

**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

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 1st, must state who will access FNCFS funding to deliver services and be **submitted by September 30th 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 First Nation 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.