 Community Initiative Grant - Call for Proposals

 Deadline for the first round of applications: July 17, 2015

NADF’s Community Initiative Grant fund call for proposals is now open and will be accepting proposals/applications until July 17, 2015. A maximum of $10,000 can be approved for each project and the grant is non-repayable. The applicant will be required to contribute 10% of the projected cost of the activity in cash.

Qualifying applicants will be Aboriginal organizations that are non-profit organizations, associations, social enterprise, and/or First Nations (not individuals) to cover costs related to economic planning and development.

The purpose of the funding is to increase economic development opportunities, to respond to challenges faced by Aboriginal people, and to advance projects supported by the local or regional community. Applicants may be required to prove they fall within the NADF service area, as only applications from within NADF’s service area will be considered. This is the first call for proposals and depending on the amount of applications received and funds requested, there is a possibility that a second call for proposals/applications will be done in September.

**Eligible Activities**

* Economic planning and development, studies for pre-feasibility and feasibility, market assessments, community situation assessments, SWOT analysis, business and financial planning, negotiations, environmental, evaluation/assessment reports, information gathering, and diagnostic studies;
* Construction, architectural, engineering and project design activities;
* Small scale capital projects (i.e. portable sawmill, chainsaws);
* Marketing/promotional activities, community tourism and cultural events and or community-based activities that enhance the local economy, including some travel costs;
* Skills development including entrepreneurship, management and technical training;
* Project monitoring and business advisory or support services.

**The following business activities are not eligible for support:**

* Community infrastructure development unrelated to the development or expansion of commercial enterprise, such as public office buildings, recreation and friendship centres, gaming houses, and public halls.
* Direct alcohol production, marketing, distribution or sales
* Games of chance operations, casinos, bingo halls, small scale gaming operations etc.
* Sexually exploitive, materials, services, products, marketing, distribution and sales, and
* Pawn shops, cheque cashers, finance companies and others, making small, short-term, high interest rate loans that go by a variety of names: Payday loans, cash advance loans, cheque advance loans, post-dated cheque loans or deferred deposit cheque loans, and
* Projects which create a financial dependency on government programs.
* Projects not specifically related to economic and business development outcomes; that is, job creation, potential and/or immediate economic impact to eligible communities.

*Reporting*

A final report evidencing that the project activity has been completed along with proof the projected outcomes have been achieved is required prior to the disbursement of the final cheque. The successful applicant will be sent a letter of offer to sign to indicate acceptance of the terms.

In general, approved projects will be initially allocated 50-75% of the project costs with the remainder of the project costs paid once an acceptable final report is submitted. In all cases, supporting documentation such as invoices will be required in order to have the funds dispersed. We will make payments directly to the supplier/vendor/contractor.

Attached is a copy of the application form. Completed applications can be faxed or emailed.

Submit applications to:

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund

 Financial Support Services

### 100 Anemki Drive, Suite 107

### Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1J4

 Email: financialservices@nadf.org

 Fax: (807) 622-8271

Phone: (807) 623-5397

 Toll Free: 1-800-465-6821

Funding Provided by:

******

APPLICATION CRITERIA:

Applications/proposals must outline the following

1. How the project benefits the local community and its members.
2. A timeline from beginning to completion. Projects should be completed by December 31st, 2015.
3. Must identify that the funds are being utilized for only new activity, that is, the funds must be used for only those activity related expenses that have occurred after the grant has been approved. Funds cannot be used to pay for expenses that were incurred prior to the grant approval date.
4. The amount of funding required for the project. The project must be completed within the forecasted funding requirements, i.e. once the project is complete there should be no further funding required.
5. Must identify how the project enhances the ability for the region to create new jobs and/or develops the skills of individuals in order to increase the chances of qualifying for a job.
6. Must identify how the project creates an opportunity for new business and/or business expansion.
7. Must identify how the project introduces new technology and/or e-commerce into the region.
8. The application must include an evaluation mechanism for assessing the success of the project, for example, the amount of jobs created or the economic impact to the local community.
9. Proof the applicant has the required 10% cash contribution. For example, if the project cost is $10,000 the applicant will apply for $9,000 but will have to have the 10% of the project costs on-hand, i.e. $1,000.