FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON STIMULUS GRANT EVALUATION PROCESS

WHEN DID YOU APPLY FOR A GRANT?

INTAKE 1: April 7 – April 30, 2020
We have announced three phases of funding for applicants who applied during the first intake that was completed in April of this year. A total of 173 businesses have received $3,439,000 in grants as part of the phases 1, 2 and 3 funding announcements. These businesses completed applications as part of the first intake and provided any subsequently required documentation to us prior to September 1, 2020.

Businesses who completed their required documentation between Sept 1-9 are currently under review with Indigenous Services Canada. Grants approved from this group "Phase 4" will be announced before the end of September.

INTAKE 2: August 19 – September 9, 2020
Businesses who applied for grants as part of Intake 2 are under review and will be submitted to Indigenous Services Canada by the end of September. ITAC will be able to announce the successful grant recipients in October.

Please review the FAQs on the following pages for more information...
What has ITAC done to create the Stimulus Grant Fund?
When the COVID-19 pandemic became a threat to the 2020 tourism season, ITAC made an immediate decision to re-profile existing funds in our revised 2020-21 Action Plan to reflect the needs of our businesses during this trying time. This included moving funds from marketing, partnership and leadership activities to dedicate to the Stimulus Grant fund. In our original plan, ITAC allocated $1.175 M to support the intake.

ITAC continues to advocate through our COVID-19 Solutions Paper for additional funds towards this program as we received more than 800 applications and $19.4 Million in requests. As a result of the efforts, ITAC has secured an additional $15 Million in funding and are continuing to work through the evaluation process to release funds to members.

Are these funds coming from the $306M announced by the Government of Canada?
No. The $306M that was announced for Indigenous businesses will be provided to the Aboriginal Financial Institutions. This funding will allow for interest-free loans, as well as non-repayable contributions, to help Indigenous businesses unable to access the government’s existing COVID-19 support measures. ITAC is encouraging our members, if they require financial assistance, to go immediately to their local Aboriginal Financial Institution to try to secure a loan. More info about the AFI near you can be found here.

My business was not announced in Phase 1, 2, or 3 funding. Does this mean I am out of the running?
No, this does not mean that your business is not being considered. ITAC is working to finalize the recipient lists from the first intake, and we are working with our Federal partners from ISC to ensure recipients are approved for funding as quickly as possible - all the recipients will be contacted before mid October. We appreciate your patience as we try to review as fairly as possible.

I have received emails about additional information requirements, does this apply to me?
Yes. As part of the Federal Funding agreements, ITAC is required to report on specific information. This information may not have been included by those who completed an application in the first intake (April 2020). To ensure you are set up for success, please connect with your regional coordinator to confirm you have submitted and completed all the required information. This may mean that you will have to go into your iTotem account and update the information. We appreciate your patience during this process.
When will the rest of the phases be announced?
Phases 4, 5, and 6 will be announced in the coming weeks (September 20- October 20, 2020).

What if I applied in the second intake, when will I hear the announcements from that intake?
Applications from the second intake are currently being evaluated, all evaluations will be completed by end of September, 2020 and approval lists will be sent to ISC as required by our contribution agreement. This means that approved recipients will be contacted early October.

How is my application being reviewed?
ITAC established an adjudication committee, with applications status blind from ITAC Board, ITAC CEO and Provincial Territorial partners to remove bias and to keep the process as fair as possible. Two adjudicators review each application to determine completeness, overall need and how funds will be used. Based on the eligibility requirements of the funding, this includes looking for answers related to maintaining/recovering jobs, diversifying revenue streams or strengthening the business for future tourism seasons.

Adjudicators use a scoring matrix based on the criteria above. The scores of the adjudicators are then averaged and funding amounts recommended based on the application’s score (to a maximum of $25,000). Final sign off is done by funding partners to meet the requirements of our contribution agreements.

I have been approved for funding, what are my next steps?
ITAC is preparing agreement letters that outline the next steps for successful applicants. You will receive these from your ITAC point of contact (see below). You can ask any questions you might have about the agreement at that time. The agreement will also include payment and reporting timelines.

What should I do if I have questions about my application status?
(Please note, we are no longer accepting any changes or additional documents as the application intake is now closed.) Please reach out to the team member responsible for your province or territory, listed on the next page.
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