



Water Safety Fund

2022-2023 Guidelines

BACKGROUND

The Water Safety Fund (WSF) is for Northern Indigenous communities in Ontario. The program is intended to promote water safety and support increased participation in water-based sport and recreation activities. The WSF can be used to certify instruction such as swimming lessons and lifeguard training, and also for water programming equipment for safety and recreation purposes (i.e., life jackets, canoes, paddles, life saving devices, etc.). Funding in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) is available for eligible projects and programs.

OBJECTIVES

The WSF aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action, which identifies four social development needs of Indigenous communities:

- Improved health;
- Improved education;
- Improved employability; and
- Reduced at-risk behaviours.

The goal of the WSF funding is to provide northern Indigenous communities and organizations with support to utilize access to bodies of water (i.e., lakes, rivers, swimming pools, etc.) and promote participation in water sports and recreation, in a safe manner with the proper safety precautions and necessary equipment.

Funds may be utilized for:

- Programs teaching water safety.
- Delivery of or participation in, water sport and recreation programs.
- Waterfront management to increase access and safety for community members.
- Programs to help certify lifeguards and swim instructors within the community.
- Water safety, and water sport and recreation equipment.
- Delivery of Learn to Programs (i.e., swimming, canoeing, paddle boarding, etc.) with certified instructors.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All applications must be submitted by **December 15, at 11:59 pm EST.**

FUNDING

Eligible applicants are invited to apply for funding of **up to \$10,000** to support water safety within their First Nation community.

Funding must be spent with all reporting submitted by **March 31, 2023.**

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Northern First Nation Communities located in Ontario; and
- Established Indigenous Youth Groups within northern Ontario.

ISWO is responsible for determining the eligibility of each applicant, their project, and project expenses. Please note that the WSF is intended to support Northern communities located in the province of Ontario; all activities and programs related to the funding request must take place in Ontario.

HOW TO APPLY:

Read the WSF Application Guidelines in their entirety before completing the WSF Application. You must meet all the eligibility requirements and submit a complete application package to be considered for funding. A complete application package includes the Application Form and letter of support from the leadership of the Indigenous community benefiting from the project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete, sign and date the application form;
- Attach the letter of support from the First Nations community; and
- Submit your application through email or via mail only.

Email Submissions:

We encourage you to submit your application package electronically to the following email address: info@iswo.ca

The email must be sent no later than **11:59 pm EST on December 15, 2022** for your application to be considered.

Mail Submissions

Applications must be postmarked no later than the published deadline to be considered. Complete application packages can be mailed to:

Attn: Crystal Gionette

Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario (ISWO)
P.O Box 274
Nipigon, ON
P0T 2J0

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

The WSF supports projects that are designed to promote water safety and increased participation in water sport and recreation activities. It is important to provide a clear outline of how you plan to evaluate and measure the impact of your project, which could include a change in the community's overall water safety and opportunities for learning water sports.

Evaluation will be based on project applications that best met the following criteria:

- Align with the purpose of the grant and the four social development outcomes listed:
- Demonstrate the acceptable use of funds;
- Respond to a specific community need;
- Demonstrate organizational capacity to complete the proposed project;
- Include clear and achievable objectives, and measurable outcomes; and
- Provide clear measures and indicators to determine the success of the project.

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Project applications must address the needs and culture of the community benefiting from the WSF, and where possible be delivered by members of the community.

Applications will be evaluated based on how well they address the following:

1. Eligibility:
 - a. Your community or youth program meets the eligibility requirements set out above; and
 - b. Your project meets the project eligibility criteria set out above.
2. Project need and rationale:
 - a. The project clearly identifies the specific social development need of the community and how the project will address it.
3. Project workplan, timelines and feasibility:
 - a. The application must clearly demonstrate how it will identify and address the objectives of the WSF.

- b. The application provides a clear description of the project with details of age ranges, location, participant numbers, and a description of all activities related to the project; and
 - c. Timelines are clear and feasible.
4. Measurable outcomes:
 - a. The outcomes of the project are clearly linked to the project objectives (Water Safety and Learn to in sports); and
 - b. The outcomes are specific and measurable (they can be qualitative and/or quantitative).
5. Project budget:
 - a. Project costs are reasonable, and details support the project's description.

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

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

FUNDING CONDITIONS

Project Timelines

Selected projects **MUST** be completed by **March 31, 2023**. Any project funds not spent on eligible project expenses by March 31, 2023 must be returned to ISWO.

Reporting Requirements

- A final report is due 15 days after the completion of the project or by April 15, 2023. This report will be completed either through an online reporting form outline that will be provided after you are confirmed for funding or can be completed via phone call with a designated ISWO staff member.

Ongoing Communications

- All WSF grant recipients will be assigned a primary contact person from ISWO to provide support and guidance for their project.
- Any proposed changes to the project, such as budget or timelines, require approval from your ISWO contact.

Project Products

Recipients who receive funds through the WSF are encouraged to use creative ways to record project activities and successes. A sample of images, videos, interviews, voice recordings and promotional materials (as applicable) for the funded project are required as part of the report

submission. If possible, images and video should be of high-resolution quality, for use on the ISWO website and to include in reports intended for the Government of Canada.

Recipients who receive funds through WSF must consent to the release of photographs, interviews, voice recordings or digital video recordings, for either publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for ISWO's own news, webcasts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on our website, social media, or any other purpose by ISWO and its affiliates and representatives.

To ensure that the impacts of the WSF projects are shared widely, successful applicants may be asked to participate in interviews on their experience in receiving this funding; to provide letters from project participants detailing how the project impacted them; or agree to participate in follow-up communications at the discretion of the WSF committee.

Acknowledgement

Support from ISWO and the Government of Canada must be appropriately acknowledged on all materials related to the funded project. Formats and guidelines for logo use and acknowledgement of funding will be provided to successful applicants. The use of the logo on all program promotional materials must be approved by ISWO.