

Funding Opportunity for Palliative Care in Indigenous Communities – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. Will this opportunity fund First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous (FNIMUI) approaches to palliative care?

A. Yes. In acknowledgement of Call to Action #22 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report¹, we “recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and {their use} in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal Healers and Elders, where requested by Aboriginal patients”.

Q. What definition of palliative care is being used here?

A. We use a definition that is aligned with the World Health Organization's definition of palliative care: “Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness. It prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual”²

In *Preparing for the Journey: Caring for Indigenous People Who Are Seriously Ill*³, parallels are drawn between the Indigenous Wellness Framework and the concept of a palliative approach to care.

The palliative approach to care emphasizes the relationships between the body, mind, and spirit and the need for care to address these different areas of self in order to achieve wellness. The palliative approach to care honours the connections and relationships that people have with family members, community members, and care providers, and views the family as the unit of care. The palliative approach to care also focuses on wellness and healing through physical healing, spiritual healing, and the healing of families through grief work.

¹ [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

² [Palliative care \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

³ Holly Prince. (2017). *Preparing for the Journey: Caring for Indigenous People Who Are Seriously Ill*, Version 1: Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON, retrieved from www.cerah.lakeheadu.ca

FNIMUI communities may have definitions of palliative care that are customized to their traditions and the needs of their community. If your definition is an important part of your palliative care program and you feel able to share it, please include it within your application.

Q. Does this funding opportunity apply to Urban Indigenous populations living within a larger community?

A. Yes, organizations such as Aboriginal Health Access Centres that provide services to Urban Indigenous people can apply.

Q. Are applicants required to have an existing funding agreement with Ontario Health?

A. No. Applications are welcomed from any FNIMUI community or organization with experience providing culturally appropriate care in their community (either clinical care, health promotion or navigation services) who have established a foundation of readiness for local palliative care services. Ontario Health regularly enters into agreements with a variety of organizations; the organization must be a legal entity able to provide documentation to confirm the legal name and banking information for their organization.

Q. Can several organizations submit a collaborative submission?

A. Yes, we encourage organizations to partner together to submit a joint submission. This might be an ideal way for some Ontario Health Teams to take a supporting role, with the Indigenous organization(s) taking the leading role.

Q. Who can act as the signing authority for the application?

A. The application should be signed by the most senior administrative leader responsible for the program/project area (e.g., Chief, Director, VP, CEO, CFO) who can ensure reporting requirements are met as well as a senior leader who can legally bind the organization.

Q. What is the term of the funding?

A. Successful FNIMUI communities or organizations will receive a funding agreement for the term of fiscal years 2024/25 – 2025/26.

Q. Is this base funding?

A. No. It is one-time funding, over two years. It is hoped that this funding opportunity will start to build a stronger palliative care program across the province; we are working towards more stable funding in the future.

Q. What is the anticipated timeline of events from application submission to flow of money?

A. The aim is to have applications reviewed and decisions on funding accomplished by the end of June 2024. Successful applicants will be notified in July 2024. Funds will be available in early September 2024.

Q. Our organization might be ready to take on this work in the future, but we aren't ready right now. Will this Expression of Interest (EOI) call be re-issued in subsequent years?

A. Only organizations that are ready for action should apply. It is anticipated that there may be other funding opportunities, but no clear timelines have been identified at this time.

Q. What can the funding be used for?

A. This funding has been made available in conjunction with the implementation of [the Palliative Care Health Services Delivery Framework in the Community \(The Delivery Framework\)](#) across the province. The Delivery Framework outlines a model of care to guide the continued growth of palliative care across Ontario.

Thinking about the five phases of palliative care program development⁴, funds can be used to create and grow a palliative care program, including the provision of palliative care services. Organizations or communities might request funding to hire a program coordinator, train local care providers in palliative care best practice, or temporarily hire an additional navigator or Elder. Minor capital expenses, such as repairs to make spaces more accessible/safe for palliative care in the community are also eligible. We encourage applicants to read [Developing Palliative Care Programs in First Nations Communities: A Workbook](#) for suggestions.

Q. When you say, "Palliative care services", what is included?

A. In the ["Developing Palliative Care Programs in First Nations Communities: A Workbook"](#) (Version 1, 2015), the list of palliative care program services includes:

- Nursing and personal support services (foot & nail care, bathing, oral care, transferring and positioning techniques, nursing assessment and nursing care to help clients to remain at home).
- Dietary services (dietary counselling, Meals on Wheels, workshop on healthy eating practices).
- Medical services (doctor or nurse practitioner on site/in community, appropriate transportation services to medical centres for appointments).
- Organized programs to ensure reasonable opportunity to pursue religious and spiritual wellbeing practices (list of Pastors/Priests/Clergy and traditional medicine (wo)men according to spiritual preference of client).
- Homemaking and visiting services (including respite care, housekeeping, laundry, and maintenance).
- Grief and bereavement support, including traditional supports.
- Supports for volunteer programs.

⁴This document uses the approach and terminology in "Improving End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities Research Team, Lakehead University (2015), *Developing Palliative Care Programs in First Nations Communities: A Workbook*, Version 1, Retrieved from www.eolfn.lakeheadu.ca

Q. Our group seeks support from palliative care experts for arising patient care issues/concerns. Are you offering this kind of ongoing support?

A. Yes. We can help to foster relationships with palliative care experts, for coaching and mentoring as well as for clinical consultation on medically complex cases.

Q. Our group is concerned about the reporting requirements that may be associated with this opportunity.

A. While regular reporting is required, it is our goal to keep three important principles in mind:

1. Respect for the principles of FNIMUI ownership, control, access, and possession of data.
2. Customization of agreements, to specify reporting that captures the unique work of each group without excessive paperwork.
3. Minimizing the reporting burden on successful applicants.

Q. We don't have a proposal already developed, but we could really benefit from this funding. What level of detail is required?

A. We are hoping to understand your community's capacity and plans for immediate growth of a local palliative care program and/or services. If this can be conveyed clearly through lists or bullet points, that's fine! To request assistance to prepare your application, please email your Ontario Health Regional contact.

- In Ontario Health Central Region: sara.binns@ontariohealth.ca
- In Ontario Health East Region: PalliativeEOI_East@ontariohealth.ca
- In Ontario Health North East Region: OH-NE-Finance@ontariohealth.ca
- In Ontario Health North West Region: OH-NW-Submissions@ontariohealth.ca
- In Ontario Health West Region: brady.williams@ontariohealth.ca

Q. What are some useful resources that will help us to envision what palliative care programs in Indigenous communities might look like?

A. Try these:

- [The Palliative Care Health Services Delivery Framework](#)
- [Ontario Palliative Care Competency Framework](#)
- [Palliative Care Toolkit for Indigenous Communities](#)
- Improving End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities Research Team, Lakehead University (2015), *Developing Palliative Care Programs in First Nations Communities: A Workbook*, Version 1, Retrieved from [Improving End-of-life care in First Nations](#)
- Holly Prince. (2017). *Preparing for the Journey: Caring for Indigenous People Who Are Seriously Ill*, Version 1: Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON, retrieved from [Preparing for the Journey \(lakeheadu.ca\)](#)
- [Canadian Virtual Hospice: Tools for practice](#)

- [Canadian Virtual Hospice: The Experiences of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples with Advanced Cancer Illness and at the End of Life](#)
- [Advance Care Planning Canada: First Nations Resources](#)
- [Canadian Partnership against Cancer: Beginning the Journey into the Spirit World](#)
- [Cancer Care Ontario: Palliative Care Toolkit for Indigenous Communities](#)
- [Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Access Centre](#)
- [Hospice Palliative care Ontario: First Nations Caregiver Support Education](#)

Need this information in an accessible format? 1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@ontariohealth.ca
Document disponible en français en contactant info@ontariohealth.ca