

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream Questions and Answers

General:

1. What is the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding under Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)?

Infrastructure Canada has implemented new program parameters under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to address significant health and socio-economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak. A temporary COVID-19 Resilience Stream offers **\$1.05 billion** in existing funding to provide provinces and territories with added flexibility to fund quick-start, short-term projects that might not otherwise be eligible under the existing funding streams.

For more information, please see <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/covid-19-resilience-eng.html#1>.

Cost Share:

2. Why are not-for-profit homes being funded at 100 percent federal-provincial cost share, while for-profit homes are only funded at 31.25 percent federal-provincial cost share?

The provision of ICIP funds is governed by the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario (the "Bilateral Agreement"). The Bilateral Agreement provides 80 per cent federal cost share for not-for-profit homes, and 25 per cent cost share for for-profit homes. Under this agreement, the Ministry of Long-Term Care will pay a proportional additional cost share of 20 per cent of costs to not-for-profit homes, and 6.25 per cent to for-profit homes.

As ICIP is a federal government program, the cost-share for homes is determined by the Government of Canada. In order to administer the program, the Ontario government must adhere to the rules of the Bilateral Agreement.

3. Why is the Ministry of Long-Term Care treating for-profit, not-for-profit and municipal homes in different ways?

The Ministry of Long-Term Care continues to consistently provide government funding to all long-term care homes in Ontario. It is also maintaining equal-funding opportunities.

As ICIP is a federal government program, the cost-share for homes is determined by the Government of Canada, as outlined in the Integrated Bilateral Agreement. In order to administer the program, the Ontario government must adhere to the Bilateral Agreement.

4. What sources of funding can LTC homes use to pay for their cost-share of projects?

Long-term care homes are able to supplement their contribution by using other provincial sources of funding, such as the Long-Term Care Minor Capital Program and Infection Prevention and Containment (IPAC) Minor Capital funding for minor capital projects.

Project Submission:

5. How long will approval take after an application is submitted?

Projects submitted to the Ministry of Long-Term Care will be reviewed prior to nomination to the federal government for this joint federal-provincial funding. Federal government approval times vary depending on whether the application is submitted for a not-for-profit home or a for-profit home. Applications submitted by not-for-profit homes will typically require **up to 20 business days** to be approved by the federal government once they have been nominated by the ministry, and up to **12 weeks** for for-profit homes as they will require federal Treasury Board approval.

Applicants will be notified as soon as projects are federally approved. No expenses or costs, besides those related to Indigenous duty to consult (if applicable), can be incurred before the projects are approved.

6. My LTC home would like to submit an application. What should we do first?

Any interested LTC homes that are seeking funding under the ICIP program should register on the Government of Ontario's online transfer payment system (Transfer Payment Ontario – TPON). Once registered, they may submit an application to enable receipt of the funding as soon as possible. In addition, users should review the **Program Guidelines** for more information.

7. What is the project submission method?

Long-term care homes must first register with the Government of Ontario's online transfer payment system (Transfer Payment Ontario – TPON) before submitting applications to enable receipt of the funding.

Getting Started with Transfer Payment Ontario

Transfer Payment Ontario (www.ontario.ca/GetFunding) is the Government of Ontario's online transfer payment management system. It provides one-window access to information about funding opportunities, how to submit for funding and how to check the status of a submission.

All organizations must register with TPON to receive transfer payment funding. New users to TPON must:

- 1) **Create a ONE-key account and ID through www.ontario.ca/GetFunding**
- 2) **Register your organization**: If you operate more than one home under the same Canada Revenue Agency number, please register online under **one** name. Please call the help desk at 1-855-216-3090 or 416-325-6691 to register any additional LTC homes, once you have received registration notification from TPON.

- 3) **Submit the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Application:** Applications can be submitted from **November 23, 2020**, to **December 18, 2020**.

Technical Support

For technical support, please contact TPON Client Care:

- Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).
- Toronto: 416-325-6691
- Toll Free: 1-855-216-3090
- TTY/Teletypewriter (for the hearing impaired): 416-325-3408 / Toll free: 1-800-268-7095
- Email: TPONCC@ontario.ca

Note: Google Chrome web browser and Adobe Acrobat Reader DC are required to access and download the required forms from TPON. For more information and resources visit the [Get Help](#) section of the website.

8. **How many application forms are required if a home would like to apply for more than one project under the ICIP program?**

Applicants may submit multiple projects under this program. However, applicants are requested to bundle coordinated projects together and submit those under one application.

In order to be bundled, project components must share an ultimate recipient (i.e., the same LTC home), category, and similar project descriptions or project activities. This could include bundling similar projects (i.e., roof replacements on different parts of the building or multiple buildings for the same home).

As TPON currently only accepts one asset type per project, when bundling projects, homes must choose the most applicable asset from the drop down menu, and ensure all project works are included in the project description. All bundled project components must be under the same category:

- **Category 1** – Retrofits, repairs and upgrades
- **Category 2** – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure.

Project Eligibility:

9. **What are the eligibility requirements for projects under the program?**

Only licensed long-term care homes are eligible to apply for this ICIP COVID-19 stream funding.

To be eligible, projects must commence no later than **September 30, 2021**, and must be substantially complete by no later than **December 31, 2021**. Substantial completion refers to the period where all significant work has been completed and the project/asset can be used for its intended purpose.

As per federal parameters, remote communities have until **December 31, 2022**, to complete their project. Communities that fall under this definition, as per the Canada-Ontario Integrated Bilateral Agreement, are outlined in the Appendix A of **Program Guidelines**.

10. What penalties might long-term care homes incur if they are unable to substantially complete the project by December 31st, 2021, due to construction delays?

In order to receive approval, projects must be completed before **December 31, 2021**. Failure to complete before December 31, 2021, could constitute project default. Further, any costs incurred after December 31, 2021, are ineligible for the federal or provincial contribution under this joint federal-provincial funding.

11. What types of projects are eligible under the ICIP program?

Funding will be provided to support infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including infrastructure related to COVID-19 response. According to federal parameters, applications will be accepted under the following two categories:

- **Category 1 – Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for long-term care infrastructure
- **Category 2 – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure**, including measures to support physical distancing

Under the program, only permanently installed fixed assets are eligible. The following items are ineligible:

- Furniture and fixtures
- Portable items, e.g., portable Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) units and air conditioning units, portable HEPA filters
- Portable hand-washing/water bottle filling stations

The list below provides examples of projects that may be eligible under each category. Please note this is not an exhaustive list. Federal approval is subject to review/approval of applications that contain detailed project descriptions, and costs and timelines.

Eligible Items	Category
HVAC (heating, ventilation - air filtration, air-conditioning) systems, including retrofits and new installations in buildings and portables	Category 1
Window and door replacements	Category 1
Plexiglass barriers/separation infrastructure	Category 1 or 2
Security enhancements	Category 1 or 2
Accessibility upgrades	Category 1 or 2
Hand-washing stations (fixed to the building)	Category 2
Renovating underused space to expand capacity	Category 1 (if general retrofits) or Category 2 (if COVID-specific)
Safety retrofits (uneven pavement, structural issues, emergency lighting/fire sprinklers, etc.)	Category 1 or 2

Information Technology (IT) requirements (network wiring, installation to retrofit/upgrade networking, WIFI Access, etc.)	Category 1 or 2
Video screens and PA systems for announcements	Category 2

12. Can recipients submit applications/receive funding under more than one sub-stream of the COVID stream (i.e. the Local Government sub-stream and the Long-Term Care sub-stream)?

Under the COVID stream, a municipal LTC home can apply under both sub-streams of the COVID stream so long as the project description and scope varies.

For instance, a municipality could submit a project for their municipally owned long-term care home to the Local Government sub-stream of COVID stream and also apply under the Long-Term Care sub-stream of COVID for a project at the same property, as long as the scope of the project is unique. Under the Local Government sub-stream, only municipalities are eligible to submit applications and must prioritize which projects to submit within their project cap specifications.

13. What expenses/costs are not eligible under the ICIP program?

The following costs are not eligible for funding under the program:

- Costs incurred before project approval, and any expenditures related to contracts signed prior to project approval (with the exception of costs related to Indigenous Duty to Consult, if applicable);
- All capital costs, including site preparation and construction costs, are ineligible until approval under the program is provided;
- Costs related to land acquisition and non-fixed assets (e.g., furniture); and
- Costs incurred after December 31, 2021, or December 31, 2022, for Remote Communities (see Program Guidelines).

14. Who can I contact with questions or concerns?

For additional ICIP information please contact ICIP.LTC@ontario.ca. If you have any technical questions, please contact TPONCC@ontario.ca.