



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

HIV Community Wellness Initiative

About the Initiative

The HIV Community Wellness Initiative supports First Nations communities in addressing HIV prevention, testing, and treatment. This program provides funding of up to CAD\$25,000-50,000/year, (maximum of 2 years) for community-led activities, including health promotion, education, capacity-building, and resource development.

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) recognizes the historical and systemic barriers to HIV services and is committed to fostering culturally safe, stigma-free, and trauma-informed spaces. BC First Nations communities and organizations are invited to apply for funding under the HIV Community Wellness Initiative. Successful applicants will receive financial support, technical assistance, and resources to implement culturally safe, community-focused health initiatives.

This program is guided by the FNHA commitment to holistic wellness, community leadership, and self-determination. It aims to:

- **Prevent new infections:** Through education, condom access, and preventive tools like PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission).
- **Improve access to testing:** Offer testing that is confidential, timely, and free of stigma, including through mobile units or local events.
- **Support treatment and adherence:** Make HIV treatment easier to access and follow, including regular health check-ins and community-informed medication supports.
- **Provide holistic care:** Address the emotional, social, and cultural needs of people living with HIV through counseling, support groups, and culturally safe care.
- **Build awareness through education:** Share information through schools, workshops, and media campaigns.

What the Funding Supports

You can apply for funding in one or more of the following areas:

- **Community Education and Health Promotion:** Projects that raise awareness, reduce stigma, and educate people about HIV/STIs through schools, workshops, and campaigns.
- **Improving Access to Testing and Services:** Projects that remove barriers to testing, treatment and care, especially in remote or under-served communities.
- **Culturally Safe and Holistic Support:** Counseling, peer groups, and supports that address emotional and social needs of individuals and families impacted by HIV.

In addition to funding the program offers:

- Help with proposal writing
- Training workshops and materials
- Ongoing technical support
- Support with tracking and evaluating project outcomes

Who can apply

We accept funding applications from land-based First Nations in BC or Indigenous-led not-for-profits serving First Nations communities (urban, rural, or remote) and-based First Nations must be in the lands now known as BC, and Indigenous-led organizations must be serving First Nations located in BC.

How to apply

Applications open May 1, 2025, and close July 4, 2025.

We accept both written and oral proposals to make the process more accessible.

To apply, complete the [application survey here](#).

If you prefer to submit an oral proposal or need support with your application, please contact:

HIVProjects@fnha.ca

Selection process

Successful applicants will be selected by the FNHA HIV advisory circle based on the project scoring guide. Each application will be evaluated based on five main criteria including:

- Project relevance and alignment
- Project design and feasibility
- Cultural and community integration
- Impact and sustainability
- Organizational capacity and readiness

Reporting Requirements

All funding recipients must submit a final report by June 30 each year. This report should include:

- A summary of what was achieved
- An explanation of the impact of the project
- Any suggestions for future work

FNHA will check in with each team halfway through the project to ensure project goals are being met and will provide additional support if needed. Monthly reports are optional, but FNHA can help with additional reporting if needed.

All reporting must follow Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles. This means data must be collected, shared, and reported in a way that is respectful, ethical, and community led. For community teams, we'll work together to build a reporting approach that fits these principles.

Ad Hoc Reporting

If there is major milestone, whether it's a challenge or a noteworthy success, awardees can submit an ad hoc report. This should outline:

- What happened
- What actions were taken
- Any changes made to the project plan

Please let FNHA know if anything urgent comes up that could affect your project delivery or compliance.

Resources

[HIV educational, awareness and prevention resources in BC:](#)

[YouthCO](#)

[Native Youth Sexual Health Network](#)

[Sexual and Reproductive Health Care and Education - Options for Sexual Health](#)

[Home | SmartSex Resource](#)

[My Health is Sexy](#)

[Home - PAN](#)

[Indigenous Health Resources](#)

HIV self-testing information within BC:

[BC Point of Care HIV Testing Program](#)

[Medicine Bundle - Community-Based Research Centre](#)

[Testing | Northern Health](#)

Self-Testing Resources outside of BC:

[Reach Nexus](#)

[Get free HIV self test kits and support | I am](#)

[Implementing HIV Self-Testing | CATIE - Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information](#)