strategic fit	Will the Project or CEC enhance First Nation or Métis energy-related capacity and leadership and support awareness, education, skills, and/or capacity building, supply-side solutions that contribute to cleaner, more reliable and more affordable energy systems for First Nations and Métis Communities? Where applicable, does the Project relate directly to an existing community energy plan and the short and long-term energy vision of the community or organization?
Community benefit, need, and support	How are community members involved in the Project? How does the Project or CEC benefit the community? Is there an identified need for the Project or CEC? Has a document expressing community support (band council resolution, board resolution, etc.) been included with the application? Has an engagement plan been developed to specifically target the community or organization? Has appropriate rationale been provided?
Project team and partners (not applicable to Capacity Building (Part A))	Have a sufficient number of community or organization members been included on the Project team? Does the Project team (internal and External Resources) have the qualifications and experience required to execute the Project? Is there evidence of strong and appropriate partnerships, if applicable?
Job description / incumbent qualifications (only applicable to Capacity Building (Part A))	Is the job description sufficiently detailed and appropriate within the context of the purpose and intended outcome? If an incumbent CEC has been selected, does the incumbent have the skills and experience to successfully meet the purpose and intended outcomes? Where the Additional Qualification Top Up has been requested, does the description express how the particular eligible qualifications of the identified CEC candidate will serve as valuable for the purpose and intended outcomes?
Financial feasibility	Is the budget for the Project or CEC detailed, reasonable and justified? Have revenue sources for costs outside of those assigned to the IESP funding been identified and secured?

Review Criteria	Description
Project purpose and outcomes	Are the Project's purpose and intended outcomes clearly articulated? Is the plan to realize and evaluate the Project's outcomes sufficiently detailed and reasonable? If applying for funding under the Economic Development AOF for the Innovation Project Type, is the Project sufficiently innovative? Will it provide a novel solution? Will it address a gap?

Successful applicants will receive an approval letter followed by an offer to enter into the Funding Agreement. IESP funding will only be provided upon execution of the Funding Agreement between the applicant and the IESO, and only according to the terms and conditions therein.

Unsuccessful applicants, whether as a result of the available funding being fully allocated or otherwise, will be informed in writing that their application has been rejected and the IESO will provide reasons for such determination. If the application is rejected, any such rejection shall not prohibit an applicant from submitting a new application provided the IESO is still accepting applications. The new application will be subject to the Program Guidelines and Funding Agreement in effect at the time of submission.

6. Definitions

Defined Term	Meaning
Additional Qualification Top Up	means the additional funding of \$5,000 per year that successful applicants may be eligible for under Capacity Building (Part A), in respect of eligible expenses for salary, wages and benefits, contributions, assessments and taxes associated with employing a CEC, where the CEC has one or more of the following qualifications: • Canadian Institute of Energy Training (CIET) Certified Energy Manager (CEM); • CIET Certified Energy Auditor (CEA); • successful completion of Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalyst Program; or • any other certifications or qualifications that may be considered to be satisfactory by the IESO, in its sole and absolute discretion.

Defined Term	Meaning
Affiliate	means any Person that (1) Controls a party; (2) is Controlled by a party; or (3) is Controlled by the same Person that Controls a party.
Community Energy Champion or CEC	means a designated energy champion hired by a First Nation or Métis Community, or a First Nation or Métis Organization to support the planning, implementation and evaluation of energy-related priorities.
Control	means, with respect to a Person at any time, (a) the owning or holding as beneficiary (directly or indirectly) of any securities or ownership interest that would allow for the election or appointment of fifty percent (50%) or more of the directors of the Person (or those other Persons responsible for the management of the entity); or (b) the exercise of de facto, or actual, control of that Person, whether direct or indirect and through any means; and "Controlled by" has a corresponding meaning.
Eligible Applicant	Means one of the following: a) a First Nation or Métis Community; or b) a First Nation or Métis Organization.
External Resource	Has the meaning ascribed in s. 3.3.3.
First Nation or Métis Community	means, for the purposes of the IESP: a) a First Nation in Ontario that is a "band" as defined in the <i>Indian Act</i> (Canada); b) the Métis Nation of Ontario or any of its active Chartered Community Councils; or c) a person, other than a natural person, that has previously been determined by the Government of Ontario to represent the collective interests of a community that is composed of First Nation or Métis individuals.

Defined Term	Meaning
First Nation or Métis Organization	means, for the purposes of the IESP, an organization that, as determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the IESO, represents the interests of more than one First Nation or Métis Community, or was established to provide key services to one or more First Nation or Métis Community or members of one or more First Nation or Métis Community, which may include Friendship Centres, and Indigenous housing providers.
Funding Agreement	means the prescribed form of agreement entered into between a successful applicant(s) and the IESO in order to be eligible to receive funding under the IESP.
Identified Remote First Nations Community	means one of the following remote First Nations Communities, or, if approved by the IESO in its sole and absolute direction, a legal entity wholly-owned and controlled by such community: • Marten Falls First Nation; • Webequie First Nation; • Eabametoong First Nation; • Nibinamik First Nation; • Neskantaga First Nation; • Fort Severn First Nation; • Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Gull Bay); • Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck); and • Whitesand First Nation
Person	means a natural person, First Nation that is a “band” as defined in the Indian Act (Canada), co-operative, firm, trust, partnership, limited partnership, company or corporation (with or without share capital), joint venture, sole proprietorship, Governmental Authority or other entity of any kind, including the IESO.
Project	means, in respect of a given application for funding under one or more AOF, a single proposed initiative with a unified scope and related activities across all of those AOF, as applicable.

Defined Term	Meaning
Project Overview Form (POF)	means a prescribed form, as amended by the IESO from time to time, which is required to be completed and submitted by an applicant prior to formal application submission and describes the applicant, any Project team members, and high-level details on the Project, including scope, estimated timeline, requested funding amount (for each Project Type), anticipated outcomes, and any other considerations.
Project Type	means, in respect of a Project, the specific initiatives set out in Table 1 for each AOF.
Threshold Amount	means forty percent (40%) of the maximum funding amount, as specified in the Funding Agreement, under either Capacity Building (Part B) or the Energy Resiliency & Monitoring AOF, as applicable for the Eligible External Expense of a single External Resource.

7. General

Receipt of an application to the IESP does not constitute a commitment by the IESO to support the application, nor does it create a business relationship between the applicant, its partners and the IESO.

Any financial support provided to an applicant under the IESP does not create a relationship of principal and agent between IESO and the applicant. Further, the applicant has no authority to create any such relationship or related obligation, express or implied, in the name of or on behalf of, the IESO.

The IESO reserves the right to make public the names of applicants, the title and a description of their proposed project, and the amount of funds applied for. All other information submitted by the applicant in its application will also be treated as non-confidential unless clearly labelled as confidential by the applicant.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Program Guidelines and any Funding Agreement entered into, the provisions of the Funding Agreement will govern.

The IESO reserves the right to:

1. periodically review, amend or replace as necessary the IESP, the Program Guidelines, the Funding Agreement and IESP Budget, and any other prescribed forms;
2. make additional amendments in response to directions from the Minister of Energy and Mines, changes in applicable laws and regulations, or any other circumstances as determined by the IESO in its sole and absolute discretion; and
3. cap the amount of funding provided under the IESP, including under any AOF or Project Type, in any year.

Appendix A - Community Energy Plan Mandatory Components

Component	Description
1. Baseline Energy Assessment	A benchmark of the First Nation or Métis Community's, or First Nation or Métis Organization's, current energy performance that allows for the identification of potential opportunities for energy savings. At a minimum, to the extent possible, the baseline energy assessment must include the following data: a. Annual energy usage in the First Nation or Métis Community, or First Nation or Métis Organization, based on historical data for at least one prior year; b. Energy generation and consumption broken down by fuel type (i.e. gasoline, propane, wood, diesel, electricity), and consumption data broken down by end use (i.e. residential, commercial, transportation, etc.); c. Energy cost data by fuel type and sector; d. Energy usage trends (i.e., occupancy data, heating, ventilating, cooling, lighting, commercial energy consuming equipment) for residential and commercial buildings; e. A summary of the results of the baseline energy assessment research including a description of the data collection process, methodologies used for data analysis and any energy mapping undertaken; and f. The baseline energy assessment may also include greenhouse gas emissions data and renewable resource potential.
2. Future Energy Needs and Resources	An assessment of the First Nation or Métis Community's, or First Nation or Métis Organization's, future forecasted energy needs, including options for addressing these identified needs (i.e., conservation, energy efficiency, demand management, renewable energy and small-scale generation).

Component	Description
3. Community Engagement	Identification of concrete ways in which the community energy plan has been tailored to the specific strengths, needs and opportunities of the First Nation or Métis Community, or First Nation or Métis Organization, as demonstrated through direct engagement with community members, constituents, and other relevant parties. A description of how engagement will inform the ongoing development, implementation, and updating of the community energy plan must be included. • For a new community energy plan there must be a minimum of three (3) engagements, including one engagement that is specifically geared towards the development of a community energy vision statement as further described below. • For an update to a community energy plan, there must be a minimum of one (1) engagement.
4. Community Energy Vision Statement	A community energy vision statement must be developed and included as part of the community energy plan. • For a new community energy plan, a community energy vision statement should be developed through the targeted community visioning engagement. This engagement should identify the core values and the vision the community holds for its energy future. • For an update to a community energy plan, an update to the community energy vision statement should be developed with input from the community, but does not require a targeted engagement.
5. Short, Medium, and Long Term Energy Goals	Identification of specific energy goals that follow the SMART model (i.e., specific, measurable, actionable, realistic, and time-bound), align with the community energy vision statement, and provide more detailed information about the outcomes that the community seeks to achieve. The goals should be organized into short term (1 year), medium term (2-5 years), and long term (5+ years) time horizons.

Component	Description
6. Implementation Plan	Identification of actionable ways to meet energy needs and achieve community energy goals with a clearly defined implementation plan. For each energy goal, a corresponding list of community energy actions that describe the specific actions to be taken as a pathway to achieving an energy goal must be outlined. Each community energy action under an energy goal must have a corresponding anticipated timeline and estimated budget, as well as a description of the specific funding programs and incentives that may be accessed and the identification of other mechanisms for funding the community energy action. For example: Community Energy Goal: • Community Energy Action 1 a. Anticipated Timeline b. Estimated Budget c. Potential Funding Programs, Incentives and Other Funding Mechanisms

Appendix B – Application Submission and Review Process

Steps	Timeline
Step 1: The Application	The Program Guidelines will help you understand what you need to do. Please thoroughly review the Program Guidelines and the application template prior to starting an application. We are here to support you if you have questions. We encourage you to contact us before you begin your application at IESP@ieso.ca
Step 2: Project Overview Form (POF)	Applicants must submit a Project Overview Form (POF) containing details on the applicant, any Project team members, and high-level details on the Project, including scope, estimated timeline, requested funding amount (for each Project Type), anticipated outcomes, and any other considerations. IESP staff will review POFs on an on-going basis.
Step 3: Interview	Based on the POF, IESP staff may request an interview with the applicant(s) to further discuss project details ahead of formal application submission.
Step 4: Application Submission	Submit your Application Form, including any applicable Appendices and attachments, to IESP@ieso.ca . For more information about application submission timelines, please visit the IESO website . Please be sure to PDF all materials where possible, and ensure you have double checked the submission checklist in the application. Late or incomplete application submissions will not be accepted, unless the IESO has been notified in advance of the intake deadline and agreed to accept an application submission after the intake deadline.
Step 5: Initial Review	Within 30 business days of receiving the application, we will do our best to review it for completeness and eligibility. A clarification and feedback period may be included as part of the initial review to request additional information or amendments to the application. If your application passes the completeness and eligibility review, we will give it a validated time stamp, and communicate to you that it has been accepted for further consideration.

Steps	Timeline
Step 6: Review Committee	Next, the application will be reviewed by a review committee based on the criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines. This can include project scope, feasibility, project team and other considerations related to the program.
Step 7: Notification of Decision	If your application is successful, you will be sent an approval letter by email and offered a Funding Agreement with the IESO (see a sample Funding Agreement). If your application is not successful, you will be notified by email that your application has been rejected, with reasons.



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