



# Growing AHS in BC Provincial Initiative



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the AHS CHILD CARE SERVICES EXPANSION in BC?**

The BC and Canadian Governments, under the Early Learning and Child Care agreement, support Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion in BC. The Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSABC) is providing the **Growing AHS in BC** plan and leading the Implementation process. Once the new AHS communities are selected, AHSABC will work closely and support the development, implementation and quality monitoring for all new **AHS Child Care Services**. AHSABC will provide ongoing support and training to new AHS communities through their leadership in management and program design.

### **What is the GROWING AHS IN BC Initiative?**

**Growing AHS in BC** is intended to provide **NEW AHS** licensed child care spaces **IN URBAN AREAS** that are offered to families at no cost, support children with extra support needs, and commit to providing a respectful working wage for the Early Childhood profession.

FMI about types of programs covered by this funding, go to: <https://www.ahsabc.com/growinginbc>

### **Is this funding for OFF-RESERVE or On-Reserve programs?**

This is an urban or OFF-reserve initiative; however, First Nations Health Authority will also be expanding their AHS On Reserve (AHSOR) programs. Please visit their website at: <http://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/aboriginal-head-start-on-reserve-program-expansion-for-bc-first-nations-communities>

### **What is your definition of urban? Is there a population threshold?**

In this case, urban means off-reserve. It's not the *size* of the community that matters, but the **NEED** for AHS Child Care Services that can be demonstrated, as well as the support of community organizations to make it a successful venture.

### **If there is an On-Reserve head start in the area, will that affect the likelihood of success for applicants?**

If this level of service is lacking in your community and the need for it can be demonstrated, then the presence of an On-Reserve program nearby will not affect your ability to qualify.

### **Who can submit an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)?**

- Non-profit Aboriginal Organizations
- Organizations who **already have** the federally-funded **AHSUNC program** in their communities and need AHS Child Care Services
- Aboriginal Organizations in communities that **DO NOT have AHS** programming and have a need for AHS Child Care Services.
- For a detailed list of eligibility, please visit: <https://www.ahsabc.com/growinginbc>

### **How will funding be allocated for CAPITAL and OPERATIONAL COSTS?**

Funding is for the development and delivery of **new** licensed AHS child care services in urban locations:

- CAPITAL costs will be considered up to the maximum \$600,000.
- OPERATING costs will be based on a per licensed child care space rate, not to exceed \$500,000 per funded program.



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## What documents do we need to submit with our EOI?

### E.O.I. Stage One Required Documents Check List

- Terms of Reference, Constitution, etc., for your organization
- Certificate of Good Standing
- Community Needs Assessment; Recommendation from Licensing Officer; Wait list, etc.
- Letter of support from each Partner Organization listed (minimum of 2)
- Scanned final page of EOI form with signature

## When is the deadline to submit an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST?

EOI Submissions must be received by AHSABC by April 30, 2018 by 4:30 pm PDT

## From the time of approval, when does the program have to officially start? (i.e., How long do we have to set-up the program?)

For the successful proponents, work begins on July 20, 2018.

The new AHS Child Care Services must be fully operational by December 2019.

## Will there be another call for interest in the future or is this the only opportunity on the horizon?

If there are not enough organizations to qualify for the \$6.5 Million fund in this round of proposals, then another EOI will be launched in the summer or fall of 2018 to invite more communities to apply.

## I wasn't able to attend the scheduled Webinars. Would it be possible to get a copy of the presentation to share with my organization?

To request a copy of the Webinar presentation, send us an email request for a copy in PDF or PPT format. We are happy to share it with you!

Please email: [admin@ahsabc.com](mailto:admin@ahsabc.com)

## Can I receive support to submit and implement our EXPRESSION OF INTEREST?

If you require assistance please contact: [executivedirector@ahsabc.com](mailto:executivedirector@ahsabc.com)

Additional information can be found on our website at <https://www.ahsabc.com/growinginbc>

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ABORIGINAL HEAD START (AHS) is an early intervention program that provides early learning and care experiences for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children (from birth to 6 years of age) and their families living in urban settings across the country. AHS is based on caring, creativity and pride following from the knowledge of traditional community beliefs, within a holistic and safe environment. As a proven 'Family Wellness' program, AHS programming can provide Indigenous children, their parents and families with a positive sense of themselves, a desire for learning, and opportunities to develop fully within a caring and supportive community.