

## Forest Impact Recovery (FIR) Program Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the FIR Program?

The Forest Impact Recovery (FIR) program provides funding to rural communities, impacted by mill closures/curtailments, old growth deferment and reduction in timber supply due to natural disasters such as flooding, wildfires, beetle infestation etc. Impacted communities may hire qualified contractors (Community and/or Business Advisors) to provide advisory and support services to affected businesses and/or develop community economic diversification strategies.

### Who can apply to the FIR program?

Eligible applicants (host organizations) to the FIR program include local, municipal, regional and First Nation governments, and non-profit business support organizations serving Southern Interior communities. Priority funding will be provided to impacted communities with populations under 25,000.

### How many Community/Business Advisor positions are available?

Funding is available in the Southern Interior region to create a minimum of 18 Advisor positions. Contracted Advisors may be full-time, part-time, seasonal or project based. Advisor positions may also be shared between collaborating communities.

### Can an Advisor serve a hybrid role, or can more than one Advisor be hired?

Yes, qualified contractors may support businesses and the community. The required workplan should address the activities and time allotment for both community and business support activities. Advisor roles may also be shared between qualified contractors. The host organization may hire more than one advisor for different activities, but the maximum grant is \$75,000.

### When can an applicant apply to the FIR program?

The application intake for the FIR program opens on March 15, 2023.

### Is there an application deadline?

Completed online applications are due no later than 4:00 pm April 15, 2023.

### If I miss the first deadline, will there be another opportunity to apply?

Should program funding not be fully allocated after the first intake, a second application intake may open in Summer 2023. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply in the first intake to ensure that they are considered for funding.

## How much funding can I get?

Eligible applicants may receive up to 100% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000 per eligible community. Eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the FIR Program Guide.

## How long is the FIR program being delivered?

The FIR program is being delivered from March 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024.

## What is the required contract term for Advisors?

Advisors may be contracted for any length of time from 6 months to 18 months, dependent on the workplan. Final reports are due at the end of the Advisors term or December 1, 2024, whichever is earlier.

## Where can I find the FIR application?

The application form can be found on the ETSI-BC website ([etsi-bc.ca](http://etsi-bc.ca)). Please register your organization on our application portal to access our application form and to receive our ETSI-BC E-news about programs and application deadlines. To discuss your project in advance of submitting an application, you may contact the Business and Economic Development consultant serving your area.

## When and how will I know if my application was successful?

Approval decisions will be made by May 15, 2023. Successful applicants will be notified by email no later than May 30, 2023.

## If approved, when do I get funding?

Once a contribution agreement is signed, 80% of approved funding will be disbursed. The final 20% funding will be disbursed upon project completion and receipt of a final report.

## If approved, can I still apply to other ETSI-BC funding programs?

Yes, eligible applicants may apply to more than one funding program. However, given limited resources, we will make every effort to ensure that funding is distributed fairly across the Southern Interior service region. As such, projects which may meet the application criteria in communities who have received Trust funding may not be funded in favour of an eligible application from a community that has not received Trust funding.

## Who can I call with questions?

Contact Mary Beadman, ETSI-BC Program Administrator by phone: (236) 420-3680 ext.1 or by email: [mary@etsi-bc.ca](mailto:mary@etsi-bc.ca)