



**Indigenous Sport
& Wellness Ontario**



Standing Bear Northern Community Fund (SBNCF) Guidelines 2024-2025

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, Metis and Inuit), residing in Ontario, between the ages of 14-29. 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 SB program is the flexibility it provides for youth to learn at their own pace and development needs. By registering through an online 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.

For a detailed outline of the Standing Bear Program, courses and learning modules, including the Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate and the six additional streams, please review the **Standing Bear Program Guide**. For more information on how to support the facilitation of delivering the Standing Bear program, please review the **Standing Bear Facilitators Guide**.



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ABOUT THE STANDING BEAR NORTHERN COMMUNITY FUND

The Standing Bear Northern Community fund was developed to support Indigenous communities and organizations, specifically in Northern Ontario, 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 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.

Approved applicants will need to indicate which activities, courses and learning modules they will be delivering (by using the provided checklist) and how many youths will be enrolling in the Standing Bear program prior to funds being released. All youth must register on the My ISWO portal (my.iswo.ca) to earn credits and certifications.

Approved applicants, with the support of ISWO's Standing Bear program facilitators, will need to create and propose a program that is 8-12 weeks in duration, leading to the completion of the 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.

GOALS

The goals of the Standing Bear Fund are to:

- To encourage youth to enroll in and complete the Standing Bear Youth Leadership Program.
- To provide traditional teachings through experiential learnings.



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- 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

The Standing Bear Youth Leadership Fund is able to fund 10 applicants up to a maximum amount of \$5,000.00. Funding is allocated to support communities in Northern Ontario only.

We know that increased costs especially in the North have proven challenging, therefore applicants are strongly encouraged to seek partnerships within their community to support the successful delivery of their Standing Bear program from start to finish.

Funding will be provided in two payments; 80% upon project approval and the remaining 20% once the program has completed.

All youth registered in the program must complete the Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate; learning modules from elective streams can also be added to the program, depending on youth interests, facilitator time and knowledge.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for the Standing Bear Northern Community Fund, the applicant must be delivering the program in Northern Ontario and 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.



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ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if:

- Your community or organization is located within Northern Ontario;
- You have a minimum of 5 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 SB certifications.

Eligible Activities

What activities are eligible?

- 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.

Applicants must ensure the following:

- All youth participants are registered on the My ISWO Portal and are completing the requirements for each learning event by uploading their work for credit.
- A minimum of 5 youth complete the Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate.
- The project runs between 8-12 weeks in length.
- Completion of the Standing Bear Program Evaluation form by participants and facilitators, at the end of the program.

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.



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- 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

Ineligible expenses include:

- 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 Northern Community Fund supports applications that are designed to increase youth leadership capacity, connection to culture and community, and participation. Please ensure to check off all of the Standing Bear learning modules you will be completing and the activities you will be undertaking to support their completion. You will be asked to provide an outline of costs for your program, along with a proposed schedule of activities.

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.



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- Description of how youth were engaged in the decision to apply for the Fund.
- Details of how youth would fulfill leadership roles in the implementation of the project (i.e., facilitators, content advisors, etc.).
- Acknowledge their intent to provide a detailed description of the 8 to 12-week project plan upon approval.
- Details of how the project evaluation will be used to influence future youth programming in the community/organization.

HOW TO APPLY

Read the Standing Bear Northern Community 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;
- Letter of support from the leadership of the Indigenous community or organization benefiting from the project;
- Evidence of youth endorsement within the community.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete, sign and date the Standing Bear Northern Community 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: info@iswo.ca.



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Mail or Fax Submissions

You can mail your complete application package to:

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

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All applications must be submitted by **January 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm EST**.

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 Northern Community fund.

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.



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FUNDING CONDITIONS

Project Timelines

The timeline for the Standing Bear Northern Community Fund is as follows:

- Application deadline is January 20, 2025.
- Notification period for successful applicants is January 27 - 31, 2025.
- Virtual training and program delivery prep will be completed with the Standing Bear Master Facilitator on a date(s) between February 3 - 14, 2025.
- Upon completed training, applications may receive their funding by February 21, 2025.
- Programs must be underway and program expenses must be spent by March 31, 2025.

Reporting Requirements

- Applicants must ensure that the minimum number of youths indicated are registered on the My ISWO Portal.
- Applicants must ensure that the minimum number of youths indicated, complete the Standing Bear Core Indigenous Leadership Certificate by the end of the program.
- All youth registered in the program are requested to complete the Standing Bear Program Evaluation and Feedback form.