

Indigenous Energy Support Programs Redesign

Indigenous Relations, IESO

July 24, 2020

Purpose

To provide a summary of feedback received through the surveying conducted in February 2020, and seek feedback from communities and stakeholders on proposed redesign of the Indigenous Energy Support Programs (ESPs).

Agenda

1. Current Program Overview
2. ESP Survey: Key Themes
3. ESP Redesign Objectives and Proposed Program Alignment
4. Proposed Changes by Program
5. Next Steps

ESPs Overview – Current programs offered

Community Energy Champion Program (CEC)	Indigenous Community Energy Plan (ICEP)	Education and Capacity Building Program (ECB)	Indigenous Energy Projects Program (IEP)
<p>Support communities and organizations to hire a designated energy worker</p> <p>Maximum funding: \$50,000 per year which may be renewed for up to three years with a single application</p>	<p>Support communities and organizations in developing and maintaining an updated energy plan</p> <p>Maximum funding to develop a plan: \$90,000 (or \$95,000 for remote communities)</p> <p>Maximum funding to update an existing plan: \$25,000 (or \$30,000 for remote communities)</p>	<p>Support communities and organizations to build capacity and job-readiness skills</p> <p>Maximum funding per project: \$125,000</p>	<p>Support communities and organizations to develop energy projects and partnerships</p> <p>Maximum funding: Project development: \$150,000 Partnerships: \$50,000 Innovation: \$200,000</p>

More details on existing funding programs are available on the IESO website:
<http://www.ieso.ca/Get-Involved/Indigenous-Relations/Funding-Programs>

Question

Is there additional information that you require for a better understanding of the objectives of this engagement?

ESP Review Survey

- The IESO surveyed current and past funds participants in February 2020 and received 102 total responses.
- The survey asked a total of 24 qualitative and quantitative questions.
- Key themes that were identified from responses are:
 1. **Program Accessibility**
 2. **Available Funding and Existing Capacity**
 3. **Eligible Expenses and Activities**

Theme 1: Program Accessibility

What we heard:

Application Process

- The **time required** to complete applications was seen as a barrier to participation, making it difficult for community members to apply.
- The **formatting** of the application needs to be improved to enhance accessibility.

Lack of Awareness and Community Engagement

- Difficulties in getting the community involved with ESPs due to **lack of engagement and awareness**.

Theme 2: Available Funding and Existing Capacity

What we heard:

Human resources

- **Insufficient funding to hire** and retain knowledgeable and experienced resources to manage projects, funding applications and other partnership opportunities.

Access to training

- More long-term funding should cover **professional development training** (e.g. certifications like Certified Energy Manager, Certified Measurement and Verification Professional and Certified Energy Auditor) to enhance community capacity and retain skilled employees.

Theme 3: Eligible Expenses and Activities

What we heard:

Not all costs are covered

- Current programs do not offer **flexibility for costs** related to administrative expenses (impacting small communities with less resources) and “shock” events (e.g. staff turnover).

More opportunities for partnerships

- **Increase collaboration** with other communities or stakeholder groups. This can help reduce issues of capacity and provide an opportunity to maximize funding.

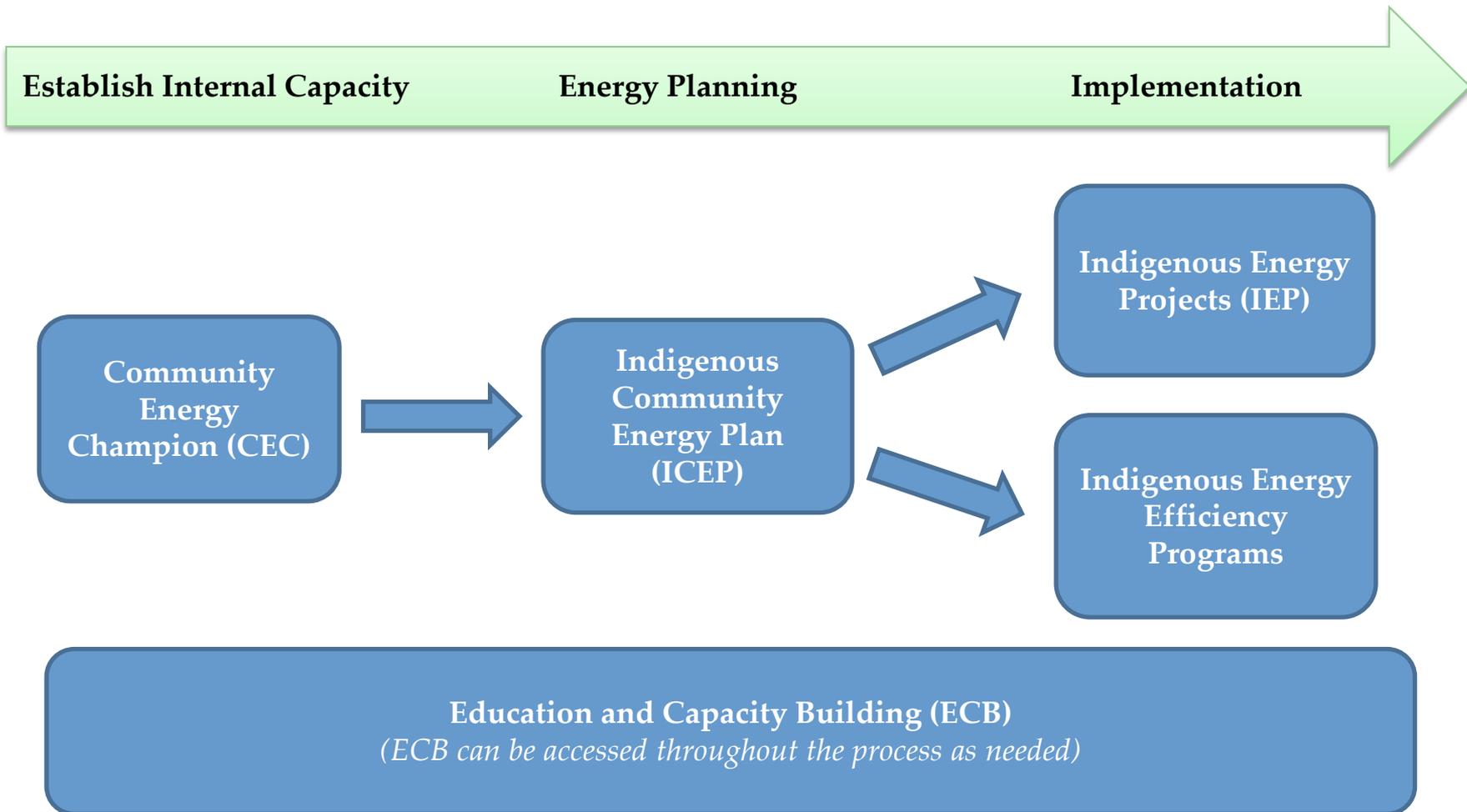
Energy efficiency and innovation

- Improve linkages between programs and opportunities for **energy efficiency**.

ESP Redesign Objectives

1. Advance professional and community-led capacity building in the Indigenous energy space.
2. Foster better communication and information-sharing amongst communities and with the IESO.
3. Develop clear program reporting metrics.
4. Ensure existing resources and funding sources continue to be used efficiently.
5. Increase program accessibility, transparency and clarity.

Proposed ESP Alignment



Proposed Changes by Program

Existing CEC Program

The Community Energy Champion (CEC) Program provides funding support to First Nation and Métis communities and organizations to hire a designated community energy champion within their community or organization to help plan, implement and evaluate energy-related priorities.

Program Details:

- Funding of up to \$50,000 per year, for up to 3 years (maximum \$150,000 per contract).
- One stream for all expenses; eligible expenses include salary, training, travel, equipment costs, engagement logistics and materials, etc.
- Program application rules provide for the option to apply with a CEC already identified or without.

Proposed CEC Program Changes

- Position CEC as foundational program to kick-start community energy development and capacity building, and support them as key resources for their communities/organizations and the broader sector.
- Introduce enhancements to support highly qualified CECs, improving outcomes for communities and the IESO:
 - **Require that communities have an identified CEC at the application stage**
 - **IESO to incorporate more free-of-charge professional development opportunities**
 - **Develop a communications network platform for discussions, resource-sharing, and deliverable submissions**
 - **Add new additional expenses stream of \$15-20k per three-year contract to fund expenses such as equipment, training, engagement, or travel**

CEC Program Input Requested

- What specific materials and expected expenses should be considered by the IESO when reviewing eligible costs?
- Does the new proposed CEC expense stream address the current and future capacity needs (e.g. training, equipment, materials) of Indigenous communities and organizations? If not, what are the gaps?

Proposed CEC Program Changes Continued

- Introduce enhancements to support highly qualified CECs, improving outcomes for communities and the IESO:
 - **Provide a technical standard incentive of \$5,000 annual salary top-up for CECs with specific qualifications**
 - **Implement minimum qualifications for candidates being hired as CECs:**
 - Introduce a new technical standard
 - Provide an advisory document outlining recommended qualifications for CEC candidates
 - Introduce a mandatory suite of training courses

CEC Program Input Requested

- Does incorporating a new minimum standard for all CECs impose any barriers to the program or to hiring practices?
- Should a new top-up stream tailored for certain CECs with additional technical qualifications be created? If so, what standards are appropriate and should be considered by the IESO? (ex. Canadian Institute for Energy Training (CIET) Certified Energy Manager or Certified Energy Auditor, 20/20 Catalyst, etc.)

Existing ICEP Program

The Indigenous Community Energy Plan (ICEP) Program supports First Nation and Métis communities and organizations to develop and maintain an updated community energy plan designed to enhance community energy security.

Program Details:

- Funding of up to \$90,000 for the development of a new community energy plan (additional \$5,000 for remote communities)
- Funding of up to \$25,000 for the update of an existing community energy plan (additional \$5,000 for remote communities)
- Current community energy plan components include:
 - Community Baseline Study
 - Current and Future Needs
 - Priorities and Opportunities
 - Implementation Plan
 - Community Engagement

Proposed ICEP Program Changes

- Position ICEP as a community-driven strategy to allow communities to achieve impactful short-term and long-term energy goals, and support this through better linkages with other IESO ESPs.
- Set a minimum standard for community involvement and awareness in energy planning, resulting in strategic implementation priorities that reflect the unique needs of each community:
 - **Require communities to have a CEC in place prior to ICEP Update**
 - **Introduce a minimum number of engagements and rationale for engagement types**

Proposed ICEP Program Changes Continued

- Require more prescriptive elements for plans, leading to impactful and community-rooted CEPs:
 - **Link implementation plan to other IESO programs (ECB, IEP, Energy Efficiency)**
 - **Update the required components of CEPs:**
 1. Baseline Energy Assessment
 - » A benchmark of current energy use patterns
 2. Future Energy Needs & Resources
 - » An assessment of forecasted energy needs
 3. Community Engagement
 - » A targeted approach to ensure community involvement, with minimum requirements
 4. Community Energy Vision
 - » A 1-3 sentence statement to guide energy planning
 5. Goals: Short, Medium, and Long-Term
 - » An outline of achievable goals and the timelines for meeting them
 6. Implementation
 - » An actionable plan to achieve the outlined goals

ICEP Program Input Requested

- Does the prerequisite of a Community Energy Champion for any Community Energy Plan update pose any issues or barriers?
- How many community engagement sessions would ensure appropriate community involvement and awareness of the Community Energy Plan development?
- Do the new proposed CEP components meet community expectations for energy planning? Are there additional areas the IESO should consider?

Existing ECB Program

The Education and Capacity Building (ECB) Program provides funding to support awareness, education, skills, and capacity building initiatives. The program helps prepare First Nation and Métis communities and organizations to take advantage of opportunities to contribute to cleaner, more reliable and more affordable energy systems.

Program Details:

- Funding of up to \$125,000 per project
- Three streams: Capacity Building; Skills, Training, and Job Readiness; and Innovation
- Least prescriptive program of the Energy Support Programs

Proposed ECB Program Changes

- Position ECB as support funding to counter energy capacity gaps as identified by communities, to allow for informed and meaningful input to short-term and long-term community energy priorities.
- Create sustainable, community-led empowerment and agency to pursue energy projects well after participation in the ECB program.
 - **Introduce subcategories with funding caps for various types of initiatives, resulting in projects that are better targeted towards capacity needs.**
 - E.g. A maximum funding cap of \$125,000 per community per application comprised of one or more subcategory initiatives:
 - Community energy workshops (\$25,000)
 - Innovative knowledge/data sharing models (\$50,000)
 - Capital project skills certification (\$50,000)
 - **Create alignment with existing IESO programs and initiatives (e.g. other ESPs, energy efficiency, regional planning)**

ECB Input Requested

- What ECB streams would address the current and future capacity needs of Indigenous communities and organizations?
- What allocation of funds per stream is practical for the work to be carried out?
- In what other ways can the ECB program support Indigenous communities and organizations in better understanding and navigating current energy systems, policies, and funding?

Existing IEP Program

The Indigenous Energy Projects (IEP) Program provides support for supply-side solutions that contribute to cleaner, more reliable and more affordable energy systems for First Nations and Métis communities and organizations.

Program Details:

- Funding of up to \$200,000 per community per year with maximum funding being the lesser of 80% of total project costs or the maximum amounts set per stream
- Two streams: up to \$150,000 for project development and \$50,000 for partnerships under the Projects and Partnerships stream, and up to \$200,000 for the Innovation stream (innovative delivery models/technologies related to renewable energy projects)

Proposed IEP Program Changes

- Support equitable access to project partnerships, employment opportunities, revenue generation and business development, leading to energy independence, leadership, security, and affordability.
- Provide clear definitions of project development, feasibility and innovation, to support program accessibility and successful implementation of projects:
 - **Define feasibility, for the purposes of a feasibility study as:** permitting, technical and design assessments, economic assessments or diesel offset, or technology assessments.
 - **Define types of projects, for the purposes of project development:** operations and maintenance, minor capital renewable projects (e.g. rooftop solar), or major capital renewable projects (e.g. solar microgrid)

Proposed IEP Program Changes Continued

- Position IEP as an implementation program following community visioning (ICEP) and capacity resourcing (CEC, ECB), to ensure alignment of projects with an overall community vision:
 - **Require capital projects to be linked to the Applicant's CEP implementation plan** if the community has a CEP. Applications to IEP must include: baseline energy data and energy profile, and justification of project for future community energy development
 - **Specify Innovation as defined in IESO's Innovation Roadmap:** *"Innovation is the development of new solutions to important challenges that support the IESO's focus on reliability and cost-effectiveness."* This can be demonstrated through emerging technologies, new business models, new practices/regulatory/policy constructs, and existing solutions that are used in novel ways.

IEP Input Requested

- Do the new proposed definitions for “feasibility”, “project development” and “innovation” under IEP capture the various projects that Indigenous communities and organizations are looking to pursue? If not, what are the gaps?
- Does a Community Energy Plan (CEP) prerequisite pose any issues for capital project development?
- In what other ways can the IEP program support Indigenous communities and organizations to explore equitable access to energy project partnerships, employment, and leadership?

Next Steps

- Recorded webinar will be available on the engagement webpage within 1-2 days
- The IESO is seeking feedback on the proposed redesign of the Indigenous ESPs
 - Please use the feedback form found under the July 24th entry on the [Indigenous Energy Support Programs Review webpage](#) and submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by August 14th, 2020
- IESO will post and respond to feedback by September 2020
- Second webinar will be held in September to present the final program designs and announce launch application intake for Fall 2020