



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

June 7, 2021

Dear Partners in Wellness,

RE: Northern Indigenous Opioid Response Fund (NIORF)

Since 2016, British Columbia has seen more individuals experience overdoses than ever before in history. Drug overdoses cause more unnatural deaths in BC than car accidents, homicides, and suicides combined. Northern BC is currently experiencing the highest overdose rate that has ever been recorded in Canadian history. Indigenous communities in BC, and especially in the Northern region, are bearing a disproportionate burden in this horrible crisis; overdose rates are nearly 6 times higher among Indigenous people in BC than among non-Indigenous people.

The Northern Indigenous Opioid Response Fund (NIORF) has been established by First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to support local opioid response efforts targeted at Indigenous people who use substances (PWUS). FNHA is partnered with The POUNDS Project for distributing and monitoring the grants awarded from the fund. This fund can be accessed for flexible and creative services that provide low barrier support options to Indigenous PWUS. These interventions and supports can take place across a continuum of health and wellness as it relates to addiction and substance use. Funding may be requested for one-time events, for fixed-term projects, or to supplement existing opioid response work taking place in communities. When applying for funding, applicants must be able to show how their proposed activities/projects/services will have a direct positive impact on Indigenous PWUS in the Northern region of BC.

Any non-profit society or health- or social-service provider that delivers services to Indigenous PWUS in the Northern region of BC may apply for this grant; both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations may be eligible for funding if proposals clearly outline prioritized services for Indigenous PWUS. First Nations communities or service providers directly serving First Nations communities may submit grant proposals for funding to support opioid response efforts within community up to a maximum of \$20,000. Urban-based non-profits or health/social service providers with proposals aimed to serve larger populations of Indigenous PWUS may submit applications requesting up to \$50,000 in grant funds. An application template is included with this package as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions and examples of projects.

Successful harm reduction work requires whole communities to come together and focus on common goals. As such, applications to the NIORF must be supported by a letter of endorsement from a community stakeholder or a member of local leadership. Stakeholders may include community health or political leaders, wellness/addictions workers, Elders, mental health workers,

wellness facilitators, community health team members, or other community champions for harm reduction. Grant administrators can help you identify key stakeholders in your community if needed.

Submissions for this fund will be accepted on a rolling basis until the fund is exhausted. We can provide support in completing the application package if needed; please contact NIORF@thepoundsproject.com with any questions you may have.

Every overdose death caused by a toxic and unpredictable drug supply is preventable. No one is more aware of a community's needs than its own members, and no one is in a better position to imagine creative and compassionate solutions to these deaths than those same community members. Everything will always stay the same if no one does anything differently. Community members know this crisis in a real way, and we believe community members know the way to bring their communities through to the other side of this.

Sincerely,

The POUNDS Project Team

1126 3rd Ave,
Prince George, BC, V2L 3E5
(778) 349-3349



1126 3rd Ave,
Prince George, BC, V2L 3E5
(778) 349-3349

Northern Indigenous Opioid Response Fund (NIORF) Application

Contact Information

Name of Representative Organization:					
Prepared by (Name):			Date Received:		
Title:					
Address:					
City:		Province:		Postal Code:	
Telephone:					
Primary Contact Person:					
Telephone:			Email:		
Secondary Contact Person:					
Telephone:			Email:		



<p>First Nations, Urban Aboriginal or Metis organization</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Who will your Opioid Overdose Response submission serve?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural Northern First Nation <input type="checkbox"/> Urban or Municipal Hotspot</p> <p>Are overdose services available and accessible within your community?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Is your organization a registered harm reduction/take home Naloxone site?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>What geographic health region are you located within?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> North Central</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Northeast</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Northwest</p>

Organizational Information

<p>Please describe your organization (e.g., mission, vision, populations served, etc.)</p>
<p>Does the organization have current partnership with other organizations/entities (e.g., other community-based organizations, primary care providers, Health Authorities, First Nations community, peer-led group etc.)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe the partnership and financial support received (250 words max.)</p>



Please identify and explain how your organization has been involved in rural or community-based overdose prevention and/or opioid response work? Please also note how you have involved or served Indigenous populations to date or how you will approach culturally safe expansion to include Indigenous populations with this grant.

Proposed Community-Based Overdose Prevention and Response Project Description and Activities

This funding can be accessed for flexible purposes that proved low barrier support to people who use substances to access a continuum of support options that meet their level of readiness; some examples are provided below:

1. Naloxone training and/or distribution site
2. Overdose Prevention Services
3. Access to Opioid Agonist Therapy
4. Peer Outreach Position and Compensation
5. Cost recovery for travel to appointments or prescription disbursement fee
6. Peer empowerment and support group or workshop
7. Cultural safety and humility
8. Addressing stigma and shame



Please tell us about your project and how it will positively affect Indigenous people who use substances, peers, and or peer organizations in your community.

Please describe how your project will focus on supporting Indigenous people who use substances in your community while honoring their autonomy and practicing cultural safety?

What is the total # of Indigenous individuals expected to benefit from overdose prevention and opioid response project?



What strategies will be used to engage and sustain relationships with Indigenous people who struggle with substance use?



Proposed Budget

Applicants must include a breakdown of anticipated costs with clear rationale for each area. Please note that we can assist for those unfamiliar with budget projections to complete this section if you are unsure about project cost

Budget Items (Items below are examples)	Northern Indigenous Opioid Funding	Funding from other sources (e.g. Other grants)	Name of other funder/grant (if applicable)	Additional Info / Rationale
Personnel Expenses (Wages + Benefits)				
Coordinator				
Peers*				
Outreach Staff				
Other				
Program Expenses				
Honoraria (ex: Elders)				
Meeting/Communication Expenses				
Rent				
Zoom License				
Other Items				
Total				



Declaration and Signatures

Declaration

I attest that the information provided in this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Representative Organization - Required

Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	Title/organization:
Health Director or other authorized delegate	Date:

How to Apply

Applications must be completed and sent to **The Pounds Project** at NIORF@thepoundsproject.com. Applications will be accepted until available funds are exhausted.



Frequently Asked Questions

What are examples of categories that these funds be used for?

- Food and refreshments offered during opioid outreach work. Examples include portable coffee carafes and paper cups, bagged lunches, muffins or other foods that can be easily and safely (pandemic considerations) distributed during outreach. This funding is intended to allow outreach workers to meet an immediate or basic need (food, warmth) to support establishing rapport during outreach with PWUS. Refreshment costs for an in community opioid response planning session involving peers or PWUS is another example of food costs that would be eligible, in service of opioid response.
- Fees for opioid or mental health related prescription surcharges not covered by FNHB e.g., blister packs, other charges (please describe these and ensure that FNHB does not offer exception coverage).
- Transportation (mileage, cab fare, service vehicle e.g., in-person appointments such as mental health injection or OAT appointment, medication pick-up)
- Compensation for Traditional Wellness, Cultural support during outreach (e.g. a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, medicine bags, etc.)
- Compensating peers who are engaged in outreach work.
- Any other costs that clearly support peer recovery and stabilization.
- Additional expenses beyond the above may be considered, if shared forward via peer engagement or identified in grant submission. FNHA's regional Peer Lead, the Mental Health & Wellness Liaison can support discussions, consideration and approval of criteria expansion informed by regional needs and engagement above, and work to have the agreement amended with additional eligible expenses. The NIORF Administrative role will inform the MH&W Liaison when these additions are identified.

Who can apply for Northern Indigenous Opioid Response Funding (NIORF)?

- Northern First Nations communities
- First Nations in partnership with non-profit or partner organizations who serve their Indigenous members in urban settings in the Northern Region
- Any non-profit society, health or social services partner, or urban based service who delivers services to Indigenous people who use substances (PWUS) in regional municipalities townships or cities in the Northern region

How much funding can we request?

- First Nations communities may submit grant proposals for funding to support opioid response efforts in community up to a maximum of \$20,000.
- Urban based non-profits, health or social service partners or others submitting to serve a larger population of Indigenous PWUS may submit for up to a maximum of \$50,000.



How long does the funding last?

Funds are to be used by March 31, 2022.

How do we complete reporting?

Communities and organizations connect with the FNHA Mental Wellness Liaison on a quarterly basis (every 3 months) to report on spending. The liaison can assist with planning, too, if needed.

If program(s) are successful by the 3rd quarter, and reporting is done, communities and organizations that have the capacity may be considered for additional funding.

We would like some support to complete our application. Who can we connect with?

Please contact NIORF@thepoundsproject.com with any questions you may have or for help with your application.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applications will be accepted *until all funding is used or December 31, 2021*, whichever comes first.

Communities and organizations are urged to complete applications as soon as possible in order to provide services to those who need them.

Where to we send our completed applications?

Please send completed applications to:

The Pounds Project at NIORF@thepoundsproject.com.



Example of projects

A community has a respected Traditional Wellness worker who would like to keep a sacred fire burning on weekends and let people who live with substance use know they are welcome to join. There will be brushing and drumming, with hot coffee and tea and sandwiches available. Funds would be used to get firewood, food, coffee and tea, as well as an honorarium for the Traditional Wellness worker.

An urban Friendship Centre will arrange for people who live with substance use and are taking Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) to get rides to their appointments. The funds will be used to pay for mileage or cab fare, and to provide refreshments to clients while they wait to be picked up.

