

Energy Partnerships Program (EPP)

Media Backgrounder | June 27, 2016

Energy Partnerships Program (EPP)

Indigenous communities, co-operatives, municipalities and public sector entities are eligible to apply for the Energy Partnerships Program (EPP). The program will provide financial support to eligible groups to help them develop economically viable projects and make clean energy choices in their communities.

Clear Rules to Maximize Participation

The EPP streamlines four former programs into one consistent fund. As a result it offers applicants a clear set of rules and guidelines to help make the application process more accessible and efficient.



Applicant and Project Type Eligibility

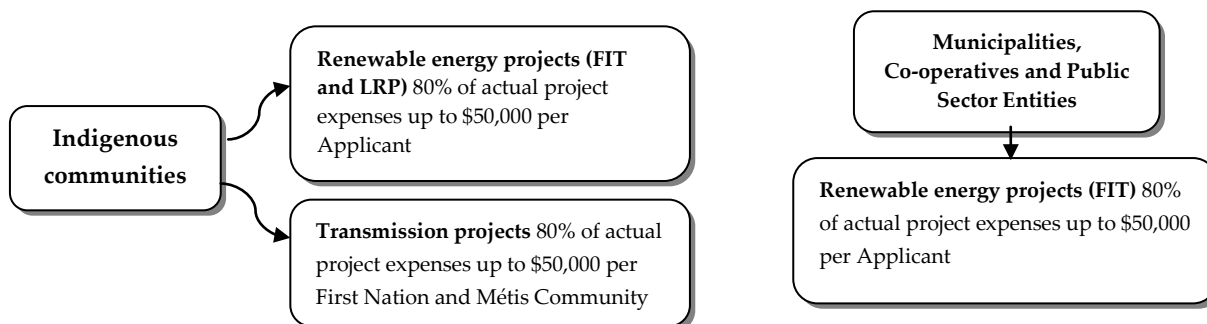
Below is a description and breakdown of the funding streams for the Energy Partnerships Program based on eligible project and applicant types:

Funding Streams	Indigenous Communities	Municipalities, Co-operatives and Public Sector Entities
Partnership Stream Funding for eligible expenses relating to due diligence required to assess and develop opportunities for participation, through Project Partnerships, in Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Projects and, if applicable, Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) Projects and Identified Transmission Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> FIT projects <input type="checkbox"/> LRP projects <input type="checkbox"/> Identified Transmission projects	<input type="checkbox"/> FIT projects
Project Development Stream Funding for eligible expenses associated with developing renewable energy projects under the FIT Program	<input type="checkbox"/> FIT projects	<input type="checkbox"/> FIT projects
Remote Project Development Sub-Stream of the Project Development Stream Funding for eligible expenses associated with developing Remote Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Projects * <i>Only available to identified remote First Nations communities</i>	

Eligible Funding for Program Streams:

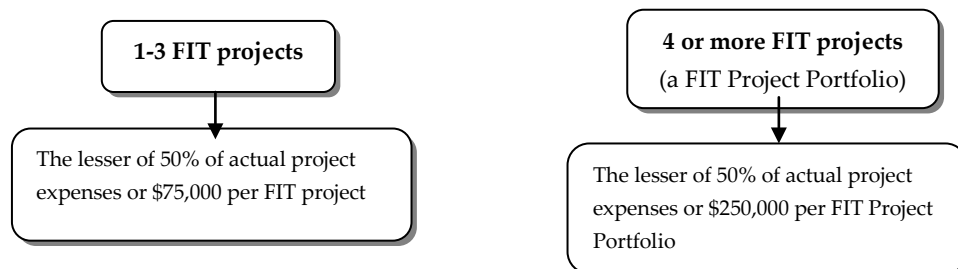
Partnership Stream

Under this stream, the amount of funding available per project type is as follows:



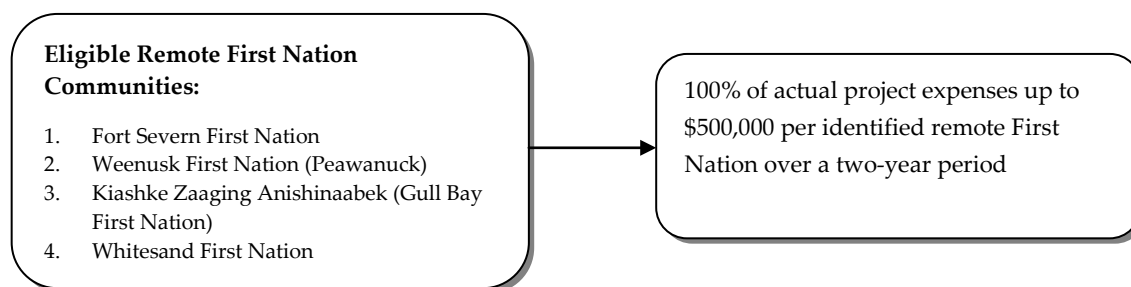
Project Development Stream

Under the Project Development Stream, an applicant may be eligible to apply for funding up to a maximum of \$250,000, depending on the number of FIT projects, broken out as follows:



Remote Projects Development Sub-Stream

This sub-stream will support identified remote First Nation communities with costs associated with the development of energy-based solutions to reduce diesel fuel dependency in their communities.



Budget

The EPP shares an annual Support Programs budget of \$10 million with other existing programs including the EPP, Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program and the Education and Capacity Building Program. The budget is allocated as needed during the year based on anticipated need. In recognition of the funding needs in 2016, the IESO will allocate the unspent Support Programs funds

from the 2015 budget to the \$10 million annual Support Programs budget for 2016, increasing the 2016 budget to \$14 million.

Application Review Process

The EPP application review process consists of three stages:



Building on Past Success

As stated above, the EPP builds on the past success of several former programs.

Below are testimonials from previous funding recipients on how the support programs helped them develop community-based projects.

Greg Goubko, Services Manager, Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC):

“Our organization works hard to develop community-owned renewable energy projects and build broad participation in renewable energy development and conservation activities. The IESO’s project supports were critical in helping us achieve that goal. To date, we’ve secured funding for seven renewable energy projects, totaling about \$330,000, which has assisted with everything from design and development to regulatory approvals. We look forward to the new Energy Partnerships Program and its mandate to help community-based groups access funding to develop viable projects that will help our electricity system be cleaner and greener.”

Read more about TREC, [here](#).

Daniel Bida, Executive Director, ZooShare:

“The Community Energy Partnerships Program has, since ZooShare was initiated, been an essential part of our ability to grow and develop the biogas plant at the Toronto Zoo. Their willingness to co-fund key project expenses allowed us to leverage member loans and procure professional services that we otherwise would not have been able to afford. There are complexities associated with developing projects of any size, so it’s important to know how to access funding resources and the timelines associated with receiving funding. We at ZooShare are excited to see that the IESO has streamlined its program offerings into one program framework under the EPP.”

Read more about ZooShare, North America’s first zoo-biogas plant, [here](#).

Mike Harney, Economic Development Officer, Nipissing First Nation:

“We accessed funding through a predecessor program, the Aboriginal Renewable Energy Fund, to assist with the soft costs associated with a number on-reserve Feed-in Tariff solar development projects, and a recent Large Renewable Procurement wind generation project. When you are entering project development partnerships, you can incur considerable legal and financial advisory costs. Programs like the EPP assist communities in taking that vital step in assessing opportunities for green energy development, and in our case, working towards the achievement of Nipissing First Nations’ energy strategy.”

Links to the application and program page

All program materials, including the budget allocation, program guidelines and application forms, can be found on the EPP web page, [here](#).

About the IESO

The IESO manages the province's power system so that Ontarians receive power when and where they need it. It plans and prepares for future electricity needs and works with its partners to guide conservation efforts. For more information, please visit www.ieso.ca.

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