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

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 <u>Final Agreement on Long-term Reform of the FNCFS Program in Ontario</u> (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 <u>FNCFS Transitional</u>
 <u>Terms and Conditions: Contributions to provide children, youth, young adults, families</u>
 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 30th 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 or the FNCFS generic inbox at
 Headquarters: sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca.