

**FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET
SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT ON
LONG-TERM REFORM OF THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
PROGRAM ON APRIL 1ST, 2025**

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Under the reformed Program, and as committed to in the Final Agreement, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) would allocate \$1.397 billion over a 10-year period beginning in 2024-25 for First Nations Representative Services FNRS funding outside of Ontario.

WHAT IS IT?

First Nation Representative Services (sometimes referred to as FNRS, Band Representative Services in Ontario or band designate in Alberta) support First Nations when children, youth, young adults, and families from their community are involved or at risk of involvement with the child and family services system. First Nation Representatives help families access supports and work to connect First Nations children, youth, and families with the lands, languages, cultures, practices, customs, traditions, ceremonies and knowledge of their First Nation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Eligible funding recipients for First Nation Representative Services include:

- **First Nation(s)**, meaning a “band” as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Indian Act, RSC, 1985, C 1-5, as amended, and;
- **First Nation Service Providers**, meaning an entity authorized by the First Nation to deliver FNRS (including non-delegated service providers, First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies, not-for-profit First Nation organizations, and mandated organizations (i.e. *Indian Act* band councils and Tribal Councils).

HOW IS FUNDING DETERMINED?

In 2024-25 funding for First Nation Representative Services (**outside of Ontario**), is being provided to First Nations based on a formula that multiplies \$294.72 by the number of registered First Nations persons resident on-reserve, and in the Yukon (per capita).

- In cases where the First Nation has a small population, a minimum of \$75,000 will be provided.
- FNRS funding will continue to be adjusted annually to account for inflation and changes to population.
- FNRS funding will also be adjusted for remoteness for First Nations with a 2021 Index of Remoteness score of 0.40 or greater.

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR FNRS FUNDING?

- First Nation Representative Services is critically important to First Nations and in ensuring that the rights of First Nations children and youth are respected within the child and family services system. First Nation Representative Services include engaging with child and family services providers and participating in child and family service matters as set out in provincial, territorial and federal child and family services laws.
- Some examples of eligible activities for First Nation Representative Services may include:
 - Serving as the main liaison, on behalf of families or communities, between First Nations, FNCFS Agencies and/or Provincial and Yukon Governments on the basis of the child's best interest including activities that promote child safety, protective factors, family preservation, reunification and/or permanency planning.
 - Support discussions, planning, and/or coordinating and advocacy when a child and family has involvement with child and family services, including court proceedings.
 - Ensuring that the cultural needs of a child are being addressed, which includes participating in the development a child and family's plan of care.
 - Collaborative service planning and delivery with other FNCFS Service Providers.

Guidance material and documents are being prepared to support FNCFS Service Providers.