

Green Stream Intake 2

General

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- 1. How do applicants get in touch with an ICIP representative for their Green stream questions?**

For all program-related questions the primary contact is ICIPGreen@ontario.ca.

For technical issues related to the submission of your application form or other supporting documents, please contact Transfer Payment Ontario Client Care at 416-325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090 or email TPONCC@ontario.ca for assistance.

MOI will be conducting several webinars beginning in July 2021 to support program questions and encourages applicants to attend these sessions for further information and application support.

- 2. Our project manager/project lead will not be able to/could not attend the webinar. Will/has this session been recorded so they can be viewed on our own?**

Yes, the webinar sessions will be recorded and can be found on the ICIP Green Stream page on Ontario.ca.

- 3. What are the relevant deadlines?**

The relevant deadline is the application intake which will close on September 9th, 2021. Furthermore, under this intake, subject to obtaining federal approval, projects must start no later than September 30, 2022 (this can include design/engineering work) and complete no later than October 31, 2026.

Applicant Eligibility

- 1. Can an eligible applicant submit applications for multiple projects?**

No, only one project application (individual or joint) per applicant will be considered.

2. Can eligible applicants who applied and received funding in the first intake apply again in the second intake?

Yes. Eligible applicants that applied for and received funding from the first intake will be able to apply for the second intake as long as the application is not for the same project that is still ongoing (i.e. cannot be for the same ICIP green project, unless the project is 100% completed with no additional funding flowing). The application could also be for a component of the broader ICIP green project that is not covered under original funding.

Intake two will be a competitive process, and funding approval is not guaranteed.

3. Can applicants reapply if they were not successful in Green Intake I?

Yes, but they will be required to submit an updated application package in the TPON system.

4. Is there any flexibility on the 100,000-population cap?

No, to ensure funding is targeted to communities that need it most funding is only available to communities with populations less than 100,000 according to the 2016 Canadian Census.

5. Would an upper tier municipality be able to apply in partnership with one or more lower tier municipalities?

Upper tier municipalities with populations over 100,000 are not eligible to apply for stand-alone projects or as the lead applicant to this intake. Only upper tier municipalities serving populations of 100,000 or less can be the lead applicant.

Upper and/or lower tier municipalities that are contributing to a project based on established cost sharing practices should not be listed as a co-applicant; that funding should be listed as part of the recipient contribution. This would not be considered a joint project, and the cost-share of the upper or lower tier that does not own the asset would be included as part of the recipient's contribution. The lead applicant will be required to sign a transfer payment agreement with the province and also enter into a partnership agreement with the other eligible co-applicant(s) that will be contributing to the project.

If you have more questions about this, please contact ICIPGreen@ontario.ca

6. The guidelines indicate that I must own the asset in order to partake in this stream, how do I apply to this stream if I share an asset with another municipality?

If you share the asset with another municipality, you could submit a joint application. The owner and operator of the asset must be the lead applicant in this case. If you submit a joint application with another municipality, you are foregoing your opportunity to submit a stand-alone request for funding. The lead applicant will be required to sign a transfer payment agreement with the province and also enter into a partnership agreement with the other eligible co-applicant(s) that will be contributing to the project.

Application Process

1. Can I apply for a project idea that does not have a specific outcome defined yet?

The application must include a clearly defined scope of work in order to enable a comprehensive assessment of the project (financial, technical, risk, etc.). For example, an application must clearly define the problem in terms of existing health and safety issues/risks and the construction activities that will be undertaken to address the issue.

Note that all costs associated with preparing the application (including feasibility studies or preliminary design/engineering work) are ineligible for funding and should not be included in the scope or financials of the application. Under this intake, subject to obtaining federal approval, projects must start by September 30, 2022 (this can include design/engineering work) and complete no later than October 31, 2026.

2. Is there any way that projects addressing critical health and safety risks, but not including any capital components, will be considered for funding?

No, to be eligible for funding, projects must include a capital component. Planning and design costs associated with the project that are incurred after federal approval may be eligible but cannot be the only costs. Note that any costs, associated contracts entered into, or incurred before federal approval are ineligible for reimbursement, except for costs related to applicable climate lens assessments, and Indigenous consultation costs.

3. Is there a need for a Technical Letter from engineering consultants for the project?

No, this is not required. See the checklist on the last page of the technical

schedule for a full list of required supporting documents which will depend on the answers to questions in the technical schedule.

- 4. In the first intake of the ICIP Green stream, the Aboriginal Consultation, Environmental Assessment Smart Form and KML file were not required during the application submission. Do we have to include these documents with our application in this intake?**

Yes, the AC and EA Smart Form and KML file are required at the time of application submission. MOI will consider your application to be incomplete if these documents are not submitted at the time of application. Please review the program guidelines to ensure that all the necessary documents are submitted at the time of application. Please refer to the application and guidelines for a fulsome list of all the documents which need to be submitted for a complete submission.

- 5. Would requests for sole source procurement exemptions be allowed?**

Any requests for sole source procurement exemptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and requires pre-approval by the federal and provincial governments. Sole source procurement is not encouraged as approval of this procurement method is not guaranteed and a strong justification must be provided.

If internal staff costs will be sought as expenses on the project or if you are intending to award a contract in a way that is not competitive and consistent with value for money, there must be a mitigation plan in place in the event that any such request is denied.

If you are considering any of these types of costs, you must contact ICIPGreen@ontario.ca as soon as possible as further documentation will be required.

Project Eligibility

- 1. Would a new water tower to replace an older storage/booster pump system be eligible for this intake? There is no existing water tower but there is a small storage system with booster pumps.**

The new tower may be eligible provided that replacing the storage/booster pump system is increasing access to potable water for the existing population, and not simply increasing the capacity of the drinking water system for forecasted growth. The application would have to clearly demonstrate and provide evidence to this

effect.

- 2. Would the extension of a line be an eligible project, if it is necessary to contribute to water pressure and health and safety improvements for residents?**

If the project demonstrates that it will be addressing a critical health and/or safety risk for the existing population, it may be eligible. In all cases, to be eligible the application must demonstrate that new/reconstruction components are not for the purposes of increasing capacity of a drinking water system to service increased demand from residential or commercial end users but rather to address an existing health and safety concern.

- 3. What if I want to bundle my drinking water project with a wastewater/stormwater project? Are those components eligible for funding?**

Wastewater/stormwater components are not eligible under this intake unless they are having a direct and immediate impact on water potability in the community (e.g., rehabilitation is necessary to address cross-contamination). Only in this case can these secondary assets be eligible for funding. Otherwise these components should not be included in your application form.

If you have a project that is similar to this case, please reach out to ICIPGreen@ontario.ca in advance to determine eligibility.

- 6. Would a project that is intended to address a potential and future health and safety concern be eligible for funding?**

The intention of this intake is to focus on imminent, critical health and safety risks. This means that the risk must exist already. Projects that are preventative in nature or forward-looking are not as likely to assess well compared to others with existing advisories or concerns in place that need to be addressed immediately.

Project Cap and Cost-Shares

- 1. If the total project cost exceeds the \$5 million funding cap (example: a \$7 million project), is the project eligible?**

Applicants may apply for up to \$5 million in total eligible costs (including contingency). The federal and provincial cost share of this eligible cost is set out in the program guidelines.

For example, a municipality applies for an update to a water treatment plant for the full \$5 million project cap, the funding breakdown could look like:

- Federal government (40%) – \$2,000,000
- Provincial government (33.33%) – \$1,666,500
- Municipality (26.67%) – \$1,333,500

Any costs above this would be deemed ineligible, and the responsibility of the applicant to cover.

Applicants must scope their project to reflect a project that is aligned with this maximum. Work that represents costs more than \$5 million in total eligible costs should not be part of the application for funding.

2. Does each partner get to apply for up to \$5M in a joint project?

Yes. Each partner in a joint project may apply for up to \$5M in eligible costs for their project.

3. Is provincial or federal stacking permitted under this program? It is only stipulated that federal funds may not exceed the 40% laid out in the guidelines.

In general, no. Applicants cannot submit a project for this intake with the same components that is being funded by other provincial programs, however they can submit an application for different components.

Applicants may use Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund formula-based funding towards the recipient cost-share.

Technical Schedule Questions

1. Under Section 1.5 – Criteria for Assessment if a section is not applicable to the project, should it be left blank or contain “Not Applicable”?

Applicants are asked to provide information in response to the technical schedules only insofar as it is applicable to their system/jurisdiction. If certain questions or components of questions do not apply, applicants are asked to provide a related quantitative measure that can be used to assess existing health and safety issues or if not applicable, respond with N/A.

- 2. Section 5.1.7 – with regards to rate structures and costs to residents, should these depict monthly or annual charges that would be applied?**

Annual rate charges are preferred.

- 3. For question 6 in the technical schedule, do we have to provide the infrastructure leakage index?**

This question only applies to applicants with water distribution infrastructure. Those that do not have a distribution system can answer N/A.

For applicants with water distribution infrastructure serving their community, if you do not use the infrastructure leakage index please provide an equivalent, quantitative measure that that can be used to evaluate the volume of water put into the distribution system versus the volume delivered to customers.

If an applicant does not use the infrastructure leakage index and does not have an equivalent quantitative measure, then this question can be left aside (or responded to with 'N/A'), which will not adversely impact the assessment of the applicant's project.