

Investing in Women's Futures Program Expansion

Questions & Answers

1. What is the Investing in Women's Futures (IWF) Program?

- The Investing in Women's Futures program funds women-centred organizations in Ontario to deliver a range of flexible programs and services to:
 - Promote economic empowerment and resilience,
 - Foster well-being, social inclusion and engagement, and
 - Respond to and prevent gender-based violence (GBV).

2. What is the expansion of the IWF Program about?

- The expansion will fund up to 10 new service locations with up to \$150,000 in on-going funding. The funding will be pro-rated for the 2022-23 fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- It will also help to expand the reach of the program to serve more women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals from under-represented groups and increase access to the IWF program in communities that currently do not have a service delivery site.

3. Why are only 10 additional sites being funded?

- This new investment of \$1.5M to expand by up to 10 additional sites represents the largest expansion of the IWF program since its inception.
- In addition, the Ministry will fund current recipients on an on-going basis and increase funds to \$150,000, which also represents a significant commitment to the program.
- The Ministry will continue to evaluate the needs of communities across Ontario to inform future investments.

4. How will successful organizations be selected?

- The Office of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity (OWSEO) will select successful applicants to deliver the expanded IWF program using a fair, transparent, and rigorous process.
- Successful sites will be selected based on a variety of evaluation criteria, such as organizational capacity, alignment with program objectives, demonstrated need, and financial stability.
- More information can be found in the Investing in Women's Future's Program Application Guidelines at ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government

5. My organization is not located in the prioritized Census Divisions. Am I eligible to apply?

- The new investment represents the largest expansion of the program since its inception. A data-driven approach has been used to identify where in Ontario there is a higher number of Newcomer women, Visible Minority, Indigenous,

Francophone, rural women. The impact of gender-based violence, poverty, and low-income was also part of this analysis.

- Census Divisions have been prioritized for the expansion based on a number of intersecting data-driven factors (such as those noted above), as well as areas where there are currently no service delivery sites to further expand the reach of the IWF program. Organizations outside of the prioritized Census Divisions who can demonstrate a need for services are encouraged to apply.
- All applicants will be provided with equal opportunity to demonstrate community need and how they will deliver proposed services based on relevant evaluation criteria (i.e., women-centred; capacity to deliver IWF services; financial viability, etc.).
- Applications that best demonstrate need and capacity to deliver services will be considered.
- Please refer to the application guidelines for the full eligibility criteria.

6. As an organization that serves Indigenous women, am I eligible to apply?

- Applications are welcome from organizations that serve the Indigenous community. In order to be eligible, please refer to the application guidelines, which include but are not limited to the following criteria:
 - Be a community-based, non-profit organization or Indigenous groups including band councils, tribal council, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations providing services and programs to women as its main priority
 - Be Ontario-based entities in existence since January 1, 2021 or before, including those that are established by or under legislation; are federally or provincially incorporated; or are band councils as defined under the *Indian Act, Canada*.

7. As an organization that serves Francophone women, am I eligible to apply?

- Applications are welcome from organizations that serve the Francophone community. Under the *French Language Services Act (FLSA)*, organizations are required to take appropriate measures to ensure Active Offer of French Language Services (FLS) in [designated areas in Ontario](#).

8. How long is the application period open?

- Applications will open on September 27, 2022 and remain open for 6 weeks, closing at 5:00 PM on November 8, 2022. Following the application closing, the Ministry will require time to assess the applications.

9. When will successful applicants for the up to 10 new service delivery sites be notified?

- The Ministry is anticipating that successful organizations will be notified before the end of 2022.

10. How much funding should our organization apply for?

- Organizations may apply for annual funding of up to \$150,000 per fiscal year (April to March). Please complete your Budget based on provision of IWF services for one fiscal year only (total \$150,000).
- If successful, organizations will receive \$150,000 on an on-going basis annually.

11. Once selected, are program recipients eligible to receive start up funding?

- A prorated amount of funding will be determined for 2022-23 activities once successful applicants are notified.

12. What is the deadline to apply to this Call for Applications?

- The new program locations will be selected through a call for applications, which is open to eligible organizations starting September 27 and closing on November 8, 2022.
- In order to be considered, proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM on November 8, 2022.

13. I currently deliver the Investing in Women's Futures program. Am I eligible to apply to deliver at a new location?

- The 23 current IWF service providers are eligible to apply to provide IWF services to a new geographic area and/or community of need.
- We would also encourage partnerships with other organizations (for example, a Women's Centre could partner with a shelter or newcomer centre), to ensure strong community outreach, support and access to IWF services.
- Applications must clearly explain and demonstrate how the services provided are unique and different than what is currently available at an existing IWF location.

14. What if I have questions about the application?

- Information sessions will be available to applicants on the following dates:
 - October 5, 2022 at 10:30am (English)
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
 - October 6, 2022 at 10:30am (French)
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
 - October 13, 2022 at 2pm (English)
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Technical questions about the application form on the TPON site may be directed to:
 - Toll-free: 1-855-216-3090
 - TTY: 416-325-3408
 - Email: TPONCC@ontario.ca
- IWF specific questions may be sent to OWSEOgeneralinquiry@ontario.ca

