

Community Capacity and Engagement Funding

2026-2027

ABOUT THE FUNDING

Community Capacity and Engagement Funding provides Métis Chartered Communities with flexible support to strengthen their capacity and participate in Early Years and K–12 Education planning, engagement, and decision-making.

Communities are best positioned to determine what capacity and supports are needed locally. This funding is intended to help Communities maintain the people, systems, relationships, and operational capacity required to engage effectively with Citizens, families, MNBC, school districts, Indigenous Education Councils, early years partners, and other regional organizations.

HOW THE FUNDING CAN BE USED

Each Community may determine how the funding can best support its local priorities and capacity needs. Funding may be used for activities and costs that help the Community participate in or support Early Years and K–12 Education initiatives, including:

- Staffing, coordination, administration, and other operational capacity
- Community engagement with Citizens, families, Elders, leadership, and community members
- Participation in Indigenous Education Councils, school district discussions, early years tables, committees, working groups, and regional partnerships
- Community planning and priority-setting
- Leadership development, training, and professional development
- Gathering information about local needs, existing services, and service gaps
- Developing relationships and partnerships that support Métis children, youth, and families
- Meetings, travel, honoraria, communications, and related engagement costs
- Other reasonable capacity-building or operational costs that help the Community participate effectively in this work

Communities are not expected to undertake every type of activity listed above. The funding is intended to respond to different local circumstances, priorities, and capacity needs.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The funding should be used in a way that contributes to the Community's capacity to participate in, influence, or support Early Years and K–12 Education initiatives. Communities should be able to explain generally how the funding helped strengthen their capacity, engagement, representation, or local priorities in these areas.

The funding is not intended to be limited to individual events or narrowly defined projects. It recognizes that meaningful community participation requires stable operational capacity and that the needs of each Community will be different.

SUPPORT

Communities are encouraged to contact the Community Finance team at communityfinance@mnbc.ca if they would like to discuss their plans or have questions about whether a proposed use aligns with the overall purpose of the funding. The goal is to help Communities use the funding effectively, not to create unnecessary barriers.

EXAMPLES OF CONNECTING ACTIVITIES TO THE PURPOSE OF THE FUNDING

These examples are intended to help communities think about **how an activity connects to the purpose of the funding**. The strength of the connection depends on the purpose of the activity, the community context, what is learned or strengthened, and how the activity contributes to Early Years and K-12 engagement, planning, governance, capacity-building, or identified priorities.

Family Event A Community wants to host an event for Early Years or K-12 Families	
Connection To Funding: Insufficient	Connection To Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to use the funding to host a family event for families with children and youth. The event will provide an opportunity for families to come together, connect, and participate in a family-friendly activity.”	“We are planning to host a family event to create a welcoming opportunity to build relationships with families and hear directly from them about their experiences. During the event, we will intentionally engage families through conversations, activities, or other appropriate ways to learn about their needs, priorities, barriers, and the types of Early Years and K-12 Education supports they would like to see in the community. We will document what we learn and consider how this information can inform future Early Years and K-12 Education planning, partnerships, governance, advocacy, and funding opportunities.”
Purchasing Resources & Materials A Community wants to purchase Early Years or K-12 resources and materials for families	
Connection To Funding: Insufficient	Connection To Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to purchase books, toys, and activity supplies for families with children and youth.”	“Through conversations with families, we have heard that families would like more culturally relevant resources they can use at home. We are planning to purchase books, activity materials, and resources that respond to this need. We will connect with families to help identify the resources that would be most useful and document what we learn to inform future resource planning and community priorities.”
Hiring Staff or Contract Support A Community wants to hire someone to support Early Years or K-12 work.	
Connection To Funding: Insufficient	Connection To Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to hire a staff person to help with	“We need additional capacity to engage families with children and youth, coordinate community engagement, document identified needs, and support planning. We are planning to hire temporary staff

our programming for children and youth.”	support to carry out these defined activities, gather information from families, support planning and partnerships, and develop recommendations for future work.”
Engagement with School Districts A Community wants to build a relationship with its local school district.	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to meet with the school district to build a relationship.”	“We are planning to use this funding to support a member of our community to meet with the school district to better understand the education experiences of children and youth from our Community, share what we have heard from families, identify gaps or barriers, and explore opportunities for collaboration. Information from these discussions will help inform our Community’s planning and future advocacy.”
Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) A Community wants to attend and participate in an IEC.	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to attend IEC meetings because they are relevant to education.”	“We are planning to use this funding to financially support our participation in IEC meetings. Our participation will strengthen our Community’s understanding of local education priorities, bring forward perspectives and priorities identified by our families, build relationships with education partners, and identify opportunities for collaboration and advocacy that support Early Years and K-12 children and families.”
Professional Development, Conferences & Workshops A Community wants to attend an Early Years or K-12 conference or workshop.	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to attend this conference because it is about Education.”	“We are planning to attend this conference because it includes learning related to an Early Years or K-12 priority identified by our Community. We will use the opportunity to build our knowledge, connect with other organizations and potential partners, and bring relevant learning back to the community to inform future planning and decision-making.”
Governance & Leadership Training A Community wants to provide governance or leadership training.	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to provide leadership training for our staff and leadership.”	“Our Community is strengthening its capacity to participate in Early Years and K-12 planning and decision-making. We are planning to provide governance and leadership training that will build the skills needed to understand community priorities, participate in planning,

	work with partners, make informed decisions, and advocate for children and families.”
Culture & Language-Based Early Years Initiative A Community wants to develop a culture and language activity for children or youth	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to host a cultural activity for children and families.”	“Families have expressed interest in creating more opportunities for children and youth to learn and experience our culture and language. We are planning to develop a culture and language-based initiative that responds to this interest while creating opportunities to connect with families and learn more about what cultural and language supports they would like to see in the Community. What we learn will inform future planning and partnerships.”
Early Years Planning Forum A Community wants to bring people together to discuss Early Years or K-12 priorities	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to host a meeting about children and youth.”	“We are planning to bring together families, Elders, community leadership, service providers, and community partners to discuss the needs and priorities of children and youth. The forum will help us identify common priorities, gaps, opportunities, and potential partnerships, and will provide information that can be used to develop future plans and actions.”
Family Engagement / Community Engagement A Community wants to conduct a survey or engagement activity	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to send out a survey to families.”	“We want to better understand the experiences and priorities of families with children and youth. We will conduct an engagement process that gives families meaningful opportunities to share their needs, experiences, barriers, and ideas. We will document and review what we hear and use the information to identify priorities and inform future planning, decisions, and advocacy.”
Building Partnerships A Community wants to connect with other organizations	
Connection to Funding: Insufficient	Connection to Funding: Stronger
“We are planning to meet with organizations in our area to see what they offer.”	“We want to better understand what services and supports are available to families with children and youth in our Community and where gaps exist. We will connect with local organizations and service providers to identify opportunities for partnership, improve our understanding of available supports, and determine where additional community planning or advocacy may be needed.”
Food Security / Food Insecurity	

A Community wants to provide food to families

Connection to Funding: Insufficient

“We are planning to provide food at our family events because families may appreciate having a meal.”

Connection to Funding: Stronger

“Families have identified food security as a concern. We are planning to provide a meal as part of an Early Years and K-12 family gathering while creating an opportunity to hear more from families about their experiences with food access, barriers, and the supports they would like to see. What we learn will help inform future planning, partnerships, and advocacy related to food security for families with children and youth.”

Staffing, Coordination, Administration, and other Operational Capacity

A Community wants to use funding to support their operational capacity which could include staff, space or other administrative costs.

Connection to Funding: Insufficient

“We used funds to support our operational capacity and administration”

Connection to Funding: Stronger

“Our Chartered Community is run by dedicated volunteers and limited staff, requiring a baseline of funding to sustain our operational capacity to have a presence in the community, to engage with our members, and to continue advocating for the needs of our children, youth and families. This funding has allowed us to maintain our community space and local presence, as well as administrative support to ensure we are accessible to our Community on a regular basis and to host events that support engagement, planning and governance. This also allows our President and Board Members to attend important community meetings such as the Indigenous Education Council and regular connection with service providers to continue building partnerships, governance and advocacy.”