FNHA AHSOR Licensed Child Care Conversion Spaces Funding

**Application Form**

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# Introduction

First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is a province-wide health authority and the health and wellness partner to over 200 diverse First Nations communities and citizens across British Columbia. FNHA takes a leadership role in community-based health and wellness initiatives in BC’s First Nations communities.

Since 2017, FNHA has partnered with Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) on several initiatives. The first was the expansion of Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve (AHSOR) programs, $10.5M over three years, $3.5M annually. Two partnerships with MCFD occurred in 2020-21: $9.1M Land-Based Capital funding supported 86 communities and $3.25M Land-Based Operational funding supported all 143 AHSOR communities. Since 2018, the provincial government has invested in expanding AHS spaces available to Indigenous families in British Columbia (BC) through federal funding via the bilateral BC-Canada Early Learning and Child Care agreement. In April 2021, for the first time, provincial funding has been included in the budget to expand AHS.

## **2021 BC Budget Funding Allocation**

BC Budget 2021 supports reconciliation through a range of new investments that support the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities. This includes $20 million[[1]](#footnote-1) over three years to add 400 additional spaces to the Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program in the province. $8.66M in operational funding is allocated per year to convert 400 Indigenous child care spaces to the AHS program model, making them no -fee, holistic child care programs inclusive of wrap around family supports and inclusion.

We continue to grow Aboriginal Head Start On-Reseve through our partnership with MCFD. To achieve the goals of this next expansion project, MCFD has again partnered with FNHA and Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSABC). FNHA will receive up to $4.33M annually to do this work, converting 200 Child Care Licensed spaces On-Reserve, potentially converting approximately 40 spaces per region.

**The purpose of this funding is to convert Existing BC First Nation Licensed Child Care over to an FNHA Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) funded program.**

## **About FNHA Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR)**

AHSOR programs are BC First Nations community –based, **“no-fee”** early learning and Child Care programs that support children ages 0-6years and their families. AHSOR programs focus on six main components: Culture and Language; Education; Health Promotion; Nutrition; Parent and Family Involvement; and Social Support.

Communities make different choices about how to best use their AHSOR funding, taking into account community size, numbers of children, existing services and capacity, isolation factors and transportation challenges, as well as family and community needs and priorities, and availability of qualified staff. Some communities use AHSOR funding to supplement and enhance existing programs and link with other funding sources, while others use funds to create programs where none existed before. Communities deliver their programs to meet the needs of their community such as: Daycare and/or Preschool with After School Care and Outreach Model. For this funding, successful applicants will engage in an FNHA SET Health Agreement and will deliver AHSOR Child Care with this funding.

**If you require further support with this Application and/or Regional Information, please contact your AHSOR Regional Program Advisor and/or visit our website page at:** <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/maternal-child-and-family-health/aboriginal-head-start-on-reserve>

## **Anticipated Growth**

400 new AHS spaces will help meet a growing need and address a gap in Indigenous-led childcare in BC.The Indigenous population is the fastest growing population in Canada. Between 2006 and 2018, it grew by 42.5%, which is more than four times faster than the rest of the population (Stat Can 150 Census). There are over 232,000 Indigenous people in BC. Approximately one-third of First Nations people reside on reserve, with two-thirds of the population off-reserve.

The number of Indigenous children aged 0-5 years is expected to grow from approximately 28.9K to 31.6K in BC over the next seven years. This means an additional 2,700 Indigenous-led spaces will be needed to support this population growth.

Further support is also needed for existing Indigenous childcare providers. BC’s first project to expand AHS, started in 2018, is funded through the Canada-BC Bilateral ELCC Agreement. These project funds could only be used to create new AHSOR spaces and Indigenous existing child care spaces that were ineligible at that time. Currently, Indigenous childcare programs experience similar challenges as non-Indigenous sites and must charge high parent fees to remain operational. If these facilities are not able to collect high fees from parents, they are often not able to remain open. These issues highlighted for the Province the necessity of focusing on creating an opportunity to convert Indigenous childcare programs to AHS sites. Communities would greatly benefit from the single funding stream model.

All current part time AHSOR-funded and unfunded Licensed Child Care programs whom are seeking to operate full time are able to apply for this Funding through FNHA if they meet the eligibility criteria**.**

**Timeline of Activities:** Application are due Thursday October 21, 2021 by 4:00pm. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications reviewed and internally processed between October–November and approved by FNHA Senior Executive. Funding and new community agreements will be in place January 2022. Communities will be required to submit regular status reports. All projects must be fully operational before March 31, 2022 under the current pandemic conditions.

Communities must agree to provide regular status updates and reporting as requested by FNHA in order to be eligible for this funding. All communities need to be in good standing with FNHA reporting and accountability to be eligible to qualify to receive this funding.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply, you must:

**1.** Be an existing Licensed BC First Nations On-Reserve Child Care Facility or “Soon to Open” Facility (but must be operational by March 31, 2022). First priority will be given to unfunded First Nations On-Reserve Licensed Child Care programs offering full-day fee-based services; Second priority will be selected upon applications that meet all other eligibility criteria.

**2.** Be a Child Care Program that is already accessing Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) /Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) in order to be eligible.

**3.** Be a half-day or part-time Licensed AHSOR programs may also be eligible to increase delivery to a full time AHSOR Child Care. Please keep in mind the intent would be that the Child Care program would be in full operation 12 months per year.

**4.** Be in good standing with FNHA Reporting and Accountability

**5.** Submit a copy of your current Child Care License if you are an existing Licensed BC First Nations On-Reserve Child Care Facility.

For the “Soon to Open” facilities, you must submit documentation that confirms your Licensed Child Care Facility will be open and fully operational before March 31, 2022. For example: an email or confirmation document that demonstrates your Application is in the Final Process with the Child Care Licensing Officer.

**6.** Submit your fully completed Application prior to the deadline of **Thursday October 21, 2021 by 4:00pm**.

**Please note:** communities accessing this Provincial AHSOR funding stream will not be eligible for future Provincial funding such as: CCOF/CCFRI and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Funding (ASCD), nor will families at these sites be eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) Subsidy as this is a single funding stream model offered at **“no fee”** to families. These Provincial Funding Streams will be replaced by AHSOR Child Care Conversion Funding and you will only have one Provincial Funding Report.

To increase the success of your application, we highly recommended that you attend the webinar: Scheduled for Tuesday September 28 1-2:30pm and Wednesday September 29 9:30-11am

**\*Please note-** you can reach out to your Regional Head Start Advisors whom can further assist you. For the Vancouver Island Region you can reach out to either Denise.lacerte@fnha.ca or Bonnie Labounty.

Submit your application to HCYD@FNHA.ca or via fax to 604-666-3867 before **Thursday October 21, 2021 at 4pm.** **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

# Section 1: Community Information

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| --- |
| 1. Community Name: Click here to enter Community Name.
 |
| 1. Program Name: Click here to enter Program Name.
 |
| 1. Are you a Treaty Community: YES [ ]  NO [ ]
 |
| 1. Band Number: Click here to enter Community Name.
 |
| 1. Do you currently receive FNHA AHSOR Funding? Yes [ ]  No [ ]

 If yes, please provide us with your Contribution Agreement Number   |
| 1. Do you have a Health Service Agreement with another First Nation Community or Collaborative to provide Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve services? Yes [ ]  No [ ]  \***Please note** -successfully funded applications that do have a Health Funding Arrangement with FNHA would then enter into an agreement between the First Nations Health Authority. The recipient regarding the delivery of Health programs and Services: includes all schedules, the program plan, terms and conditions and new funding letters.

Name of First Nation community collaboration: Click here to enter Name. |
| 1. Do you currently operate an Unlicensed program, or Soon to Open facility or Licensed Child Care program?1. Unlicensed Child Care [ ]

2. Soon to Open Licensed Child Care [ ]  Please note, if yes, you will need to provide the documentation that confirms your Licensed Child Care Facility will be open and fully operational before March 31, 2022 3. Licensed Child Care [ ]  If yes, please provide the Community Care Facilities License(s) # 4. Do you have a Licensed Multi-Age Program Yes [ ]  No [ ]   |
| 1. Does your existing Licensed Child Care Program(s) apply for any of the following Provincial funding streams?

1. Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) [ ] Yes [ ]  No  2. Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) [ ] Yes [ ]  No  3. Affordable Child Care Benefit (Subsidy) [ ] Yes [ ]  No  4. Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) [ ] Yes [ ]  No  |
| 1. Mailing Address: Click here to enter mailing address.
 |
| 1. Primary Contact 1:

 Title:  Email: Click here to enter Email address. Phone/Extension: Click here to enter Work Phone Number. Cell Phone: Click here to enter Cell Phone Number. |
| 1. Primary Contact[[2]](#footnote-2): Title:

Email: Click here to enter Email address.Phone/Extension: Click here to enter Work Phone Number.Cell Phone: Click here to enter Cell Phone Number. |
| 1. Alternate Contact 1: Click here to enter Name.Title: Click here to enter Name.

Email: Click here to enter Email address. Phone/Extension: Click here to enter Name.Cell Phone: Click here to enter Cell Phone Number. |

# Section 2: Community Need

1. Please tell us how many children are in each Category?

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| --- | --- |
| # of Licensed Child Care Spaces Under 36 months # Currently Enrolled # of Children on a waitlist |  |
| # of Licensed Child Care Spaces for 30 months to School age # Currently Enrolled# of Children on a waitlist |  |
| Are there children attending that require additional staffing supports?  | [ ] Yes [ ]  No  |

1. Did your community apply for the MCFD New Spaces Child Care Funding?

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| --- |
| [ ]  No, we did not apply for the MCFD New Spaces Child Care Funding.  If you selected No here, Please proceed to question 15.  |
| [ ]  Yes, we applied for the MCFD News Spaces Child Care Funding. If you selected Yes, what date did/will you open your Licensed Program? Click or tap to enter a date.  |

1. Describe your current Licensed Child Care Enrollment situation and identify any Barriers and Successes regarding Enrollment. Please include strategies that you have applied to address your situations. Here are a few examples: You have a waitlist and cannot support families within your community; You have three /four year olds transitioning into another program(s); Lack of qualified staff to support children with extra support needs and/or challenges with transportation. Successfully partner with our Language Program and the Band School for smooth transitions; Outreach program transitions families into the Child Care Program.

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# Section 3 – Community Readiness

1. Describe your Organizational process related to Operations, Administration and Management. This FNHA AHSOR Child Care Conversion Project requires an internal coordinated approach such as: Delivering the AHSOR 6 Key Components into your overall programming; incorporating the AHSOR 6 Key Components into your Daily Schedule and Curriculum; Submitting Narrative and Financial Reports on time and Managing Budgets (Coordinating with the Finance Team/Bookkeeper).

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1. Describe your current Child Care Employees and Community Involvement level (prior to COVID).

For example: how many staff did you employ; did you have Cook, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Language Speakers, Parents or Volunteers that participated in your program?

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# Section 4 – Child Care Conversion Transition Plan and Financial Information

1. Please describe in full detail your current Child Care Financial overview. **You will need to attach your Program Budget from April 2020- March 2021**. We have provided a Sample Budget for you to use, however you may include your own document(s). Please list below all Program Funding Revenue Sources and Amounts- Federal and Provincial. For example: Nominal Role(ISC K4 Funding); Language Nest Funding; First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative; Corporation sponsorship; MCFD Aboriginal Service Innovation or Aboriginal ECD Funding.

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1. Describe how the FNHA AHSOR Child Care Conversion Funding would create your ideal AHSOR Program. Please highlight any enhanced staffing level changes (ratio and wages/benefits); identify what steps your community will take to transition into this new Delivery Model and how you plan to involve employees, community members, funding partners and other community partners. Identify what supports you may require from your Regional AHSOR Advisor.

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1. Please tell us about your current Employee, Qualifications and Wages. Tell us about your current Employee wage grid and benefit package for your Child Care or within your Community. Please note we only require the Child Care employee wage grid if your wage grid includes other positions within your community. Please tell us if you receive the BCACCS Wage Enhancement Funding and the supplement to the base wages that have been applied. **If your Community has Employee Wage Grid and/or Standard Benefit Package please attach**.

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1. Tell us what your Child Care Rates are for your Program.

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| --- |
| The fee for Licensed Child Care Spaces for the under 36 months is: Choose an item.The fee for Licensed Child Care Spaces or the 30 months to school age is: Choose an item.Is there anything else you want to tell us? For example: part time or daily rates   |

Section 5 -Other Information

1. Please feel free to use this space to share other comments or other related information.

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# Section 6 - Community Acknowledgement

1. Are you in good standing with FNHA Reporting and Accountability? YES [ ]  NO [ ]
2. We will require Band and Council Resolution (BCR) in support of this project in order to complete your Application.

**All BCR’s must include Chief and Council Acknowledgement stating the following:**

We acknowledge that we will benefit from this single Provincial Funding stream model and that AHSOR is a no-fee program for families. As we convert our Licensed Child Care over to the FNHA AHSOR Funded Program, we acknowledge that we will not be eligible for Provincial Funding such as: CCOF/CCFRI and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Funding (ASCD), nor will families at this Child Care program be eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) Subsidy. We are aware that this Provincial Funding has been confirmed until March 31, 2024.

**All Applications must submit a BCR prior to the end of the business day, Thursday October 21, 2021 before 4pm.**

1. Signed Acknowledgement Statement:

On behalf of , I , acknowledge that I have consulted and collaborated with all necessary decision makers and involved parties and we are able to meet all of the funding requirements. We acknowledge that we will benefit from this single Provincial Funding stream model and that AHSOR is a no-fee program for families. As we convert our Licensed Child Care over to the FNHA AHSOR Funded Program, we acknowledge we will no longer access these Provincial funding streams: CCOF/CCFRI and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Funding (ASCD), nor will families at our Child Care program be eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) Subsidy. We are aware that this Provincial Funding has been confirmed until March 31, 2024 and this funding will not impact the Federal Funding that we receive.

Printed Name:

Title:

Signed:

Date: , 2021

Submit application to HCYD@FNHA.ca or via fax to 604-666-3867 before **Thursday October 21, 2021 by 4pm.** **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

# Appendix 1: Application Checklist

* Review and/ or attend the Webinar held on Tuesday September 28 1-2:30pm and Wednesday September 29 9:30-11am
* Review Sample Application (PDF). If you require further support please reach out to your Regional Advisor.
* Submit completed application. All questions must be answered. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
* If your Community has an Employee Wage Grid and/or Standard Benefit package please attach.
* Attach your Program Budget from April 2020- March 2021. You may use your own document or use the FNHA AHSOR Sample Application Budget Template provided.
* Attach a copy of your Community Care Facilities License. For “Soon to Open” Facilities you must submit documentation that confirms your Licensed Child Care Facility will be open and fully operational before March 31, 2022.
* Submit signed BCR before**Thursday October 21, 2021 by 4pm*.***
* Submit application to HCYD@FNHA.ca or via fax to 604-666-3867 before **Thursday October 21, 2021 by 4pm.** **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

# Appendix 2: Definitions

* **AHSOR –** Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve. For further information About the Program, Map of Sites, Resources, Training, Program Components and What to Expect in the Future please visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/maternal-child-and-family-health/aboriginal-head-start-on-reserve>
* **BCR -** Band Council Resolution a written resolution or authorizing document of Chief and Council adopted at a duly convened meeting of the elected council for the First Nation.
* **Health Funding Arrangement – FNHA-** Is the agreement between the First Nations Health Authority and the recipient regarding the delivery of Health programs and Services that includes all schedules, the program plan where applicable and funding adjustments letters, and any amendments made in accordance with the terms and conditions
* **Licensing Officers -** Provincial licensing officers govern the provision of care and supervision in licensed care facilities governed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Example, licensed child care or licensed after-school care. Unlicensed care – those who provide Outreach programs where the parents are responsible for their own children or unlicensed child care facilities may only care for 2 children not related to the provider and are not monitored or inspected by the government of BC.
* **Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF)** **-** Base Funding assists eligible licensed family and group child care providers with the day-to-day costs of running a facility.
* **Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)** **-**Enhances child care affordability by offering funding to eligible, licensed child care providers to reduce and stabilize parents’ monthly child care fees. Child care providers must apply to receive funding. Parents do not need to apply.
* **Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) -** Is a monthly payment to help eligible families with the cost of child care. Factors like income, family size, and type of care determine how much support families can get.
* **Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) -** enables children who require extra supports to be included in child care settings, preschool, before/after school and community care settings.

# Appendix 3: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

**Employee Wage Grids. Do you have a wage grid or is there a Standard for Child Care?**

The topic of wages and benefits can be a challenging discussion as there are so many variables that can affect the bottom line. FNHA does not make any recommendations in regards to wage/compensation amounts for our Funding Agreements. It’s hard to compare from one Nation to the next because communities can only pay staff based on the revenue they receive so comparing communities can be like comparing apples to oranges.

We are aware there is a Provincial ECE Wage Grid being developed. However, FNHA acknowledges wage grids and benefit packages are determined by BC First Nations communities (for Example: the Community Health Office or Health Director and Band Council). Please keep in mind, the AHSOR program is a free program for families.

Some communities do have their own employee wage grid. Besides revenue, there are many inconsistent variable factors that influence wages/compensation that include staff qualifications, budget items (rent/admin costs, travel, etc.), and the caseload to staff ratio.

**We are almost ready to move into our new facility, and we will have our Official License in October 2021, can we still apply?**

This funding is for existing BC First Nations On-Reserve Licensed Child Care or “Soon to open” facilities. For the “Soon to Open” facilities, you must submit documentation that confirms your Licensed Child Care Facility will be open and fully operational before March 31, 2022. For example: provide an email or confirmation document that demonstrates your Application is in the Final Process with the Child Care Licensing officer.

**We don’t access CCOF or CCFRI Funding, can we still apply?**

BC First Nations Licensed Child Care Programs must already be accessing Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF)/ Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) in order to be eligible for this funding. If you are a “Soon to be Open” facility you must be Licensed and Operational by March 31, 2022 in order to be eligible to apply.

**We don’t really plan for ASCD funding as we don’t often know when/if we will require that support. So how do we plan for this?**

This is where we encourage you to consider enhancing your staff to child ratios and include this into your ideal budget. This funding supports an inclusive, holistic wrap around approach for families who attend your Child Care program.

**We receive Wage Enhancement Funding from BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS). Will we still be able to receive this funding?**

Yes, this should be demonstrated in your submitted 2020-2021 Budget.

**We are an existing AHSOR program; however, we only offer half or part time, can we still apply?**

Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements in order to apply. For example: If you are a Licensed Program and receive CCOF and AHSOR Funding and you currently provide a morning Preschool with afternoon Licensed Child Care or you provide a Full day program 3-2 times a week, you would be eligible to offer a Full time all day program for families. Please keep in mind there is a “No fee” for families whom attend an AHSOR Program.

**We have a licensed full day daycare and a part time afterschool program, but we are not funded by the AHSOR program. Can we still apply for this funding and what type of agreement is there?**

Yes, you are eligible for this funding if you are an existing licensed child care programs and you are accessing Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) /Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI). You don’t have to be an existing funded AHSOR community to apply for this funding opportunity.

Candidates who are successful for this funding would then convert from a Child Care program to an AHSOR Funded program with FNHA. A Health Funding Arrangement would then be developed between FNHA your Community in order for your program to be converted.

**If we receive this funding is it true that we can no longer apply for the Child care Operating Funding (CCOF)/ Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) what will happen going forward?**

Going forward, applicants would then access the Provincial AHSOR Child Care Conversion Funding stream. They will not be eligible for CCOF/CCFRI going forward, nor will families at these programs be eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit. This funding is meant to be all inclusive and replaces the existing Provincial Funding sources. The goal is to ease some of the Administrative responsibilities and Provincial Reporting requirements. These Provincial Funding Streams will be replaced by AHSOR Child Care Conversion Funding and you will only have one Provincial Funding Report.

**Does this funding allow for any Startup costs or Capital?**

No, as the programs are expected to be fully operational.

**We have a huge waitlist, can we add more licensed spaces to our Existing License?**

You must meet all of the Eligibility requirements for this funding. Extra spaces require licensing approval. This funding does not include any start up or Capital Funding.

**I’m having a problem sending all the attachments required for my application to be complete. How can I make this easier?**

You can send multiple emails to the HCYD email address with your properly labelled attachments. Make sure to clearly identify in each of the email’s subject lines your Community Name and Part 1, Community Name and attachments.
There is also a free online service called “We Transfer”. It allows you to email multiple documents, up to 2GB in total size, all at once. You can choose to create a free account or send your documents as a one-time guest. [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com)

1. *The language used in BC Budget 2021 is based on the net impact ($6.594M/fiscal year) to the Province, not the gross amount of $8.66M/fiscal year that will be used for this program. To alleviate any potential confusion, the Province’s AHS partners will receive, in total, $8.66M/fiscal year to fund operations for 400 AHS spaces through this program.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. We may need to be in touch with you to follow up on your application. If and when the primary contact is not available we ask that you list up to two other contacts who are knowledgeable about this application that we could contact for further information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)