

GRANT GUIDELINES

Indigenous- Led Gambling Harm Reduction and Community Capacity Building Grant

Overview

The Gambling Capacity Building Grant is established in partnership with [Community Action Initiative](#) (CAI), the [Ministry of Health \(MoH\)](#) and [Gambling Supports B.C.](#), and is informed by the needs of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous service providers, Nations and community organizations. The Capacity Building Grant offers funding of up to \$45,000 per year over a two-year period, to a maximum total of \$90,000 per grantee. It is available to First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous-led organizations delivering services to Indigenous communities in British Columbia. This funding is intended to support community-based capacity-building strategies aimed at reducing gambling-related harms and connections with co-occurring mental health and substance use considerations, including but not limited to:

- **Preparedness:** Assess community needs and resources to respond to gambling harms, such as collecting local data on prevalence, awareness, and risk factors, informing future planning and early identification strategies.
- **Prevention:** Create and deliver culturally grounded public education workshops and materials that raise awareness of gambling harms and promote safer behaviours within the community.
- **Response:** Establish a wrap-around support pathway that integrates counselling, cultural supports, and referral services for individuals and families experiencing gambling-related harms.
- **Recovery:** Deliver land-based healing and cultural reconnection programming, including access to Traditional Medicines and Indigenous games, to support wholistic, community-led recovery.
- Other capacity building initiatives, as determined by your organization or Nation
- For further examples, see the Grant Guidelines ([Appendix A](#)).

Guidelines

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Timeline

Grant Process	Key Dates
Applications open	June 1, 2026
Applications close	July 3, 2026
Review and selection process	June – August 2026
Applicants notified of decisions	September 2026
Grant awards distributed	November 2026
Project activities completed and funding spent by	October 2028

For any questions and application support, please contact:

- Samantha Young, Project Manager, Support Recovery– Community Action Initiative
- Syoung@caibc.ca , 236-334-8240

How can funding be used?

Proposed activities must align with [Gambling Support BC’s Indigenous-led Gambling Harm Reduction and Community Capacity Building Framework](#). Grant funds can be used for expenses such as program and event supplies, equipment, technology, temporary staff wages (short term contracts) and benefits, honoraria, travel expenses, consultant fees, staff training, administrative costs, resources, and other expenses related to your proposed capacity building initiative.

Please see [Appendix A](#) for further details and examples on how grant funding can be used in alignment with the Framework.

Who can request funding?

This funding opportunity is open to organizations in B.C. who meet all the criteria below:

- Are a First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or urban Indigenous led organization**
 - *Funding is open to any of the following agencies, organizations, and communities in B.C.: First Nations, Bands, and/or Tribal Councils; Treaty First Nation Governments; Métis Nation Chartered Communities; B.C. not-for-profit organizations or B.C. registered charities that are First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or urban Indigenous led.*

** Indigenous-led organizations are those where Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) have primary decision-making authority in both governance and day-to-day operations. Indigenous leadership shapes the organization's priorities and accountability, and Indigenous people are represented throughout all staffing levels.*

- Organizations must be in good standing with CAI and demonstrate sufficient organizational capacity to deliver the proposed work, including established HR, financial, and staffing structures, sustainable operational funding, and appropriate infrastructure.
- The requested funding may not exceed 50% of the organization's annual revenue.
- Please note:** Service operators or organizations can apply for one grant per organization. If your organization operates multiple sites, you can apply for one grant to be used across multiple sites.
- If you are unsure about eligibility, please contact Samantha Young, Syoung@caibc.ca

How to apply

The application process was created to be as low barrier as possible. It has two options for submitting with an emphasis on orally sharing your organization's story and proposal.

Option 1: Online Application (Tahua)

Complete and submit the application form through our online grant system, Tahua, including:

1. Organization profile
2. Project proposal
3. Project budget
4. Certificate of Insurance
5. WorkSafe Clearance Letter
6. Proof of society registration or charitable status (First Nation Bands are exempt from this requirement)
7. Consent and declaration

Option 2: Oral Application (30 minutes max)

Schedule a virtual call with the Project Manager to complete your application orally prior to the application deadline using this [link](#). You will still need to complete the following:

1. Project budget
2. Certificate of Insurance

3. WorkSafe Clearance Letter
4. Proof of society registration or charitable status (First Nation Bands are exempt from this requirement)
5. Consent and declaration

Please note:

If additional clarification is required during the review process, eligible applicants may be invited to participate in a brief online or phone call (approximately 15 minutes) with the grant review committee. This conversation provides an opportunity to further discuss the application, share additional details about proposed activities, and respond to any questions. Applicants may also receive feedback or suggestions at this time. If required, these calls will take place between **July and August 2026**.

GSBC will offer three date options for a 1.5-hour learning workshop following the announcement of funding decisions in **October 2026**. This workshop will help successful grant recipients learn about GSBC's gambling harm reduction resources and how to use them to put their project into action.

Distribution of funding to organizations will be dependent on workshop attendance.

*Applicants that are not successful in receiving a grant may reach out directly to GSBC for resources and/or training workshops to support their community in reducing gambling harms.

After the initial learning workshop, optional community of practice workshops will be offered to recipients throughout the grant term. In addition, recipients can request additional resources to support the reduction of gambling harms as needed.

Funded projects will include semi-annual check-in calls and annual reporting requirements to support ongoing learning, accountability, and project tracking.

Contact information

For application support or for more information about the selection process, please contact:

- Samantha Young, Project Manager, Support Recovery– Community Action Initiative
- Syoun@caibc.ca , 236-334-8240

Resources

The resources listed below are provided to help you with your application and to show what supports already exist. We encourage applicants to think about how their project can build on and complement these services, rather than duplicate them. These supports are available across BC and can be accessed

directly, including free and confidential counselling through TELUS Health, as well as other community and publicly funded programs that offer information, education, self-exclusion options, counselling, and recovery supports for individuals, families, and communities.

- [Game Break \(BCLC Self-Exclusion Program\)](#)
A program that helps people voluntarily ban themselves from BC casinos, gaming centres, and online gambling sites to support control over gambling.
- [GameSense / PlayNow Support and Resources](#)
Offers tools, information, and live chat with GameSense advisors to help people make informed choices about gambling and stay within their limits.
- [Gambling Support BC \(GSBC\) – 24/7 Help Line](#)
Free, confidential support for anyone in BC affected by gambling, including individuals and family members. Available 24/7 through TELUS Health.
- [Gambling Harm Information and Self-Assessment Tool \(GSBC\)](#)
Explains how gambling can impact health, finances, work, and relationships, and includes a self-check tool to help people understand their gambling risks.
- [Gambling Support BC Website \(Home Page\)](#)
Central hub for gambling support in BC with information, contact details, and resources for both the public and professionals.

Appendix A: Grant Objectives for Gambling Harm Reduction and Wellness & Project Examples

Grant Objectives	Intent	Project Examples: Capacity Building
<p>1. Preparedness</p> <p>Getting ready as a community (e.g. systemic measures, identifying risk through training supports, community wide early risk detection, integrating tools for community supports,</p>	<p>To help communities be ready to notice, understand, and respond to harm from gambling by using information, planning, and early warning signs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a community tool to collect information about gambling harm and awareness (Some tools can be provided by GSBC to support this work). • Conduct a community needs assessment, including hiring short-term staff to collect and review information • Create a community engagement and feedback plan to guide outreach and participation

<p>individual/player focused tools)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add screening and early identification tools to current services • Train staff and community members to recognize early signs of harm
<p>2. Prevention Stopping harm before it happens (e.g. public awareness, targeted education, outreach intervention, community-based initiatives, Nation-based, community and cultural components)</p>	<p>To lower the risk of gambling harm by raising awareness, building strengths, and offering education that is easy to access and culturally meaningful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include gambling harm questions in mental health intake and treatment services • Ensure staff have the skills to support prevention and harm reduction • Create easy-to-understand education materials, such as brochures, videos, or social media posts • Support staff to attend trainings or events on gambling harm prevention and recovery • Deliver community workshops and outreach programs
<p>3. Response Helping when harm happens (e.g. resource integration, accessibility, counselling resources, wrap-around response, Indigenous spiritual or cultural integration)</p>	<p>To make sure people experiencing gambling harm can get timely, wrap-around, and culturally safe support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to counselling and support services, including trauma-informed and culturally appropriate care? • Create wrap-around support that connects health, social, and cultural services? • Strengthen referrals and coordination between organizations? • Include Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices in support services?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create programs that help people understand and manage risks related to online gambling?
<p>4. Recovery</p> <p>Supporting long-term healing and wellness (e.g. social determinants of health, decolonizing healing, wholistic recovery planning, strengths-based community-led healing, culture as intervention)</p>	<p>To support long-term healing by using community-led, strengths-based, and culturally grounded recovery approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer access to land-based healing, Traditional Medicines, and cultural practices • Offer programs that include traditional Indigenous games and teachings • Create opportunities for peer support and community connection • Support whole-person recovery planning that considers social and community needs

Note: These are examples and are meant as a guide. Each community or organization should identify its own needs and design a project that best addresses gambling-related harms.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Funding to cover budget deficits.
- Capital loan financing.
- Costs covered by other funding including other government funding.
- Long-term/permanent staffing costs
- Political donations.
- No more than 15% of budget can be allocated to administration expenses.
- CAI grants must be used solely to support the activities outlined in the applicant’s grant application.
- Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to seek additional financial and/or in-kind contributions from other sources to maintain programs over time.

Appendix B: Glossary

Cultural Safety: is an outcome based on respectful engagement that recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in the healthcare system. It results in an environment free of racism and discrimination, where people feel safe when receiving health care. Source: [First Nations Health Authority](#)

British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC): The provincial Crown corporation responsible for running and managing all commercial gambling in British Columbia, including casinos, lotteries, and online gaming.

Gambling Addiction: A pattern of gambling behaviour that causes harm or negatively affects a person's life, including their relationships, work, finances, or wellbeing.

Gambling Addiction Prevention: Work focused on helping people understand gambling risks and make healthier choices. This includes education, awareness, and promotion of supports and services that help prevent gambling-related harm.

Gambling Harm Prevention: Work that promotes awareness of gambling risks and supports informed, safer gambling choices through education and outreach about available programs and services.

Gambling Support BC (GSBC) / the Program: A provincial program that provides gambling-related prevention, education, and support services in British Columbia. It includes different service streams (clinical, outreach, and Indigenous services) as well as program management and coordination functions. This program is part of the **Independent Gaming Control Office (IGCO)**. The IGCO is a provincial regulator for all gambling in British Columbia.

Responsible Gambling: An approach to gambling where a person stays in control of their behaviour, only spends what they can afford, and keeps gambling as one of many leisure activities in their life.

Responsible Gambling Specialist (GameSense Advisor): A trained staff member working in casinos and gaming venues to provide education and support about safer gambling. They help people understand risks, connect them to supports, and assist with tools like self-exclusion programs.

Social Determinants of Health: The social and economic conditions that influence health and wellbeing, such as income, housing, education, employment, culture, and access to services. Source: [First Nations Health Authority](#)

Wholistic Wellness: is an Indigenous concept of health that focuses on balance across the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of a person. It recognizes that wellbeing is shaped by the interconnection between these dimensions, rather than treating them separately. Source: [Indigenous Primary Health Care Council](#)