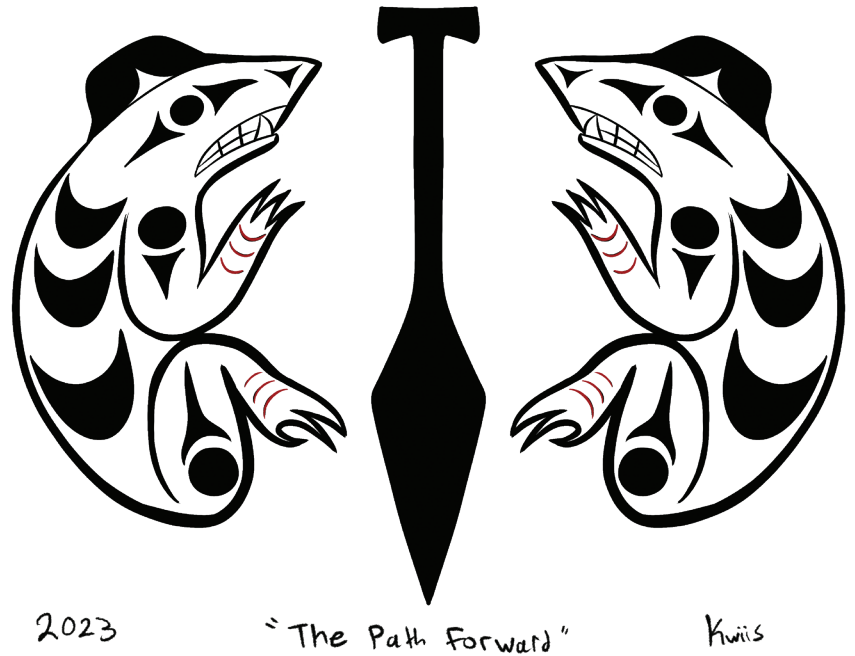# Frequently Asked Questions about the **Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund**

These short answers are here to help you, the potential applicant, quickly figure out if the Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund (TISF) grant program may be a fit for your work.

2023 "The Path Forward" Kwiis

Who are TISF grants for?

The TISF is for Indigenous-led work serving land-based First Nations based on the lands now known as BC that use culturally-driven, decolonial direction, governance, systems, and practices based in Indigenous knowledge to transform social, political, and cultural systems in these areas:

▸HEALING   ▸LAND   ▸CULTURE   ▸RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Do applicants need to be registered charities?

Applicants need to be "qualified donees" or enter into an intermediary agreement with a "qualified donee" such as a registered charity or Band. Qualified donees are organizations that are registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to issue official donation receipts and many First Nations are registered. The CRA offers an online search tool to find out who is a "qualified donee."

I am not a qualified donee. What does working with a qualified donee look like?

Land-based First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations that are not a qualified donee (non-QD) may still apply for funding. A non-QD must enter into an intermediary agreement with a qualified donee to submit an application. Both organizations are responsible for entering into this intermediary agreement and ensuring that they meet the CRA's definition and requirements for intermediary agreements.

Can a qualified donee be based outside of BC?
Does the qualified donee need to be Indigenous-led too?

The qualified donee (Applicant Organization) doesn't need to be based in BC or Indigenous-led so long as you (the Intermediary Organization) are Indigenous-led, operating in, and serving land-based First Nations in BC.

What can the funds be used for?

Here are some examples of activities you may be using to support your Healing, Land, Rights & Responsibilities, and/or Culture work. Other activities and capital requests like costs associated with equipment, technology or renovations will be considered if they are required to advance your work within the four focus areas.

CAN BE USED FOR	CANNOT BE USED FOR
• Operating costs	• Non-Indigenous-led organizations
• Capacity building	• Activities and programs that take place primarily outside of BC
• Elder and knowledge keeper support	• Endowment funds or capital campaigns
• Gender-specific support groups	• Debt retirement
• Advocacy	• Monetary reserves
• Governance capacity through research	• Mortgage pay-downs
• Policy development	• Large public infrastructure projects
• Cultural mentorship / preservation / transmission of cultural knowledge	
• Staff wellness, or other initiatives addressing burn out	
• Intergenerational learning	
• Cultural healing	
• Ceremonial practices	
• Community events	
• Land-based programs	

Do I need to use the funds within a certain time frame?

Not necessarily. We trust that you intend to begin the work within 6 months of being awarded a grant and will use each year's payment within 12 months of receiving it. But we know things can change. We just ask that you stay connected with us if that happens.

How much funding is available in this grant program? How many communities or organizations are you going to fund?

The TISF has a budget of about $6 million. We expect to invite 20 grant-seekers to engage in the second application stage and we aim to fund about 70% of these applicants.

Can my community/organization apply if we've received a Vancouver Foundation grant in the past?

You can still apply for the grant if you've received another grant from Vancouver Foundation.

What kind of reporting requirements are there?

Conversations with grantees will help us design granting and advocacy strategies that support and uplift your organization and community. However, we welcome the opportunity to be in relationship with successful grantees to identify how we can support your work on a systemic level. No formal reporting required!

Where can I get help with your grant management system?

Please contact **application-techsupport@vancouverfoundation.ca**. We actively monitor this inbox and will respond as quickly as possible.

If you still have questions, please visit us online at **https://vanfdn.com/thriving** or contact a staff member at **indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca**

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