

Food Systems Program Grant FAQ

What are some examples of eligible projects and expenses under the regular FSP activity grant?

- Indigenous Food related activities, such as hunting, gathering, fishing, wild farming
- Plant and Indigenous wild food restoration/revitalization
- Food preservation, preparation, and related knowledge sharing and gathering opportunities
- Community gardens, backyard gardens
- Related infrastructure and equipment or tools, such as garden boxes, gardening tools, greenhouses, root cellars, smokehouses, dipnets, and harvesting tools
- Materials, such as soil etc.
- Honoraria and wages for food related labour
- Food security or food sovereignty planning work
- And any combinations of these or other food related activities

Please note: Administration fees above 15% are not an eligible expense.

How soon will my application be reviewed?

Once an application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the Provincial Coordinator for completeness. The Provincial Coordinator may follow up to clarify aspects of your application. The review panel will assess the application after the intake is closed and a decision will be made within three weeks after the deadline.

Does my application guarantee funding?

No, there will be an open call for proposals and all applications will be reviewed by an internal and external committee. An approved Food Systems Program grant does not guarantee funding for the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up.

Will our participation guarantee funding in future years?

No, at this time I-SPARC has only received a funding commitment for one year and therefore cannot make any guarantees or commitments. However, I-SPARC is working tirelessly to partner with different organizations, to increase and diversify funding sources so that more communities and organization can receive funds in the future.

How are grant decisions made?

Applications will be looked at for their alignment with the funding criteria. Components (among others) that we are looking for include:

- Is there a long-term food security or food sovereignty vision within the community and for the proposed project or program?
- Ability to complete the project and meet its goals and objectives by March 31, 2025.
- Demonstrates involvement of community/population served.
- Balanced and realistic budget.
- Is this project a component of a larger scale program, endeavour, or plan?
- The impact the proposed project has on the community or the role it plays within the long-term food security or food sovereignty vision.

- Strong links between proposed project, the need for this specific project, and the community's long term food security/sovereignty vision.
- Is there a capacity building component?
- Is there a knowledge sharing component?

What funding amounts can be requested?

Any amount between \$500 and \$5,000 can be requested for the Food Systems Program grant and any additional amount between \$500 and \$3,000 can be requested for the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up.

What can this grant money be used for?

The purpose of the Food Systems Program is to support food related activities, including the purchase of tools, equipment, materials, and/or the building of infrastructure that serve the long-term goal of food security/sovereignty within the population served. The purpose of the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up is a community-led and strength-based approach to building capacity and increasing knowledge around food within respective populations.

Both leave it up to the community or organization to determine what their needs are and how to bridge those gaps best and with whom. However, both projects must be connected and serve the same long-term vision.

Can public schools and similar organizations apply to these grants?

Applicants must be either Indigenous led and/or serve Indigenous populations. In case of a public schools and similar organization it must be shown that the project is:

- Led by an Indigenous person or team.
- And serves Indigenous Populations (please provide number of Indigenous Peoples served or percentage).

If you are a non-Indigenous teacher, education assistant, employee etc. you are welcome to apply, but you must demonstrate that there is Indigenous leadership within the project, and that the project serves Indigenous populations.

Can we only apply for one of the grants?

You can apply for only the regular grant of up to \$5,000. However, the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up can only be applied for in combination and at the time of the regular grant.

What if my grant proposal for the regular grant is denied, can I still receive the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up?

No, the Learning Together, Growing Together Top Up is a top up to the regular grant and can only be received if your program grant application is approved.

How will I receive my grant payment?

Once you have been approved for a grant, we will reach out to request your direct deposit information. We highly encourage you enroll in the I-SPARC payment system via direct deposit, rather than cheque payments. To register for direct deposit with I-SPARC please fill out the I-SPARC Direct Deposit Form and send it together with a void cheque to sgrossebroemer@isparc.ca
Download the direct deposit form: [I-SPARC Direct Deposit Form](#)

What if our plans change after we have been approved for funding?

We understand that things can happen and that plans change. If yours do, please contact the Provincial Coordinator at your earliest convenience to discuss those changes so that the application can be updated.

What are the final reporting requirements for an approved grant?

All successful applications will be required to submit a final report by March 28, 2025. The final report template will be provided to all successful applicants.

What if I have not reported on a past FSP grant with I-SPARC?

You will have to complete all activities and submit your final report, or have an extension granted before submitting a new application. Please contact the Provincial Coordinator at sgrossebroemer@isparc.ca for details.

Can I save my application if I have not fully completed it? Will the application save?

No, unfortunately not. You will need to complete the application form in one sitting.

Can I obtain a copy of my application?

Once your application is complete and submitted, you will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your application. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact the Provincial Coordinator at sgrossebroemer@isparc.ca.