

## Ontario Final Agreement Information Sessions

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# MASTER QUESTIONS & ANSWERS COMPENDIUM

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## Planning and Reporting

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	Why does a First Nation need to work with an Agency during the planning process?	<p>Accountability of FNCFS Agencies to the First Nations they serve is one of the principles of the Final Agreement. To uphold this principle, and through its funding agreements with FNCFS Agencies under the Reformed FNCFS Program, ISC will require FNCFS Agencies to co-develop a single child and community well-being plan with its affiliated First Nation(s).</p> <p>Co-development will ensure that First Nations' priorities, needs and cultural considerations are respected and that First Nations' unique circumstances are reflected into the multi-year plans. It also provides an opportunity for First Nations and FNCFS agencies to discuss roles and responsibilities and to ensure a clear understanding of the roles First Nations wish to take in the delivery of prevention based programming as well as discuss performance indicators that would support communities in their development of programming that address the structural drivers in their communities.</p>	
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	How much annual reporting will be required or expected from the First Nations?	<p>For fiscal year 2025-2026, FNCFS is using the following data collection instruments (DCIs) as reporting requirements for recipients based on the recipient and according to the corresponding funding stream(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations Child and Family Services Activity Report (DCI #1278249)</li> <li>• CFS Maintenance Report (DCI #455917)</li> </ul>	<p>For more information on reporting by specific funding element, refer to:</p> <p>Annex A: Data Collection Instruments by Funding Stream</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities and Expenditures report (DCI #4548549)</li> <li>• Capital Project Report (DCI #460671)</li> <li>• FNCFS Annual Final Report (DCI #1208367)</li> <li>• Community Infrastructure and Housing Annual Report (DCI #41701)</li> </ul> <p>It is important to note that under the Ontario Final Agreement, the only major reporting change is the addition of the First Nations Child and Family Services Multi-year plan and the First Nations Child and Family Services Child and Community Wellbeing Plan. Recipients will only complete the required DCIs that align with the funding they receive.</p>	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	Are there standard indicators for all First Nations?	<p>FNCFS Program performance indicators are outlined in Appendix 2 of the Ontario Final Agreement. Many of these indicators will be collected through reporting provided to ISC using the FNCFS activity report (DCI 1278249) introduced in 2025-26 fiscal year and available at the <a href="#">ISC Reporting Guide webpage</a></p> <p>FNCFS agencies will also be required to report to the First Nations and the Data Secretariat (paragraph 115) on a series of indicators drawn from Measuring to Thrive - these are listed in paragraph 113 of the Ontario Final Agreement. The Ontario Reform Implementation Committee will further define and develop these indicators and determine the manner in which the data to measure the indicators will be captured.</p>	<a href="#">ISC Reporting Guide webpage</a>
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	Can First Nations identify the ones that are most relevant to their community?	<p>First Nations can work with their FNCFS agency in the development of the child and community well-being plan to identify performance indicators relevant to their community for their own use. This is outlined in paragraph 110(c) of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p>	

<p>October 15 2025</p>	<p>NAN- FNCFS Agency- ISC meeting</p>	<p>How to build the Community Well-being Plan for First Nations that serve blended populations (within one community and also for First Nations residing across provincial borders)?</p>	<p>Each FNCFS Agency serves a particular number of First Nation communities in Ontario, who have chosen them as their affiliated service provider. It is recognized that collaboration among Agencies and First Nations may be challenging. The expectation is each FNCFS Agency collaborate with all First Nations they serve, regardless of location, in the Agency's planning. Unfortunately, the Ontario Final Agreement does not address situations where individual members are to be served by another Agency within Ontario, do not fit within the definition of Ordinarily Resident on Reserve, nor outside of Ontario.</p> <p>ISC encourages First Nations and Agencies to work together as best as possible to ensure meaningful engagement which could include unique and creative ways of working together.</p>	
<p>October 15 2025</p>	<p>NAN- FNCFS Agency- ISC meeting</p>	<p>Does one Child and Community Well-being Plan get developed for all affiliated First Nations or is it one plan per First Nation with the Agency? For example Kunuwanimano serves 9 affiliated communities recognized by ISC; and also serves all Indigenous children that reside within the district</p>	<p>One Child and Community Wellbeing Plan will be developed between the FNCFS Agency and the 9 affiliated First Nations it serves. This is outlined in paragraph 108 of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p> <p>Additionally, funding provided through the FNCFS Program support services provided to those ordinarily resident on reserve with the exception of First Nation Representative Services off reserve funding. It is recommended, in these situations, that the concerned First Nation discuss with their own legal counsel about what options are available to them.</p>	

		geographical boundaries of the agency, that represent more than 50 First Nations. Will this Agency develop one Child and Community Wellbeing Plan in collaboration with all of the First Nations who's children and youth this Agency serves, or is it only for the affiliated First Nations?		
October 15 2025	NAN-FNCFS Agency-ISC meeting	How will Agencies be able to meaningfully co-develop the Child and Community Wellbeing Plan with numerous affiliated First Nations with their allocation of baseline funding they receive? Developing these plans will require several encounters, with concerns about sufficient funding and sufficient time.	<p>Agencies are encouraged to use a portion of their baseline funding to facilitate the necessary collaboration and engagement with their affiliated First Nations. Multi-year planning and accountability to First Nations have always been integral to Agency operations and budgets prior to reform, and given that baseline funding for FNCFS Agencies is determined using the previous 2022–2023 actual expenditures (which includes intake and investigation, legal fees, building repairs, and operations and maintenance that would encompass any eligible planning activities carried out with affiliated First Nations), a portion of the baseline funding should account for planning activities.</p> <p>If necessary, there will be a separate process for acquiring more funding, through what is called a “Service Provider Funding Adjustment”. This process is available to First Nations and Agencies for specific</p>	

			<p>funding streams. There will be a separate process document and instructions provided in due course.</p> <p>First Nations will come prepared to co-develop, and ensure their objectives are captured in, the joint child and community wellbeing plan. First Nations will be preparing 'Multi-Year plans' regarding the implementation of services it is funded for under the Reformed FNCFS Funding Approach, with the exception of capital. This requirement can be found in paragraph 45 and Appendix 4 of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p>	
October 15 2025	NAN-FNCFS Agency-ISC meeting	Is there a way that administrative burden be addressed? There is significant reporting with the Ontario Ministry and new reporting under the Ontario Final Agreement.	The only change to the reporting requirements under the Ontario Final Agreement is the introduction of reporting to First Nations and the Ontario Data Secretariat on the indicators defined in the Child and Community Well-being Plan.	<p>Annex B: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.</p> <p>Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.</p>
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Will there be sample reporting templates to	Yes. All required reporting documents, and instructions on how to populate these documents, can or will be accessible through <a href="#">ISC's website</a> and at upcoming	

		<p>support First Nations and Agencies with the new reporting requirements under the Ontario Final Agreement?</p>	<p>information sessions specific to Planning and Reporting.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the Ontario Final Agreement provides an overview of performance measurement indicators and outcomes that ISC intends to use to measure the performance of the Reformed FNCFS Program by reviewing reporting that is received from all FNCFS Program recipients.</p> <p>Sample templates for First Nations planning and FNCFS Agency planning can also be found in Appendix 4 and 5 of the Ontario Final Agreement. However, updated templates are currently being worked on by ISC, COO, and NAN. Once ready, these templates will also be available online through ISC, on it's website.</p>	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	<p>Will the ISC planning templates and/or reporting have space for First Nations to note that they require more funding than what is being provided?</p>	<p>No, the planning and reporting templates are not designed as a place to request more funds. There will be a separate process for First Nations and FNCFS service providers to request additional funding, if required, through a "service provider funding adjustment request".</p> <p>This process will allow a First Nation to bring a Service Provider Funding Adjustment Request if it is unable within its current funding, to provide prevention services which are adequate to respond to a prevention need created by an unforeseen event(s), beyond its reasonable control, not including reasonably foreseeable natural events or circumstances covered by other government programs or policies.</p> <p>This process will also allow a FNCFS Service Provider to bring a Service Provider Funding Adjustment Request if it is unable within its current funding, for reasons beyond its reasonable control, to deliver services required by law or that are least disruptive</p>	<p>For more information on this process, see Part XVI of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p>

			<p>measures, and eligible to be funded by the Reformed FNCFS Program.</p> <p>Additional information and instructions are currently being developed on the Service Funding Adjustment process.</p>	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Will reporting requirements prevent funding from being used to off-reserve members?	<p>The FNCFS Program Terms and Conditions requires that all funding under the FNCFS Program must be used to support children and families that are ordinarily resident on reserve. In Ontario only, however, there is one exception for First Nation Representative Services. Under the <a href="#"><u>Agreement Respecting Funding for First Nation Representative Services Off-Reserve in Ontario</u></a>, signed by Canada, COO, and NAN, Canada is providing funding for First Nation Representative Services to support First Nations children and families off-reserve until March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>Further information on this topic can be found in:</p> <p>Annex D: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-005 Definition of Ordinarily Resident on Reserve Bulletin. Dated May 30, 2025.</p> <p>; and The <a href="#"><u>Agreement Respecting Funding for First Nation Representative Services Off-Reserve in Ontario</u></a></p>
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	How can First Nations/FNCFS Service Providers receive support for completing multi-year plans. Will there be ramifications for delayed planning/reporting?	<p>ISC, COO, and NAN are available to support First Nations and FNCFS Service Providers in navigating any issues throughout the transition between the current and reformed FNCFS Program.</p> <p>Additional tools and resources on First Nation and Agency planning and reporting are being developed and will be shared once completed.</p>	<p>Please refer to Annex F: “FNCFS Program Reporting and Planning Requirements under the Ontario Final Agreement Presentation at COO Virtual Information Session October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025” for more information on ISC’s Planning and Reporting requirements.</p>

October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Will ISC be providing First Nations with additional money to support the development of the Child and Community Wellbeing Plan?	Given the Child and Community Wellbeing Plan is the responsibility of FNCFS Agencies, funding to support the development of these plans is already built into FNCFS Agency baseline funding allocations.	Please See Part XIII, “Agency Accountability To First Nations In Relation To The Reformed FNCFS Program” of the Ontario Final Agreement for more about Agency requirements.
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	What reporting will be required for First Nations not affiliated with an Agency?	Non-Agency First Nations will only be required to fill out their First Nations Multi-Year plan; and not the Child and Community Wellbeing Plan.	Please see Appendix 4 of the Ontario Final Agreement for a sample template of the First Nations Child and Family Services Multi-Year Plan (PAW# 1296953) and paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Ontario Final Agreement on First Nations planning.
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Are Agencies required to develop their plans with the First Nation members that are in their jurisdiction? How will agencies be held accountable to First Nation members who reside outside of their jurisdiction?	Yes, each FNCFS Agency is required to provide a single co-developed Child and Community Wellbeing Plan, with its affiliated First Nation(s). This is a requirement of the FNCFS Agency’s funding agreement with ISC.  The Ontario Final Agreement does not address situations where individuals members reside outside the agency’s jurisdiction and are therefore served by another agency. ISC encourages First Nations and Agencies to work together as best as possible to ensure meaningful engagement which could include unique and creative ways of working together.	Please See Part XIII, “Agency Accountability To First Nations In Relation To The Reformed FNCFS Program” of the Ontario Final Agreement for more about Agency requirements.

## Funding Approach - Funding (General)

October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Are we able to request more funding as it relates to building our own child welfare legislation?	Capacity Building funding is available to First Nations to support the development of child and family legislation pursuant to <a href="#">An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families</a> . However, this funding is separate from the funding that will be available through the FNCFS Program as reformed in the Ontario Final Agreement.	Please see additional information on ISC's website about <a href="#">Capacity Building Funding</a> .
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Is annual funding guaranteed under the Ontario Final Agreement? Will funding be impacted if reporting is delayed?	The Ontario Final Agreement is in effect until 2034 and aims to provide long-term and predictable and multi-year funding. While reporting is required, given FNCFS funding is considered essential funding, funding can be held back only up to 20% in line with the Program's Terms and Conditions until reporting is provided. Other non-essential funding could be impacted. The Ontario Final Agreement aims to prioritize reporting, and ISC will support First Nations and Agencies with understanding reporting requirements.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Was the remoteness methodology also revisited to ensure equitable and fair funding. What is the definition of remoteness?	The remoteness methodology remains the same as it was defined in the National Agreement for the Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS, and is a calculation that was co-developed with NAN.  As described in the Ontario Final Agreement, the "NAN-Canada Remoteness Quotient Table" will be a body jointly constituted by NAN and ISC to monitor and address remoteness issues in the long-term. The Table will establish an Ontario Remoteness Secretariat which will be a centre of expertise on the	Please see a simplified breakdown of the remoteness calculation can be found in Annex G of this Q&A document.

			<p>impacts of remoteness experienced by First Nations and FNCFS Agencies in Ontario.</p> <p>For more information on remoteness funding calculations, please see: The definition of remoteness is defined in Part III, Section (fff) of the Ontario Final Agreement and is further explained in Appendix 10.</p>	
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## Funding Approach - First Nations Representative Services

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional Information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	What is the scope of work for First Nations Representative Services in relation to working with agencies?	<p>First Nations Representatives are advocates for First Nations in matters relating to the delivery of services to their citizens by a child welfare agency. The roles and responsibilities of First Nation Representatives are defined by the First Nation, considering the unique needs of its citizens and the duties of such representatives as provided for in applicable provincial and federal child welfare legislation.</p> <p>First Nations Representatives' role is to act as the main liaison, on behalf of families or communities, between First Nations, child and family services agencies, or the Government of Ontario. They work in the child's best interest, to ensure that the rights of First Nations children and youth and the rights of First Nations are respected in the child and family services system, amongst other things identified by the First Nation itself. Further, they collaborate in service planning and delivery with other child and family service providers and agencies.</p> <p>First Nation Representative Services funding provided under the FNCFS Program is intended to service First Nations on reserve or ordinarily resident on reserve.</p> <p>Under the Agreement Respecting Funding for First Nation Representative Services Off-Reserve in Ontario, signed by Canada, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Canada will provide funding for First Nation Representative Services to support First Nations children and families residing off-reserve until <b>March 31, 2027</b>. This will</p>	Further information on this topic can be found in Annex E: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-012-E First Nation Representative Services in Ontario Off-reserve Funding for 2025-2026. Dated September 26, 2025

			provide time for COO and ISC to have further discussions with the province of Ontario.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Will there be flexibility from ISC on the deadline (October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2025) for submitting First Nation Representative Services off-reserve advance claims, especially given that the bulletin was released during a cultural hunting week?	Yes, ISC has provided an extension for submitting First Nation Representative Services off reserve advance claims until November 15 <sup>th</sup> . This deadline is also extended to November 15 <sup>th</sup> for submitting Band Council Resolutions in relation to Prevention and post-majority support services. ISC will follow up with First Nations that had previously provided notice of intent by the November 15 <sup>th</sup> deadline.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	What is the allocation for First Nation Representative Services been any reconsideration of the funding methodology given that the years used for calculating the amounts were during Covid which caused less uptake/use of services?	As per s.26 of the Ontario Final Agreement, First Nation Representative Services allocations under the Ontario Final Agreement for the first year of implementation will be equal to the highest amount of funding that a First Nation received over five fiscal years, from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024, with adjustments for population and inflation. From every year forward after first year, the amount will be adjusted for population and inflation. The funding approach was revisited after the national funding agreement was developed; and was amended to include an additional fiscal year (2023/2024) within the calculation.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	First Nation Representative	When the methodology was developed for the Ontario Final Agreement, we did not have the full costs for the	

		Services claims submitted through actuals process were approved based on prorated budgets, so funding formula is not accurate. It does not give funding for a full year of approved costs for claims submitted. Is ISC going to correct the funding amounts?	2024-25 fiscal year as the deadline to submit claims is September 30 <sup>th</sup> .S.26 of the Ontario Final Agreement however provides that First Nation Representative Services allocations for the first year of implementation will be equal to the highest amount of funding that a First Nation received over five fiscal years, from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024, with adjustments for population and inflation.	
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## Funding Approach - Post Majority Support Services

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional Information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	If an agency chooses not to deliver Post-Majority Support Services, how can First Nations access this funding?	<p>For the 2025-26 fiscal year should a First Nation wish to delivery Post-Majority Support Services, ISC will continue to reimburse First Nations for the actual costs of these services.</p> <p>Once the Ontario Final Agreement comes into effect, ISC will provide all post-majority support service funding directly to First Nations. First Nations can authorize an alternate service provider, including their FNCFS agency to deliver post-majority support services, fully or partially, should they wish.</p> <p>If a First Nation would like to direct its post-majority support services funding and service provision to its affiliated Agency or another service provider, the First Nation must direct ISC to allocate some or all of its post-majority support services funding to service providers by submitting to ISC, a Band Council Resolution or other official decision document related to by September 30th of the preceding calendar year.</p>	<p>For more information, please refer to: Annex B: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.</p> <p>Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.</p>
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	What is the difference between the Post-Majority Support Services and the Province of Ontario's Ready, Set, Go Program?	The FNCFS Program's Post-Majority Support Services and the Province of Ontario's Ready, Set, Go Program are two distinct programs with distinct eligibility criteria and funding methodologies that both aim to support the transition of youth and young adults to adulthood.	Information on Ready, Set, Go can be found on the Ontario Ministry Webpage here: <a href="#">Ready, Set, Go Guide</a>   <a href="#">ontario.ca</a> and <a href="#">Support for youth in</a>

			<p>Post-majority support services assist First Nations youth aging out of care and young adults formerly in care across all provinces and in the Yukon, from the age of majority up to their 26th birthday.</p> <p>The <u><a href="#">FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions</a></u> include a list of eligible costs that support the delivery of post-majority support services.</p> <p>Under the Ontario Final Agreement, post-majority support services funding will be provided to First Nations directly to deliver these services to youth and young adults. First Nations will have the flexibility to decide who will provide services and how funding can be allocated to better serve their communities. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, First Nations should communicate directly with their agency to learn more about how this funding is being used.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">the child welfare system   ontario.ca.</a></u></p> <p>More information can be found on the Indigenous Services Canada webpage here: <u><a href="#">Post-majority support services for First Nations youth and young adults.</a></u></p>
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## Funding Approach - Prevention

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional Information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	Will the Agency account to the First Nation through reporting as the use(s) of prevention funds?	<p>Accountability of FNCFS Agencies to the First Nations they serve is one of the principles of the Ontario Final Agreement. Through its funding agreements with FNCFS Agencies under the Reformed FNCFS Program, FNCFS Agencies will be required to co-develop a single child and community well-being plan with its affiliated First Nation(s).</p> <p>The child and community well-being plan will include planned activities and associated expenditures of the FNCFS Agency with respect to Baseline Funding, emergency funding, and prevention funding. There is also a requirement for the Agency to report to its affiliated First Nations on the implementation of the plan on an annual basis.</p> <p>Further, ISC's funding agreements with FNCFS Service Providers enables ISC to report to each First Nation on its affiliated FNCFS Agency's compliance with its funding agreement upon request by a First Nation.</p>	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	What steps are required if a First Nation would like to share prevention funding with its respective agency? When would the First	<p>If the Ontario Final Agreement is approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and takes effect by April 1, 2026, First Nations in Ontario will be able to redirect prevention services funding during fiscal year 2026-27 as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations in Ontario will have until September 30, 2025 to request that ISC direct any portion of the First Nation's prevention services funding for the first half of the 2026-27 fiscal year to a</li> </ul>	Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.

		Nation notify ISC?	<p>different service provider by submitting an official decision document, such as a Band Council Resolution (BCR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations in Ontario will then have until April 1, 2026 to submit written notice to ISC directing the allocation of prevention services funding for the second half of the 2026-27 fiscal year.</li> </ul> <p>If a First Nation's prevention services funding allocation decision that is submitted by September 30, 2025 indicates that the allocation decision for the first half of the 2026-27 fiscal year is to apply to the second half of 2026-27 as well, ISC will allocate funding according to the allocation decision in the second half of the 2026-27 fiscal year, regardless of the Ontario Final Agreement taking effect.</p>	
October 15 2025	NAN-FNCFS Agency- ISC meeting	Is ISC sharing the new requirements for FNCFS Agencies, including requiring Band Council Resolutions for managing Post-Majority Support Services with First Nations too?	<p><b>Answer:</b> Yes, previous ISC Bulletins were shared with First Nations in Ontario related to this topic. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Bulletin shared on August 1, 2025, regarding First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario (Annex B);</li> <li>• Information Bulletin shared on August 13, 2025, regarding post-majority support services (Annex A);</li> <li>• Addendum to the August 1, 2025 Bulletin on the authorization and direction of funds for service providers to extend deadlines to submit BCRs.</li> </ul> <p>Additional guidance is being developed that intends to support First Nations and Agencies navigate this transition. Materials will be shared once finalized.</p>	<p>Annex B: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.</p> <p>Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service</p>

				Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.
October 15 2025	NAN- FNCFS Agency- ISC meeting	Why are new rules for the way post- majority support services' transition under the Ontario Final Agreement applying now and retroactively into last years' work?	<p>Originally, when the Ontario Final Agreement was signed by the Parties and submitted to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for approval, it was anticipated that the Ontario Final Agreement would be approved in the 2025-2026 fiscal year resulting in an Effective Date before April 1, 2026. With this in mind, and in order to support the transition of post-majority support services delivery and the inclusion of First Nations in decision-making, BCRs authorizing funding direction would be required.</p> <p>As is described in the bulletin, found in Annex B, it is required that First Nations provide a Band Council Resolution or decision document to describe how they will work with their authorized service provider to ensure there is no duplication of services. If an authorized service provider and the First Nation both submit funding claims and requests for post-majority support services funding, the claims will be reviewed together to ensure the funding and service delivery coverage works in a complementary way.</p> <p>This expectation, detailed in this bulletin, is being applied to ensure responsible management of the FNCFS Program and coordinated service delivery. This is intended to ensure that the agency/service provider responds to the identified needs, priorities and expected outcomes of the communities it serves, including how service delivery will be coordinated. This coordinated approach will also support the transition of post-majority support services when the Ontario Final Agreement comes into effect.</p>	Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.

## Capital

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional Information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	Will the funding provided to agencies for FNCFS services to a First Nation be used exclusively for member families? Is there any chance the funds will be used elsewhere in the region?	Under the Ontario Final Agreement, as a condition of the funding agreements between ISC and FNCFS Agencies, Agencies must co-develop child and community well-being plans which reflect the priorities of each community. Agencies must also report to ISC and their affiliated First Nations on the implementation of these plans on an annual basis. If a First Nation has concerns with its Agency's implementation and compliance to the child and community well-being plan, which could include concerns over allocation of funding, they can raise these concerns with ISC who will make the FNCFS Agency aware of the scope of the concerns and consider appropriate responses.	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	How will the Ontario Final Agreement impact off-reserve funding, for example, in terms of a community that has not been established at this time?	<p>As outlined in the <u>FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions</u>, the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program supports the ongoing provision of culturally appropriate prevention, including early intervention, and legislated protection services to respond to children at risk of harm or maltreatment, support family preservation and well-being, including cultural and linguistic connections for First Nations children, youth and families ordinarily resident on reserve. This will also remain after the effective date of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p> <p>Newly established First Nations that become recognized Bands as defined in subsection 2(1) of the <i>Indian Act</i>, and that have or gain reserve lands, will become eligible</p>	

			under the FNCFS Program. This is cited in paragraphs 4(z) and 4(hh) of the Ontario Final Agreement.	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	How will the Ontario Final Agreement affect programming for off-reserve band members?	The Ontario Final Agreement will not affect programming for off-reserve band members.	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	Did FNCFS Agencies receive prevention and post-majority funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in April 2025?	<p>In April 2025, FNCFS agencies and First Nations received prevention funding.</p> <p>As outlined in paragraph 54(g) of the Ontario Final Agreement, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, until the effective date of the Ontario Final Agreement, ISC will continue to reimburse First Nations and FNCFS service providers for the actual cost of post-majority support services. The deadline for the submission of all claims for reimbursement of 2025-26 post-majority support expenditures is the Effective Date.</p> <p>Commencing on the Effective Date, First Nations and FNCFS service providers will no longer have access to reimbursement of their actual costs for post-majority support services. ISC shall instead provide funding for post-majority support services based on an allocation methodology outlined in paragraph 44(c) of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p> <p>ISC provided guidance in August to support First Nations and Agencies with post majority support claims in advance of a CHRT decision on the Ontario Final Agreement.</p>	Annex B: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	What support is in place for	Over the past three years, further to the commitments in the Agreement-in-Principle and announced as part of	Annex H: First Nation Children’s Housing

		<p>housing in First Nations communities, more specifically, in relation to repatriation, customary families and clients receiving post-majority supports?</p>	<p>Budget 2022, ISC has provided housing funding support First Nations in addressing housing issues affecting First Nations children. An additional two years of funding remain. This funding is not tied to the approval of the Ontario Final Agreement.</p> <p>The Ontario Final Agreement commits funding for on-going capital needs that support the implementation of the FNCFS Program. \$455 million over the 9 years is attributable to capital infrastructure to support the implementation of the FNCFS Program. ISC, COO and NAN continue to develop a process to receive and review capital needs.</p> <p>Under the Ontario Final Agreement, First Nations will receive a funding allocation for post-majority support services.</p> <p>The <u>FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions</u> elaborate on eligible activities for Post-Majority Support Services. This funding supports youth aging out of care and young adults formerly in care as they approach the age of majority and transition into adulthood, up to their 26th birthday or to the age defined in provincial legislation, whichever is greater.</p>	<p>Fund Bulletin for 2025-26.</p> <p>More information can be found on the ISC webpage here: <u>Post-majority support services for First Nations youth and young adults</u>.</p> <p><u>FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions</u></p>
<p>October 17 2025</p>	<p>COO-ISC #1</p>	<p>Is there more information on outstanding CHRT 41 Capital requests and what implications there will be on those requests if the Ontario Final</p>	<p>Yes, more information regarding CHRT 41 Capital is expected and some was already shared at the COO/NAN information session held on November 14, 2025. Please refer to Appendix 11 of the Ontario Final Agreement, and to the material and questions and answers provided in relation to that information session for more details. ISC, COO, and NAN are also working to create an Ontario Final Agreement Capital Guide to support the Capital process under the Agreement and this will be available to FNCFS Agencies and First Nations.</p>	

		Agreement is implemented?		
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## Remoteness

<p>October 17 2025</p>	<p>COO-ISC #1</p>	<p>Was the remoteness methodology also revisited to ensure equitable and fair funding. What is the definition of remoteness?</p>	<p>The remoteness methodology remains the same as it was defined in the National Agreement for the Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS, and is a calculation that was co-developed with NAN.</p> <p>As described in the Ontario Final Agreement, the “NAN-Canada Remoteness Quotient Table” will be a body jointly constituted by NAN and ISC to monitor and address remoteness issues in the long-term. The Table will establish an Ontario Remoteness Secretariat which will be a centre of expertise on the impacts of remoteness experienced by First Nations and FNCFS Agencies in Ontario.</p>	<p>The definition of remoteness is defined in Part III, Section (fff) of the Ontario Final Agreement and is further explained in Appendix 10.</p> <p>Please see a simplified breakdown of the remoteness calculation can be found in Annex G of this Q&amp;A document.</p>
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## Communication, Governance and Service Delivery

Date	Session	Question	Answer	Additional Information
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	Can a First Nation change the Agency to which it is currently affiliated?	<p>Every First Nation has the right to choose who they receive their child and family services from; this includes the right to change their existing service provider.</p> <p>For the delivery of legislated child and family services (protection services), this transition of service provision is subject to the delegation or authorization under the applicable child and family services legislation (whether provincial or territorial). Through delegation agreements, the provincial or territorial government delegates authority to service providers and/or their employees, for the full or partial delivery of legislated child and family services. In order to be funded under the FNCFS Program to deliver legislated child and family services, FNCFS Agencies must undergo the process and become delegated before assuming responsibility for the delivery of these legislated services.</p> <p>If a First Nation decides to change service providers, ISC will collaborate with all affected providers to develop transition plans. Planning must start before ISC can allocate funding to the new service provider, and will clarify roles and responsibilities related to services; address the handling of any unexpended (unspent) funds; and establish communication strategies to support smooth and uninterrupted service delivery.</p>	Further information on transition between service providers can be found in Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	Can First Nations work together on programming?	Yes! Each First Nation is responsible for program and service delivery within their own community; and collaboration between First Nations on FNCFS Program development is encouraged. Sharing knowledge, experience	

			and best practices can greatly improve program and service delivery.	
October 2 2025	NAN-ISC #2	What is the composition of the Ontario Reform Implementation Committee?	<p>The purpose of the Ontario Reform Implementation Committee is to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Reformed FNCFS Program in Ontario.</p> <p>The ORIC will consist of eight (8) members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One appointed by NAN</li> <li>• One appointed by COO</li> <li>• One appointed by ISC</li> <li>• Five appointed by Ontario Chiefs in Assembly – at least one of these members will be a youth with lived experience of out-of-home-care.</li> </ul>	
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	How will tribal councils be involved in supporting their communities?	<p>Since April 1, 2022, First Nations have the flexibility to decide who will provide services and how prevention, post-majority support services and First Nation representative services funding can be reallocated to better serve their communities.</p> <p>In the Transitional FNCFS Program Terms and Conditions a First Nation service provider is defined as an entity authorized by the First Nation to support the implementation of the FNCFS Program, and the delivery of services, on reserve, including non-delegated service providers, not-for-profit First Nations organizations, and mandated organizations, for example, Tribal Councils or regional Indigenous organizations.</p>	Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.
September 8 2025	NAN-ISC #1	What supports are available to a First Nation that is transitioning to	The reformed FNCFS Program provides more flexibility to ensure that First Nations are able to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of their communities, or alternatively, are able to continue to work with their agencies	Please contact your regional ISC representative should you wish additional

		traditional laws? To support this transition, could a protocol agreement be put in place with First Nations?	to transition the program, while developing capacity in preparing to exercise jurisdiction.  Funding is available through ISC to support Indigenous groups looking to exercise jurisdiction under <i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families</i> .	information regarding available funding.
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	There is concern over the logistics of Agencies collaborating with all of their First Nations, especially in cases where the First Nations are geographically separated and there are different First Nations processes.	ISC, COO, and NAN recognize that collaboration among Agencies and First Nations may be challenging. As per the Ontario Final Agreement, the expectation is that FNCFS Agencies must collaborate as best as possible with each of the First Nations that they serve regardless of location. ISC, COO, and NAN are all available to support, in any way possible, with facilitating effective collaboration.  Planning sessions are currently being organized by both COO and NAN where both FNCFS Agencies and First Nations will come together to develop these plans.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	How can a First Nation help members who live off reserve if a child is in the care of a mainstream agency?	Funding under the FNCFS Program is aimed at supporting members ordinarily resident on reserve with the exception of First Nation Representative Services off-reserve funding. It is recommended, in these situations, that the First Nation discuss this with their own legal counsel to discover what options are available to them.	Further information on this topic can be found in:  Annex D: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-005 Definition of

				Ordinarily Resident on Reserve Bulletin. Dated May 30, 2025.
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Will First Nations leadership changes impact the Ontario Final Agreement?	The Ontario Final Agreement is a 9 year agreement that expires in 2034. Therefore, changes to First Nation leadership will not impact the validity or implementation of the Agreement.	
October 17 2025	COO-ISC #1	Are ISC FNCFS Program operations communications bulletins developed collaboratively between ISC, NAN, and COO? How is it being ensured that bulletins are reaching everyone especially in relation to releasing bulletins during times of significant cultural events?	While communication bulletins are ISC documents, ISC does ensure that COO and NAN will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback prior to ISC sending to recipients.	

## Annexes

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**Annex A:** Data Collection Instruments by Funding Stream

**Annex B:** FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.

**Annex C:** FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.

**Annex D:** FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-005 Definition of Ordinarily Resident on Reserve Bulletin. Dated May 30, 2025.

**Annex E:** FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-012-E First Nation Representative Services in Ontario Off-reserve Funding for 2025-2026. Dated September 26, 2025.

**Annex F:** Presentation :“FNCFS Program Reporting and Planning Requirements under the Ontario Final Agreement Presentation at COO Virtual Information Session October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025”

**Annex G:** Simplified breakdown of the remoteness calculation

**Annex H:** First Nation Children’s Housing Fund Bulletin for 2025-26.

## Annex A: Data Collection Instruments by Funding Stream

### Data Collection Instruments by funding stream

Funding Stream	Data Collection Instruments
Maintenance / Care	CFS Maintenance Report (DCI # 455917) & First Nations Child and Family Services Activity Report (DCI #1278249)
Operations (i.e. Protection)	FNCFS Annual Final Report (DCI #1208367)
Prevention	First Nations Child and Family Services Activity Report (DCI #1278249)
Post-Majority Support Services	First Nations Child and Family Services Activity Report (DCI #1278249)
First Nations Representative Services	Activities and Expenditures report (DCI #4548549)
Capital (FNCFS & FNRS)	Capital Project Report (DCI #460671) & Activities and Expenditures report (DCI #4548549)
Others	Activities and Expenditures report (DCI #4548549)
Funding Strategies (Operations/CFS Poverty/CFS Emergency)	FNCFS Annual Final Report (DCI #1208367)
Housing	Community Infrastructure and Housing Annual Report (DCI #41701)

**Annex B: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-09-E Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario. Dated August 13 2025.**

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
FNCFS/SEFPN-2025-09-E**

**Guidance on Post-Majority Support Service Claims Process in advance of Ontario Final Agreement  
First Nations Child and Family Services Program – Ontario**

**August 13 2025**

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**Purpose:**

This bulletin provides guidance on post-majority support services funding as part of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program in Ontario in advance of the implementation of the [Final Agreement on Long-term Reform of the FNCFS Program in Ontario](#) (the Ontario Final Agreement or OFA).

**Post-Majority Support Services Funding:**

- ISC will continue to fund the actual costs of eligible post-majority support services until the OFA comes into effect in accordance with 2022 CHRT 8 and the [FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions: Contributions to provide children, youth, young adults, families and communities with prevention and protection services](#).
- The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) has ordered Canada to fund First Nations and authorized service providers (including FNCFS Agencies) based on the actual costs of post-majority support services to support youth in care approaching the age of majority and young adults formerly in care.
- Once the OFA comes into effect, funding for post-majority support services **will shift to an allocation-based funding model** with funding delivered directly to First Nations rather than FNCFS Agencies. As detailed below, First Nations will be able to direct ISC to provide their allocation to FNCFS Agencies.

**Preparation for Implementation of the OFA:**

- ISC is asking recipients to submit their anticipated costs for post-majority support services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in a plan (submitted as an advance claim or request) rather than reimbursement, wherever possible. Recipients should minimize requests for reimbursement of costs after they are incurred. Recipients will need to note in their plan any unexpended funding from the previous fiscal years that can be applied to the plan or provide confirmation that there is no unspent FNCFS Program funding that can be applied to the plan, as outlined in the April addendum to the February 2025 Information Bulletin on the management of unexpended funds.
- **As soon as the OFA comes into effect (even if that date is within 2025–2026)**, First Nations and authorized service providers (including FNCFS Agencies) will no longer have access to funding based on actual costs for post-majority support services (including direct and indirect services). The deadline for the submission of all claims for reimbursement of 2025-2026 post-majority support services expenditures will be **the date the OFA comes into effect**.
- First Nations and FNCFS Agencies are strongly encouraged to collaborate on their 2025–2026 service delivery plans in order to coordinate transition to the OFA's approach of providing post-majority support services funding exclusively to First Nations.

- Under the OFA, First Nations will continue to be able to designate an alternative service provider to deliver post-majority support services, fully or partially. To direct ISC to allocate some or all of its post-majority support services funding to service providers for a given fiscal year, a First Nation must submit a Band Council Resolution or other official decision document related to post-majority support services funding and service provision by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the preceding calendar year. For more information, please refer to the **Bulletin on Band Council Resolutions directing funding to an authorized service provider in Ontario (August 2025)**.
- Collaboration among multiple providers in the same area will help to prevent gaps and ensure coordinated delivery.
- ISC staff will work closely with First Nations and FNCFS Agencies to support a sustainable transition to the OFA funding model for post-majority support services funding. Provincial funding to FNCFS agencies, including funding to support youth aging out of care, will not be affected by the OFA.
- ISC will be reviewing requests for post-majority support services funding received between April 1, 2025 and the date the OFA comes into effect, with specific attention to whether the expenses claimed would be greater than the funding that would be allocated to the requester under the OFA funding model. ISC will continue to approve requests based on actual expenses and advise First Nations and FNCFS Agencies of anticipated challenges to ensure programming remains stable and to help prevent any gaps during the transition to the new funding model.
- Until the OFA comes into effect, ISC will review and approve post-majority support services requests from FNCFS Agencies as they are received. Funding approvals, however, will be limited to no more than three months of advance funding. This approach ensures that funding supports a smooth transition to the OFA once it comes into effect. For any questions or further clarification, please contact the Ontario Regional Office: [creancesdeschrt-chrtclaims@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:creancesdeschrt-chrtclaims@sac-isc.gc.ca) or the FNCFS generic inbox at Headquarters: [sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca).

**Annex C: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-007-E First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding to a Service Provider in Ontario. Dated August 1, 2025.**

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
FNCFS/SEFPN 2025-007-E**

**First Nation Requests to Authorize and Direct Funding  
to a Service Provider in Ontario**

**August 1, 2025**

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This bulletin outlines how First Nations can authorize Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide funding for prevention services, First Nation Representative services (FNRS), and post-majority support services to a child and family services provider.

**Authorizing a service provider to directly receive funding**

Under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program, a First Nation can choose to directly provide prevention services, FNRS and post-majority support services, or authorize another service provider to deliver these services to their on-reserve community members on the First Nation's behalf.

- **Prevention and FNRS:** a First Nation can request that ISC direct any portion of the First Nation's funding to a different service provider by submitting an official decision document that aligns with their governance structure and customs, such as a Band Council Resolution (BCR).
- **Post-majority support services:** a First Nation can authorize another service provider to submit funding claims to serve their community members using a BCR or other official decision document. If a First Nation authorizes a post-majority support services provider to submit funding claims for their community, the First Nation must state whether they intend to deliver post-majority support services in addition to their authorized provider. If so, the First Nation's BCR or decision document must describe how they will work with their authorized service provider to ensure there is no duplication of services. If an authorized service provider and the First Nation both submit funding claims and requests for post-majority support services funding, the claims will be reviewed together to ensure the funding and service delivery coverage works in a complementary way.

**Annual deadline to direct funding**

BCRs or decision documents that direct funding to an authorized service provider in any given fiscal year beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, must state who will access FNCFS funding to deliver services and be submitted by **September 30<sup>th</sup> of the preceding calendar year** (e.g. a BCR with direction for the 2026-2027 fiscal year must be submitted by September 30, 2025). This ensures timely distribution of funds at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Due to the nature of the funding distribution cycle, this direction submitted to ISC will apply for a **minimum of one full fiscal year** and will remain in effect until the First Nation provides updated instructions, again adhering to the September 30 deadline.

**Transition between service providers**

If a First Nation decides to change service providers, ISC will collaborate with all affected providers to develop transition plans. Planning must start before ISC can allocate funding to the new service provider, and will:

- clarify roles and responsibilities related to services;

- address the handling of any unexpended (unspent) funds; and
- establish communication strategies to support smooth and uninterrupted service delivery.

### **Redistribution of funding**

In addition to requesting that ISC direct funding to another service provider, under the [Program's terms and conditions](#), recipients can themselves redistribute funding they have received from ISC to another service provider. However:

- Redistribution of funding requires a written agreement between the recipient and the party to which they would be providing the funding.
- The original funding recipient remains accountable for how the funding is used, including unexpended funds.
- Recipients must ensure compliance with the [Program's terms and conditions](#), including any associated reporting. Outstanding reporting may delay or impact future payments.

Please refer to your contribution agreement for more information and speak to an ISC regional representative for support where needed.

### **Ontario-specific considerations for prevention services funding**

If the Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program in Ontario (Ontario Final Agreement) is approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and takes effect by **April 1, 2026**, First Nations in Ontario will be able to redirect prevention services funding during fiscal year 2026-27 as outlined below:

- First Nations in Ontario will have until **September 30, 2025** to request that ISC direct any portion of the First Nation's prevention services funding for the **first half of the 2026-27 fiscal year** to a different service provider by submitting an official decision document, such as a BCR.
- First Nations in Ontario will then have until **April 1, 2026** to submit written notice to ISC directing the allocation of prevention services funding for the **second half of the 2026-27 fiscal year**.

If a First Nation's prevention services funding allocation decision that is submitted by **September 30, 2025** indicates that the allocation decision for the first half of the 2026-27 fiscal year is to apply to the second half of 2026-27 as well, ISC will allocate funding according to the allocation decision in the second half of the 2026-27 fiscal year, regardless of the Ontario Final Agreement taking effect.

### **Additional information**

A BCR [template](#) is attached to support First Nations, but it is not mandatory to use it. For questions or further support regarding this process, please contact: [sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca).

**Annex D: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-005 Definition of Ordinarily Resident on Reserve Bulletin. Dated May 30, 2025.**

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
FNCFS/SEFPN 2025-005**

**Definition of “Ordinarily Resident on Reserve”**

**May 30, 2025**

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This information bulletin provides the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program definition of “ordinarily resident on reserve”, **effective June 1, 2025**.

This definition is intended to provide clarity and a common understanding to ensure that the FNCFS Program is delivered in compliance with the [FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions](#) which states the program funds services for First Nations children, youth and families **ordinarily resident on reserve or in the Yukon**. Where eligibility for the Program is based on an individual being ordinarily resident on reserve, the following definition will be used:

**Ordinarily resident on reserve** refers to the residency status of an adult who resides on reserve at least 50% of the calendar year and who does not maintain a primary residence elsewhere, or:

- is temporarily residing off reserve while registered either full-time or part-time in an educational institution or a training program and who would otherwise reside on reserve; or
- is temporarily residing off reserve in order to obtain health or social services for which there are no reasonably comparable services on reserve and who, but for the need to receive said services, would reside on reserve; or
- is temporarily residing off reserve due to a natural disaster.

The residency of a child is derived from the residency of the child's parent or guardian. The residency of a child who comes into the care of a mandated child welfare agency is derived from the residency of the child's parent or primary caregiver at the time the child is taken into care.

For the purpose of this definition, a **reserve** includes:

- a reserve, as defined in s. 2 (1) of the Indian Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5;
- lands set aside in Yukon as per Cabinet Directive (Circular No. 27) entitled Procedure for Reserving Land in the Yukon and Northwest Territories (1955);
- lands formerly defined as a reserve or lands set aside which now form part of modern treaty settlement lands; and
- Crown land which is recognized or deemed by Canada as settlement lands of a First Nation.

If you have questions about this bulletin or its implementation, please contact your ISC regional office.

**Annex E: FNCFS Program Information Bulletin 2025-012-E First Nation Representative Services in Ontario Off-reserve Funding for 2025-2026. Dated September 26, 2025.**

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
FNCFS 2025-012-E**

**First Nation Representative Services in Ontario  
Off-reserve Funding for 2025-2026**

**September 26, 2025**

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This bulletin provides guidance on accessing funding for off-reserve First Nation Representative services (FNRS) in Ontario, including information on the funding request process, key deadlines and eligibility requirements.

**Background**

Under the Agreement Respecting Funding for First Nation Representative Services Off-Reserve in Ontario, signed by Canada, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Canada will provide funding for FNRS to support First Nations children and families residing off-reserve until **March 31, 2027**.

COO, NAN, and Canada will jointly engage the Government of Ontario to explore long-term funding solutions for these services.

**Advance claims process**

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is moving to an advance claims process for FNRS in Ontario. It will accept claims for reimbursement of past expenses only if those expenses were incurred on or before **November 15, 2025**. Any expenses incurred after that date cannot be submitted for reimbursement. Instead, such expenses must be claimed in advance and pre-approved by ISC before they are incurred.

**Claim deadlines**

Expense Period	Claim Type	Submission Deadline
Apr. 1, 2025 – Nov. 15, 2025	Reimbursement	Submit by <b>March 31, 2026</b>
Nov. 16, 2025 – Mar. 31, 2026	Advance Claim	Submit by <b>October 31, 2025</b>
Apr. 1, 2026 – Mar. 31, 2027	Advance Claim	Advance claims will be required. To avoid funding gaps, recipients are encouraged to submit their claims by December 31, 2025, prior to the April 1 start of the 2026-27 fiscal year.

**Claim Process**

1. Complete the **FNCFS Claim Form for FNRS Off-Reserve in Ontario** (attached), which outlines eligible activities.
2. Email your completed form to: [creancesdescht-chrtclaims@sac-isc](mailto:creancesdescht-chrtclaims@sac-isc)

ISC will assess fully completed claims within 21 calendar days. Incomplete forms will be returned to the recipient with instructions on what missing information is required to resubmit.

ISC may request additional documentation to support its assessment. ISC will not approve a claim in full or in part until it has received complete documentation on the claim.

If a request is denied or only partially approved, ISC will provide a rationale and instructions for appeal and/or suggest alternative funding sources.

Funding decisions will be communicated via written letter delivered through e-mail.

To request additional funding, **a recipient who has already received off-reserve FNRS funding** must:

- show that **at least 75% of previous off-reserve FNRS claims funding has been spent**, and;
- include a plan for how the **remaining 25% will be used**.

### **Eligibility and claims assessment**

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Acting as the main liaison, on behalf of families or communities, between First Nations, child and family services agencies, or the Government of Ontario, based on the child's best interests (as defined by the First Nation). This includes interventions that reduce risks and build protective factors, as well as activities that support the child's safety, and the child's connection to community and culture, family preservation, reunification, or permanency planning.
- Supporting discussions, planning, or coordinating and advocacy when a child and family have involvement with child and family services, including Indigenous dispute resolution approaches and court proceedings.
- Ensuring that the cultural needs of a child are being addressed, which includes participating in the development of a child and family's plan of care.
- Collaborating in service planning and delivery with other child and family service providers.
- Serving as a point of contact, responding to notices and fulfilling the responsibilities of a First Nation Representative as set out under federal and provincial legislation and as laid out in *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.

**Note:** Administrative fees must be detailed as expenses rather than presented as a percentage. All costs must be itemized.

### **Exceptional costs**

Some costs that fall outside typical FNRS funding parameters may be considered on an exceptional basis if justified due to complex or unique needs. Such costs include:

- **Vehicles for First Nation Representatives off-reserve:** While transportation is an eligible cost under FNRS, vehicle purchase(s) must have ISC pre-approval and comply with ISC's policies and guidelines, including the [First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Capital Delivery Guide](#) and FNCFS vehicle purchase policies, available through the ISC contact e-mail listed below.
- **International travel:** International travel costs will only be considered with written pre-approval by ISC for specific travel requirements prior to costs being incurred.

Additional criteria specific to FNRS off-reserve are included in the claim form. Note that a previously approved claim does not guarantee approval for future requests.

**Assessment considerations include:**

- Whether the costs support the eligible activities;
- Whether the costs are **reasonable**, based on their necessity for delivering eligible services and whether the amounts are typical and justified given the service delivery context;
- Whether the request substantively duplicates existing funded services or services funded by Jordan's Principle or Choose Life.

**Reporting Requirements**

Funding provided through contribution agreements must follow standard financial management, accountability and reporting practices outlined in the contribution agreement. Recipients must complete and submit **DCI 4548549** to report on the use of FNRS off-reserve funding. Reporting deadlines are specified in the contribution agreement. ISC may delay funding where a recipient has outstanding reports.

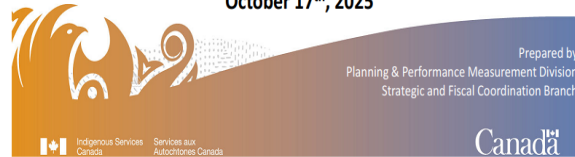
**Contact**

For any questions or further clarification, please contact your Ontario region FNCFS team at [creancesdeschrt-chrtclaims@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:creancesdeschrt-chrtclaims@sac-isc.gc.ca).

**Annex F:** Presentation :“FNCFS Program Reporting and Planning Requirements under the Ontario Final Agreement Presentation at COO Virtual Information Session October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025”

**FNCFS Program Reporting and Planning  
Requirements under the Ontario Final  
Agreement**

Presentation at COO Virtual Information Session  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## Annex G: Simplified breakdown of the remoteness calculation

### What is Remoteness in the Context of the Ontario Final Agreement?

As part of the method for determining the amount of funding that recipients can receive under the Ontario Final Agreement, the reformed FNCFS Program funding approach contains a number of funding considerations, including Remoteness. This consideration is meant to provide additional funding, where necessary, to account for the increased costs of delivering child and family services in remotely located areas.

As per the Ontario Final Agreement Part III, Section (fff), “Remoteness” is defined as:

*“a variable factor measured on a continuum and describes the lived circumstances of First Nations communities for 12 whom issues of access (by road network, by ice road only, by air only, or otherwise), geography and context exacerbate challenges faced by all First Nations, including by increasing the costs associated with child and family services. Remoteness is generally associated with geographic distance from, and access to, service centres (often defined on the basis of population size and density), which affects the costs of shipping goods as well as costs related to personnel, including travel, and living costs.”*

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### Who will Receive Remoteness Funding?

The First Nations that qualify for remoteness funding will be identified using Statistics Canada’s most recent [Index of Remoteness](#). This index gives each community a score that measures how isolated it is based on factors such as how far and how accessible key services are from the First Nation. First Nations with an Index Remoteness Score at or above 0.40 will qualify to receive remoteness funding. In the Ontario Final Agreement, these First Nations are referred to as Remoteness-Eligible First Nations.

FNCFS Agencies that will qualify for remoteness funding will be based on whether their affiliated First Nations qualify based on the same process above.

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### What Components of the Reformed FNCFS Funding Approach will be Adjusted by Remoteness?

Following the effective date of the Ontario Final Agreement (anticipating it will be April 1, 2026), Remoteness will be applied

a) immediately to:

- Top Ups: Information Technology, Results, Emergency
- Household Supports
- Post-Majority Support Services

b) after the transition period, since this funding has already included remoteness adjustments prior to the Ontario Final Agreement coming into effect:

- Prevention
- First Nation Representative Services

FNCFS Agencies will receive Remoteness on

- Prevention
- Emergency
- Any remoteness applicable funding component that a First Nation has authorized them to deliver on the First Nation's behalf.

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### How Much Remoteness Funding will Remoteness-Eligible First Nations Receive?

Each Remoteness-Eligible First Nation and/or FNCFS Agency will receive a unique amount of additional remoteness funding that is based on a formula called the Remoteness Quotient Adjustment Factor (RQAF), developed by the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Canada- this is included in the Ontario Final Agreement. This formula uses the Remoteness Index score of a First Nation and separate data gathered through NAN and ISC to determine the required funding adjustment for each applicable Remoteness-Eligible First Nation.

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### How is Remoteness Funding Calculated?

The Remoteness Quotient Adjustment Factor (RQAF) formula uses various data gathered from NAN and ISC to provide a best estimate of how much more it costs to deliver services in distinct remote First Nations communities. Using these data estimates in combination with a First Nation's unique Remoteness Index Score, a calculation is made to determine the specific remoteness amount. The two main data sources gathered from NAN and ISC include:

1. **NAN's Remoteness Quotient (RQ)\*:** real cost data from child and family service agencies in northern Ontario only for NAN-member First Nations that are connected by an all-weather road to Canada's main road network. NAN's RQ amount varies slightly for NAN-member First Nations with all-weather road access and other First Nations. This approach helps make sure that funding reflects the real differences in cost between First Nations where the data is available and where it is not available.

This means that:

- For NAN-Member First Nations with all-weather road access, ISC's CAF *underestimates* remoteness costs so it needs to be multiplied by **1.089** to correct it. This number will always remain the same.
  - For non-NAN member First Nations with all-weather road access, ISC's CAF *slightly overestimates* remoteness costs so it needs to be multiplied by **0.879** to correct it. This number will always remain the same.
  - For any other First Nations without all-weather road access, the formula includes an additional fixed amount of **0.704** to account for this context.
2. **ISC's Cost Adjustment Factor (CAF):** general cost data from across Canada, like shipping rates from Canada Post and pay scales for remote work from the National Joint Council. ISC's Cost Adjustment Factor is currently calculated to be **0.709** for all First Nations.

### Formula Scenarios:

- a) **NAN Member First Nations With All-Weather Road Access Formula**

$$\frac{(0.709 \times \text{First Nation's Remoteness Score}) \times 1.098}{\text{ISC's Cost Adjustment Factor} \times \text{Score taken from Statistic Canada} \times \text{NAN's Remoteness Quotient}}$$

**b) Any Other First Nations With All-Weather Road Access**

$$\frac{(0.709 \times \text{First Nation's Remoteness Score}) \times 0.879}{\text{ISC's Cost Adjustment Factor} \times \text{Score taken from Statistic Canada} \times \text{NAN's Remoteness Quotient}}$$

**c) Any Other First Nation Without All-Weather Road Connected Access**

$$\frac{[(0.709 \times \text{First Nation's Remoteness Score}) + (0.704 \times 1)] \times 0.879}{\text{ISC's Cost Adjustment Factor} \times \text{Score taken from Statistic Canada} \times \text{plus Fixed rate to account for no road access} \times \text{NAN's Remoteness Quotient}}$$

**d) For FNCFS Agencies**

For FNCFS Agencies receiving the funding on behalf of their affiliated First Nations (ie prevention) the average RQAF for all the First Nations served by the Agency will be calculated and applied to their applicable funding components.

$$\frac{\text{Average RQAF score of all First Nations Served} \times \text{Applicable funding components (i.e. Prevention and Emergency)}}{1}$$

More information on the Remoteness Quotient Adjustment Factor (RQAF) Methodology can be found in Appendix 10 of the Ontario Final Agreement (Page 172).

**Who will be Monitoring the Remoteness Adjustment on an Ongoing Basis?**

To ensure evidence-based best practices are derived to address issues of remoteness in Ontario, the “NAN-Canada Remoteness Quotient Table” is the body jointly constituted by NAN and ISC to address remoteness issues. The Table will establish an Ontario Remoteness Secretariat which will be a centre of expertise on the impacts of remoteness experienced by First Nations and FNCFS Agencies in Ontario. The Table and/or Secretariat may also work collaboratively with:

- Statistics Canada to further develop the Index of Remoteness;
- Organizations such as the First Nations Information Governance Centre that have expertise relevant to the modelling or measurement of program costs in NAN communities.
- The Ontario Reform Implementation Committee

More information on Remoteness Research can be found in Part XI of the Ontario Final Agreement.

## Annex H: First Nation Children's Housing Fund Bulletin for 2025-26

# First Nation Children's Housing Fund (FNCHF) Information Bulletin (April 2025)

Issued by: [Indigenous Services Canada](#)

### Background:

The Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle and Budget 2022 committed funding for the First Nation Children's Housing Fund (FNCHF). The funding is intended to support eligible First Nations to purchase, construct, and/or renovate housing units in their communities to meet the needs of children and families.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has made available to First Nations \$209.4 million in fiscal year 2023-2024 and \$413.1 million in fiscal year 2024-2025 using current processes available under the [Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program](#) (CFMP).

In fiscal year 2025-2026, ISC has allocated \$438.1 million of the FNCHF for First Nations. Funds will be delivered through the CFMP existing terms and conditions and balanced with respect to the paramount choice of rights-holders. First Nations will be able to carry forward unspent amounts from 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and/or 2025-2026 into 2026-2027.

### Administration:

The FNCHF is a special purpose allotment and is outside of core CFMP funding. The funding, however, will be delivered through the CFMP's existing terms and conditions and balanced with respect to the paramount choice of rights-holders.

Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations are eligible for FNCHF funding and will receive their allocations through their existing funding agreements with ISC.

### Eligible Recipients:

The FNCHF aims to support the safety and well-being of First Nation children, youth and families on-reserve and in Yukon in a manner that is culturally appropriate, in their best interest, and provided on the basis of substantive equality. The funding will support all First Nations, including Self-Governing and Modern Treaty First Nations who are currently receiving FNCFS Program funding. First Nations exercising their jurisdiction in relation to child and family services through *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* are eligible for this housing funding.

### Eligible Expenditures:

Expenditures related to the following activities are eligible expenditures of FNCHF funding:

- purchase;
- construction;
- renovation;
- major/minor repairs;
- lot servicing; and/or,
- sub-division development.

First Nations will be encouraged to dedicate funding to meet the needs of children and families. However, should First Nations choose, they can use these funds to address other housing needs that are eligible as per the CFMP.

**Reporting:**

Funding will be reported under the CFMP special purpose code (332-B581E), which will be included in funding agreements.

Currently First Nations report on housing within the existing Community Infrastructure and Housing Report, (Data Collection Instrument (DCI) #41701) or, for recipients of the New Fiscal Relationship (NFR) Grant, the NFR Grant Results Report (DCI #33315098), as part of annual reporting requirements. This report remains active and has been updated to include a new data field that asks for the number of housing units with youth or children that received funding for repairs, renovations, replacement or new builds. This report is not tied to reporting requirements related to FNCHF but is utilized to identify housing needs. First Nations will continue to be required to submit the Community Infrastructure and Housing Report annually.

For the 2025-2026 FNCHF allocation, First Nations are required to complete and submit the FNCHF Spending Plan to their regional office by June 30, 2026.

Annually, an updated FNCHF Spending Plan—reflecting the status of all projects—must be submitted by June 30th. This annual reporting will continue until all projects are completed and all allocated funding has been fully expended.

**Funding Allocations:**

Eligible First Nations will be advised of their FNCHF funding allocations for 2025-2026 by letter from their ISC regional office.

*For fiscal year 2025-2026, 100% of a First Nation's funding allocation will be released when the First Nation returns a signed funding arrangement to their ISC regional office.*

First Nations will be permitted to carry forward unspent amounts into 2026-2027.

Regional offices will work collaboratively with First Nations, and where appropriate, share information related to ineligible on-reserve housing requests under Jordan's Principle or the FNCFS Program that a First Nation could consider for its FNCHF allocations.

Should you have any questions concerning the FNCHF funding or would like support in completing the FNCHF Spending Plan, please contact the ISC regional representative responsible for capital investments.