



**CLAW** COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP  
AND WELLNESS **FUND**

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All applications must be submitted by **February 22, 2021, at 11:59 pm EST.**

### BACKGROUND

The Standing Bear program is a comprehensive, youth-led leadership initiative developed by Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario (ISWO). The Standing Bear program is intended for Indigenous youth (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), residing in Ontario, between the ages of 14-24. The Standing Bear program endorses a for-youth-by-youth approach and was developed in consultation with more than 500 Indigenous youth from across Ontario.

The Standing Bear program utilizes a holistic approach to address Indigenous youth leadership and addresses four key outcomes as identified by Indigenous youth: identity, purpose, confidence and support networks. To address these outcomes, the Standing Bear program connects youth to the land, encourages physical activity, and encourages youth to think about their place in the world (family, community, nation). The Standing Bear program further exposes youth to six areas of interest (or elective streams), in which youth participants can earn additional certification. Finally, the program encourages youth to think about their futures in education/career, recreation, home/family, and community. The Standing Bear program content, along with the six streams, has been designed to ensure that the four identified outcomes can be achieved.

One of the key features of the Standing Bear program is the flexibility it provides for youth to learn at their own pace and development needs. By registering through an on-line portal, youth can join the program at any time and achieve certification at their own pace. The six learning streams offer a range of activities and options for credit towards achieving certification in that stream. Communities, organizations and schools can utilize the Standing Bear Program in conjunction with existing programs and activities, or facilitate according to their own cultural traditions and program structure.

## ABOUT THE STANDING BEAR ‘CLAW’ FUND

The Standing Bear Community Leadership and Wellness (CLAW) fund was developed to support Indigenous communities and organizations in delivering the Standing Bear program and activities to youth in an engaging and relevant way. Many communities and organizations are already delivering the activities that are detailed in Standing Bear courses and learning modules, including land-based activities, cultural activities and traditions, traditional art forms, sport and recreation activities, health and wellness programs, and career and life skills training and support. By utilizing the Standing Bear Program as a guide, communities can develop and deliver culturally meaningful activities for youth that strengthen connection to community and culture, while developing leadership capacity. Youth can earn credits towards certification through these community led activities.

The CLAW fund supports the project costs of Standing Bear activity supplies, materials and program delivery, including honorariums and workshop facilitator fees for elders, traditional knowledge keepers, artists, teachers, specialized experts, etc. needed to ensure successful completion of the program. You may also allocate up to 20% of the fund to cover the cost of a Project Coordinator/Facilitator to help support.

Applicants will need to provide details as to the activities they will be delivering which align with the Standing Bear learning events and courses (by using the provided program guide and *Standing Bear Program Planning Tool*), and how many participants will be enrolling in the Standing Bear program. All youth must register on the My ISWO portal ([my.iswo.ca](http://my.iswo.ca)) to earn credits and certifications.

Applicants are required to propose a program that is 8-12 weeks in duration, leading to the completion of the Standing Bear Core Leadership Certificate; if time and interest permits, activities from the elective streams can also be added to the program once the core is completed.

All youth who complete the Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate will receive a bonus Standing Bear sweatshirt and program pin. Additionally, communities can use their funds (up to a maximum of 20% of the total funding received) to do weekly draws for gift cards or prizes, to support the continued engagement of youth in the program.

Communities who complete the program in full (with at least 90% of their participants earning certification), will receive a bonus community prize consisting of a \$500 Canadian Tire gift card and new sporting equipment provided by Canadian Tire Jump Start, also valued at \$500. This bonus prize could be used to support another youth-led community initiative or event.

## COVID ADAPTATIONS

The Standing Bear program encourages connection to land and community and activities that reflect those connections. However, with the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and current public health regulations, we understand that many activities may need to be completed virtually, online or through mailed kits, etc. The Standing Bear program is flexible and is able to accommodate all modes of delivery. Here are some examples of program delivery modes that you may consider utilizing (either stand alone or in conjunction with each other):

- Virtually, through video meetings each week.
- Programming supported through ‘activity’ kits mailed to youth with all the supplies needed prior to the start of the program; and then support facilitation through online video calls, conference calls, social media (i.e., Facebook group, etc.) or email.
- Activities on the land or outside with small groups, if permitted within the community and region, following the local public health guidelines in place.
- Activities in community centres or other gathering places within the community, if permitted within the community and region, following the local public health guidelines in place.

## GOALS

The goals of the Standing Bear CLAW Fund are to:

- To encourage youth to enroll in and complete the Standing Bear Youth Leadership Program.
- To provide traditional teachings through experiential learnings.
- To support the overall program outcomes of the Standing Bear Youth Leadership Program, including increased confidence, strengthened identity, clear purpose and enhanced support networks.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING/RESOURCES

Project funding allocations will be based on the number of participants registered in the Standing Bear Youth leadership program. We are suggesting that CLAW projects include a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 40 participants. Funding support will be provided at \$1,000 per participant in the southern regions and \$1,200 per participant in the North Central, North East and North West regions, as defined by ISWO’s regional map available on ISWO’s [website](#). Additional funding for northern communities has been identified in response to challenges with the cost of materials and of shipping/transportation to those areas.

**IMPORTANT: Funding will be provided in two payments; 50% upon project approval and the remaining 50% once the participants have registered for the Standing Bear Program on the My ISWO Portal. Please note that the total funding provided may be adjusted based on actual participants registered in the Standing Bear program.**

### **KEY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

- All participants must be registered on the My ISWO Portal and complete the requirements for each learning event, by uploading their work for credit.
- The funding amount provided (for approved applications) will directly relate to the actual number of participants registered. Upon application approval, ISWO will provide 50% of the funding, holding back the remaining 50% until participants are registered in the Standing Bear program on the My ISWO Portal. For example: If you apply for funding for 30 participants and only 20 register, your funding will be adjusted accordingly.
- It is expected that at least 75% of your total number of participants will complete the program in its entirety and earn their Standing Bear Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate.
- All proposed Standing Bear programs must run between 8-12 weeks in length, in order to facilitate program completion.
- It is expected that both participants and facilitators will complete a Standing Bear Program Evaluation Form, at the end of the program. Please note the form will be provided to successful applicants.

### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

To be eligible to apply for the Standing Bear CLAW Fund, the applicant must be an:

- Indigenous band or community;
- Established Indigenous youth group;
- Indigenous not-for-profit organization (including Indigenous schools in Indigenous communities);
- An Indigenous government, provincial territorial organization or tribal council;
- Not-for-profit club or association that directly delivers organized sport projects in Indigenous communities, in consultation and collaboration with those communities, at no cost to participants.

ISWO is responsible for determining the eligibility of each applicant, their project and project-related expenses.

## ELIGIBILITY

### You are eligible if:

- Your community or organization is located within Ontario;
- You have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 40 Indigenous youth participating in the program;
- Youth have been engaged in the decision to implement the project in the community;
- You have the support of the leadership of either the community or organization you are applying on behalf of; and
- It is evident that the community/organization has the capacity, resources and motivation to support youth in completing their Standing Bear certifications.

### Eligible Activities

- Any activity that relates directly to the learning modules outlined in the Standing Bear Core Leadership Certificate.
- Any activity that relates directly to learning modules being delivered in any of the six elective streams.

### Eligible Expenses

- Activity supplies and materials (i.e., paint or art supplies, beads, feathers, hide, wood, birch bark, drum making supplies, cultural supplies, ingredients, notebooks, posterboards, limited sport equipment, etc.) and the mailing of those supplies to participants if required.
- Fees or honorariums for traditional knowledge keepers, facilitators, guest lecturers, workshop presenters, elders, topic experts, etc.
- Gift cards and/or prizes to support continued youth engagement in the program (up to a total of 20% of the total budget).
- Snacks (i.e., granola bars, water bottles, juice, etc.) and safety equipment (i.e., PPE, hand sanitizer, disposable masks, etc.) if delivering the programming in-person up to a total of 10% of the total budget.
- Warm clothing to support outdoor activities (up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget).

## Ineligible Expenses

- Administration costs;
- Awards, medals and trophies;
- Capital costs;
- Clothing or swag items;
- Employment costs (over the 20% permitted);
- Marketing;
- Transportation costs; and
- Venue rentals.

## APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Standing Bear CLAW Fund supports applications that are designed to increase youth leadership capacity, connection to culture and community, and enhance participation in all areas of life. Please ensure to complete the *Standing Bear Program Planning* tool provided in the application, in as much detail as possible. The Standing Bear Program Planning tool will ask you for a proposed schedule of activities and the costs, for the 8 to 12-week program. You will be required to align your program activities with the learning events (or courses) in the **Standing Bear Core Leadership Certificate**. A course guide will be provided to you for your reference.

### **Projects will be assessed based on applications that best meet the following criteria:**

- Alignment with the purpose of the grant and acceptable use of funds;
- Degree to which the project meets the eligibility requirements.
- Description of how youth were engaged in the decision to apply for the CLAW Fund.
- Details of how youth will fulfill leadership roles in the implementation of the project (i.e., facilitators, content advisors, etc.).
- A detailed description of the 8 to 12-week program plan, with an estimated budget for key line items.
- The scope of learning activities planned and inclusion of cultural resources, Elders, knowledge keepers, etc. to help support delivery of the program.
- Details of how the CLAW project evaluation will be used to influence future youth programming in the community/organization.
- Identification of engagement and support strategies to ensure that the maximum number of participants complete the Standing Bear Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate.

## HOW TO APPLY

Read the Standing Bear CLAW Fund Application Guidelines in their entirety before completing the application. You must meet all the eligibility criteria requirements and submit a complete application package to be considered for funding.

### A complete application package must include:

- A completed application form;
- Detailed activities, program schedule and budget for the delivery of the Standing Bear program using the provided program guide and Standing Bear Program Planning tool;
- Letter of support from the leadership of the Indigenous community or organization benefiting from the project;
- Evidence of youth endorsement within the community; and.
- Declaration that CLAW funding is intended for new youth leadership programming and does not overlap with existing Youth Cultural Camp (YCC) programming supported by funding you may have received from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete, sign and date the Standing Bear CLAW Fund Application Form;
- Attach all the required supporting documents; and
- Submit your application through **one** means only (by email, mail or fax).

### Email Submissions

We encourage you to submit your application package electronically to the following email address: [standingbear@iswo.ca](mailto:standingbear@iswo.ca).

### Mail or Fax Submissions

You can mail your complete application package to:

*Attn: Christine Wong  
Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario  
1090 Aerowood Drive, Unit 1A  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L4W 1Y5*

You can fax your complete application package to: **905-412-0325**.

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## SELECTION PROCESS

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a review committee consisting of ISWO Board and Staff members, and representatives of its advisory committee. The committee will base their recommendations on the eligibility and assessment criteria described in these guidelines, but reserves the right to recommend an application that falls outside of these guidelines if the project still supports the overall goals of the Standing Bear CLAW fund.

Applicants currently delivering Youth Cultural Camp (YCC) programming supported with funding from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, will need to clarify how CLAW funding is supporting separate and distinct programming.

It is anticipated that more applications will be received than can be funded, and therefore only eligible applications will be reviewed; however, please note that meeting all the eligibility criteria does not guarantee funding. Applicants may be contacted to provide further information regarding their proposal before final funding selections are confirmed.

ISWO is unable to fund expenses incurred prior to receiving your application. If you incur expenses for your request before receiving written confirmation of your funding approval, you will be doing so at your own risk.

## FUNDING CONDITIONS

### Project Timelines

The timeline for the Standing Bear CLAW Fund is as follows:

- Application deadline is February 22, 2021.
- Notification period for successful applicants is March 1, 2021 – March 10, 2021.
- Selected applications will receive their funding by March 15, 2021.
- Projects must be completed by July 15, 2021.



## **Reporting Requirements**

In order for participants to receive their Standing Bear certificate, sweatshirt, pin and additional community prize, applicants must ensure the following:

- All participants are registered on the My ISWO Portal and have uploaded their work for credit.
- Completion of all the required learning events and activities outlined in the Standing Bear Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate, by the end of the program.
- Completion and submission of the Standing Bear Program Evaluation form, by both participants and facilitators, at the end of the program.
- Details of the 8 to 12-week program, including a weekly schedule of activities, learning events and budget actuals (applicants may use the *Standing Bear Youth Leadership Program Planning Toolkit* provided as part of the application to complete actuals and submit as the final report).