

SEPTMBER 28, 2020

# Indigenous Energy Support Programs Review

Indigenous Relations, IESO

# Purpose

To provide a summary of how the feedback received from the July 24<sup>th</sup> webinar was considered in the final redesigned Energy Support Programs (ESPs).

# Agenda

1. ESP Redesign Objectives and Process
2. Feedback from July 24<sup>th</sup> webinar
3. New Changes by Program
4. Next Steps

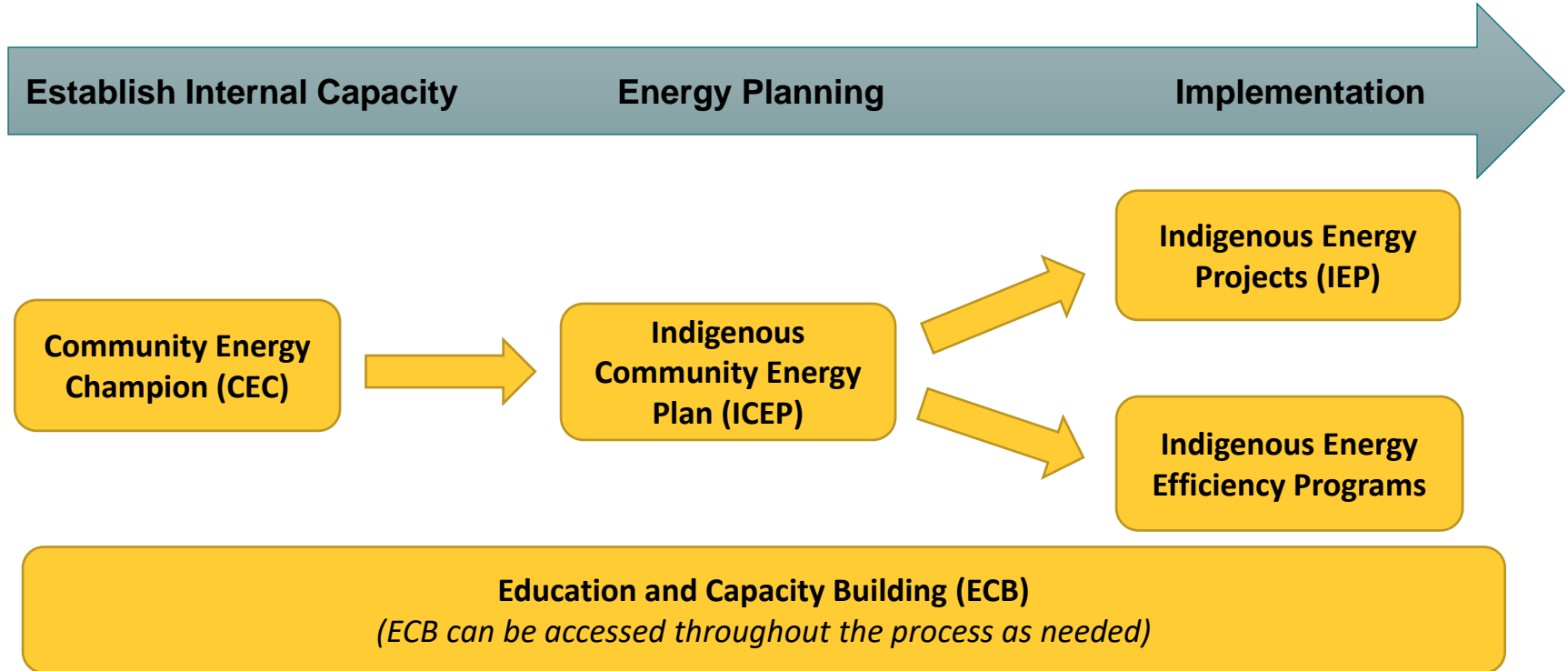
# ESPs Overview – Current programs offered

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>

# ESP Review 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 efficient use of existing resources and funding sources
5. Increase program accessibility, transparency and clarity

# ESP Alignment



# ESP Review Process

- Early in 2020, the IESO conducted a survey of ESP participants. Key themes that were identified from survey responses are:
  - Program Accessibility
  - Available Funding and Existing Capacity
  - Eligible Expenses and Activities

## ESP Review Process - continued

- On July 24th, the IESO held a webinar to provide a summary of responses received through the survey, and seek feedback from communities and stakeholders on proposed redesign of the Indigenous ESPs.
- Feedback was received by August 14th, and was considered by the IESO in the final redesigned ESPs.
- Program designs, including how feedback was used to inform the design, are presented at the September 28th webinar.
- The IESO will launch the redesigned ESPs for intake in the fall of 2020.



# Feedback from the July 24<sup>th</sup> Webinar

- The feedback as well as the IESO's response and consideration in ESP redesign, is available on the IESO's engagement [webpage](#).
- Responses were received from various communities and organizations across all four Energy Support Programs
- Themes included:
  - Program flexibility and scope
  - Barriers to participation
  - Need for capacity building support



# Response to Feedback and New Program Design

# 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.

## Current 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.

# CEC Program Feedback

## Feedback received

- Support was expressed for the proposed CEC expense stream to address current and future capacity needs. Additionally, feedback included recommendation for specific expenses that should be eligible (e.g. office supplies, energy equipment, travel).
- A new minimum qualifications requirement for hiring CECs would be a barrier for communities to identify a person.

## IESO response:

- The additional expenses stream of the CEC program will fund these suggested expenses, provided they are demonstrated as necessary for the work of the CEC to be completed. Costs for travel outside of Ontario is not eligible.
- The IESO will not impose minimum qualification requirements under the CEC program. The IESO will continue to offer free-of-charge professional development opportunities within the CEC program.

# CEC Program Feedback - continued

## Feedback received

- A requirement to identify CECs by the application submission stage would be a barrier to accessing the program due to uncertainty of funding approval.
- General support was expressed for a new technical standard incentive that would provide a salary top-up, with consideration for a wide range of qualifications such as those offered by the Canadian Institute for Energy Training (CIET).

## IESO response:

- The IESO will not require that a CEC candidate is identified at the application stage, however, successful applicants will be required to identify an energy champion before the Funding Agreement is signed.
- The IESO will include a salary top up for CECs that have specified qualifications.

# New CEC Program

## New Program Details:

- Salary funding stream of up to \$50,000 per year, for up to 3 years (maximum \$150,000 per contract).
- Additional expenses stream of up to \$15,000 for up to 3 years to fund costs such as equipment, training, engagement, travel, etc.

# New CEC Program - continued

## New Program Details:

- A technical standard incentive of \$5,000 annual salary top-up for CECs with specific qualifications
  - Eligible qualifications include: CIET Certified Energy Manager or Certified Energy Auditor, and 20/20 Catalyst. Other qualifications may be eligible at the discretion of the IESO.
- CEC to be identified and hired by the time of contract execution
  - CEC candidate must be identified at application stage in order to access technical standard incentive.

## New CEC Program - continued

### Additional Support:

- Incorporation of IESO-led CEC training and other professional development opportunities.
- IESO to introduce a network platform for CECs.



## 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.

## Existing ICEP Program - continued

### Current 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

# ICEP Program Feedback

Feedback received:

- General support for the prerequisite of having a Community Energy Champion (CEC) for a Community Energy Plan (CEP) update.
- Varied suggestions around a minimum number of community engagement sessions as required by each unique community.
- Mixed responses to proposed CEP components and whether they meet community expectations:
- Additional suggested areas: asset management, operation and maintenance, project management, energy innovation.

## ICEP Program Feedback - continued

IESO response:

- The IESO appreciates the feedback and suggestions around having a prerequisite for a CEC.
- The proposed approach to community engagement would allow each community to tailor to their unique needs.
- Additional CEP components such as asset management, O&M and energy innovation as part of future needs assessment may be incorporated in addition to or as part of the mandatory components.

# New ICEP Program

## New 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)
- Minimum number of targeted community engagements required
- CEC required for all ICEP updates

# New ICEP Program - continued

Current community energy plan components include:

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

## New ICEP Program - continued

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

# 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.

## Current 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



# ECB Program Feedback

## Feedback received:

- Support for proposed ECB streams and additional recommendations provided, including project management, and CEC support (training and equipment).
- Overall agreement on allocation of funds per stream, with suggestions to increase engagement funding or to leave allocations as open amounts to be justified in the application.
- The ECB program can be further supported through:
  - Initial application support
  - IESO training around understanding the energy environment
  - Emphasis on project management and contract management

## ECB Program Feedback - continued

IESO response:

- The proposed ECB streams would address capacity needs for engagement, skills and training. The enhanced CEC program will provide funding support to cover associated CEC costs in place of ECB (training and equipment).
- The IESO appreciates the feedback on allocation of funds per stream, as well as recommendations around further support, including additional application support.

# New ECB Program

## New Program Details:

- Funding of up to \$125,000 per application
- Initiatives supported up to two (2) years
- Applicants may apply to one or more categories, to a maximum to \$125,000

# New ECB Program - continued

## Community energy engagement (up to \$50,000)

- E.g. community workshops and meetings, youth and Elder specific projects, activities that educate and enhance energy-related capacity to understand and navigate the current energy environment

## Energy skills building, project training and certifications (up to \$75,000)

- E.g. technical capital project training, energy project management certification, Certified Energy Manager (CEM) training

# New ECB Program - continued

## Innovative knowledge/data sharing models (up to \$50,000)

- E.g. learning or teaching about new and emerging energy topics and projects; new energy skills training and delivery methods; research and data incorporating Traditional Knowledge; innovative knowledge sharing among youth and Elders

# 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.

## Current 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 Projects and Partnerships (feasibility, project development, partnership assessment) and up to \$200,000 for Innovation (innovative delivery models/technologies related to renewable energy projects).

# IEP Program Feedback

## Feedback received

- Mixed support for having a Community Energy Plan (CEP) as a prerequisite for capital project development (e.g. not tying this to transmission or be the only recognized study for potential projects).
- Consideration should be made for remote communities as well lack of community knowledge of capital project development.

## IESO response

- The intention to align projects with a CEP (where available) is to link project development with long-term community energy visioning; this will not apply to transmission projects.
- The IESO encourages applicants to access the ECB program to support community capacity and knowledge in support of capital project development.

# IEP Program Feedback - continued

## Feedback received

- On proposed definitions, recommendations were made around feasibility (include environmental assessment, differentiate by levels), and innovation (overall impact of the project and its uniqueness in the context of the specific community).

## IESO response

- The proposed definition for feasibility will support a range of activities, including financial, technical and operational viability.
- The innovation category is intended to recognize unique community and organization contexts and allow applicants to define projects accordingly.



# New IEP Program

## New Program Details:

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- Two streams: up to \$150,000 for Projects and Partnerships (feasibility, project development, partnership assessment) and up to \$200,000 for Innovation (innovative delivery models/technologies related to renewable energy projects)

## New IEP Program - continued

**Define feasibility:** permitting, technical and design assessments, economic assessments or diesel offset, or technology assessments.

**Define project development:** operations and maintenance, minor capital renewable projects (e.g. rooftop solar), or major capital renewable projects (e.g. solar microgrid).

- For Project Development, a community should demonstrate linkage with their CEP, where applicable.

**Define innovation:** emerging technologies, new business models, new practices/regulatory/policy constructs, and existing solutions that are used in novel ways.

## Next Steps

- ESP Application intake for Fall 2020:
- Opens October (date TBC)
- Revised ESP program documents, including Program Guidelines and Applications will be available on our website at: [www.ieso.ca/funds](http://www.ieso.ca/funds)
- Program Review: November to December
- Successful Recipients to enter into Funding Agreements in Q1 2021
- The IESO will host an online “Application Q&A” session once intake is launched in October

## Next Steps

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# Contact Us

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# Thank You

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