



Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF) Q&A

What is the HSIF?

HSIF is a five year initiative funded by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to support collaborative planning among First Nations communities/organizations, provincial ministries/agencies and Health Canada, through multi-year projects aimed at advancing the integration of health services in order to better meet the health care needs of First Nations and Inuit. HSIF implementation in Ontario will support broad level health service integration that has a wide geographic reach and impacts a broad First Nations population base. HSIF will move beyond support for small or localized community-level projects and enable sustained health system change through a focus on broader-scale projects which will encourage more collective First Nations engagement in health planning and delivery.

What HSIF objectives should Potential HSIF Proposals Respond To?

- *Improve the integration of federal and provincially/territorially funded health services;
- *Build multi-party partnerships to advance the integration of health services that are better suited to the health needs of First Nations people;
- *Improve access to health services;
- *Improve the participation of First Nations peoples in the design, delivery and evaluation of health programs and services; and
- *Allow for a broader engagement of partners, regions and provinces/territories that is more likely to lead to significant and lasting improvement in the integration of health systems.

What does "Integration" mean?

"Integration" refers to the integration of federally and provincially funded health services in order to improve the continuity of health services in First Nations communities. Health Service Integration includes linkages between services and/or access to other local health services.

Integration within HSIF projects will occur through collaborative partnerships that will result in more joint activities and more comprehensive health planning between federal and provincial health systems. Health service integration will require coordinated efforts by many partners and jurisdictions involved in the planning and delivery of health services. Health service integration activities through HSIF will not impact existing First Nations bilateral or trilateral arrangements, initiatives or any existing funding agreements pertaining to health services.

How is HSIF Linked to the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF)?

While HSIF is the successor program to the AHTF, it is not a renewal of the AHTF or a roll-over of funding to support the continuation of activities undertaken under AHTF. HSIF is meant to capitalize on lessons learned and successful partnerships established among First Nations, provincial and federal representatives from both AHTF as well as other health service integration partnerships that have relevance to HSIF.



How does HSIF work in Ontario?

An HSIF Advisory Committee was launched in September 2011 and is made up of representatives from the Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians, Grand Council Treaty #3, the Union of Ontario Indians, the Independent First Nations, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the Local Health Integration Network and FNIHB. This Committee conducts its work under the guidance of a Terms of Reference and Integration Plan developed by the Committee and approved by Health Canada. The Integration Plan, accessible on the abovementioned websites, sets out Ontario First Nation priorities and a detailed workplan for moving forward.

Where can I find HSIF documents?

<http://ourtimeourhealth.ca>

<http://www.lhins.on.ca>

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/services/access/index-eng.php>

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/serives/access/oll-rlr-eng.php>

What is the Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee (TFNHSOC)?

The TFNHSOC, established in September 2011, is a senior level committee with representation from Ontario First Nations as well as provincial and federal government Assistant Deputy Ministers of Health. TFNHSOC is chaired by Grand Chief Stan Beardy and provincial and federal Assistant Deputy Ministers. The main objective of this Committee is to work collaboratively in identifying and implementing practical measures on specific priority areas.

What is the Link Between HSIF And TFNHSOC?

HSIF is linked to the work of TFNHSOC but remains distinct because of its accountability requirements. Copies of the TFNHSOC Terms of Reference and Schematic are available upon request to yeshodara.naidoo@hc-sc.gc.ca

Is HSIF First Nation-Specific?

Eligible recipients for HSIF projects include First Nations health organizations, communities and Tribal Councils which deliver health services. Non-government organizations which are not health service providers may be partners in the projects or considered for receiving project funds in appropriate circumstances. All Health Canada approved HSIF projects in Ontario will be led by Ontario First Nations however First Nations are required to approach provincial organizations to collaborate with them on the implementation of HSIF projects. Provincial organizations that have HSIF project ideas are asked to approach First Nations to collaborate with them on HSIF projects led by First Nations.

How is HSIF implemented in Ontario?

On **December 20, 2011** The Advisory Committee issued a call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) to First Nations communities and organizations, Tribal Councils, Local Health Integration Networks and provincial agencies to indicate their interest in moving forward on HSIF projects. The Committee will announce approved LOIs and funding to support proposal development on **February 21, 2012**. On this date the Committee will also issue a Request For HSIF project proposals with an **April 4, 2012** deadline. Fully developed HSIF project proposal approval announcements will follow FNIHB approvals.



Ontario First Nations Priorities for HSIF Projects

HSIF projects need to address any of the following four priorities as described in the Ontario HSIF Integration Plan: 1. Mental Health & Addictions with a focus on Prescription Drug Abuse; 2. Diabetes Prevention and Management; 3. Public Health; 4. Data Management. Projects may also address other First Nations evidence-based health priorities as indicated by Band Council Resolution or other documentation.

When and How is HSIF Funding Allocated?

The Advisory Committee submits recommendations to FNIHB for funding approval. In 2011-12 approval was provided for FN capacity development, HSIF LOI and project proposal development and regional information sessions to be undertaken by Ontario Political/Territorial Organizations and Independent First Nations.