Ontario

FACT SHEET

Ministry of the Attorney General

ABORIGINAL VICTIMS SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

New: Application period extended for the Aboriginal Victims Support Grant Program

Interested applicants are now invited to submit a letter of intent, a draft proposal or a final proposal no later than 5:00 p.m. October 31, 2008. Organizations that do not submit a letter of intent, a draft or final proposal by October 31, 2008, will not be eligible to apply. Final proposals must be received at the OVSS no later than 12 noon December 31, 2008.

The Ontario Victim Services Secretariat (OVSS) of the Ministry of the Attorney General is launching an **Aboriginal Victims Support Grant Program**. This new program is an investment in improving services to Aboriginal victims of crime by supporting the delivery of services by Aboriginal communities and organizations.

The Ministry of the Attorney General has committed to working with Aboriginal communities and organizations under Ontario's New Approach to Aboriginal Affairs to provide equitable, coordinated, effective and responsive criminal justice services to all Aboriginal men, women, children and youth in Ontario.

The Ontario Victim Services Secretariat is investing $2 million to improve services to Aboriginal victims of crime through the new Aboriginal Victims Support Grant Program. The program is designed to:

- Respect the need to build positive relationships and productive partnerships with Aboriginal peoples by ensuring their involvement in matters that directly affect their communities.
- Promote homemade solutions to community building by funding projects led by Aboriginal organizations and encouraging non-Aboriginal organizations to become project partners.
- Fund a wide range of small and large projects for up to a 24-month period. The OVSS will also consider projects that require capital or infrastructure funds.

There are two categories of grants. Both categories may include requests for capital investments.

Snapshot of the program

- Projects led by Aboriginal organizations.
- A wide range of small and large projects with a funding maximum of $250,000 including capital costs.
- Supportive process and timelines to develop proposals and prepare applications.
- Community engagement and information sessions across the province with language interpretation in Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree, if required.
- Projects running up to 24 months.

Category 1: Small-scale local project grants for amounts up to $100,000

Here are some examples of possible local projects:

- A victims' healing network, including tools for Aboriginal men who are survivors of child sexual abuse, and promotion of healthy parenting of children;
- A project for Aboriginal elders to address their experiences of hate crime victimization;
- A project for children and youth victims and those at risk, focusing on Aboriginal children and youth who may be transient, homeless and/or involved in street activities; and
- Healing circles for Aboriginal women leaving institutions to address histories of domestic violence and victimization, prevent repeat offences and help them become re-established in the community.

Category 2: Major project grants of up to $250,000.

Here are some examples of possible major projects:

- Healing spaces that incorporate Aboriginal design, to support the delivery of services to victims of crime;
- Community education and healing services across generations, including grandparents, parents, and children;
- A mobile crisis intervention support service to outreach and deliver resources to remote and isolated victims;
- A series of leadership cultural exchange camps, involving youth victims and youth at risk, for Aboriginal youths on and off reserve and diverse non-Aboriginal young people;
- A healing lodge, built as an addition to an existing facility to provide services to survivors of sexual abuse;
- A network of safety supports, including cars or other vehicles, to increase the safety of women and children who are fleeing violence in remote and isolated areas;
- A healing program and crisis intervention for victims of residential schools across the province, and a train-the-trainer manual in multiple Aboriginal languages; and
- An inter-cultural residential exchange and internship program in remote northern and urban Aboriginal communities to help build relationships, share ideas, and to improve service for Aboriginal victims.

To support broad access to the program, the program allows applicants a supportive process to prepare and develop their proposals. During that time, OVSS staff, a consultant and language interpreters, if requested, will be available to assist prospective applicants to better understand the program requirements and to develop their project ideas.

This program will support time-limited community projects that achieve one or more of the following objectives:

1. Address the specific needs and unique situations of Aboriginal victims
2. Increase the participation of Aboriginal victims in the justice system
3. Help improve the criminal justice system's understanding and integration of Aboriginal justice systems and perspectives
4. Build trusting relationships between Aboriginal organizations and the criminal justice system.
5. Build the capacities of Aboriginal organizations and communities to respond to victims' needs
6. Expand the range and variety of culturally appropriate services available to Aboriginal victims
7. Reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal peoples as victims of crime in the criminal justice system

8. Help existing victim services programs and services to better understand Aboriginal justice systems and perspectives.

The following may apply to this grant program:

- Aboriginal victim services, Aboriginal community-based health, social and human service agencies and organizations, and related Aboriginal professional associations
- First Nations, First Nations communities and organizations, First Nations police services and police service boards
- Inuit communities and organizations
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Charter Communities and organizations.

When the OVSS receives the application, it will be reviewed through the following steps:

Step 1 - Review by Regional Offices

The OVSS regional staff will look at each application to make sure that:
- The package is complete (Applicants will be notified if required attachments are missing)
- You are eligible to apply to the program
- Your proposed project meets with the program objectives
- The organization and project proposal requirements have been met.

Step 2 - Funding Recommendations

A review committee will then assess all eligible proposals. They will make recommendations for funding based on the merits of each proposal. The applications will be reviewed to make sure that:
- The activities and deliverables can be completed within the timeframe set out in the application, by March 31, 2011 at the latest
- The budget is reasonable and quantifies all work plan activities
- The project will address a clear need in the identified community.
- If the project is for a needs assessment, indicate why you believe it is necessary, and how it will directly benefit victims
- The communities identified for the project activities have Aboriginal victims who need the proposed services
- The project plan is reasonable and will achieve the results identified
- The project is consistent with the program objectives and will contribute to one or more of the objectives
- The evaluation of the project will clearly show outcomes that help Aboriginal victims of crime.

Step 3

The Attorney General will then review the recommended grants and make a final decision on which proposals should be funded based on the above criteria.

For more information about this program contact the OVSS, in the following regions:

Corporate Office: Telephone: 416-325-3265 TTY: 416-325-4935

The OVSS can also be reached toll-free through the ministry's general inquiry line at 1-800-518-7901.

Regional Offices

Central Reg. Tel: 905-868-8355 E-mail: OVSS.Central.Region@jus.gov.on.ca

Central-West Reg. Tel: 905-521-7590 E-mail:OVSS.CentralWest.Region@jus.gov.on.ca

West Reg. Tel. 519-453-8973 E-mail: OVSS.West.Region@jus.gov.on.ca

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