

# Alberta Community Partnership Program Guidelines

Effective April 1, 2017





## Table of Contents

<b>1. GUIDELINES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017/18</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. KEY DATES AND CONTACTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. SUBMISSION METHODS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. FUNDING COMPONENTS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1 Eligible Applicants	7
7.2 Contributions to other Entities	7
7.3 Eligible Projects	7
7.4 Ineligible Expenses	7
<b>8. APPLICATION AND AMENDMENT PROCESS</b>	<b>8</b>
8.1 Project Application	8
8.2 Review and Approval Process	8
<b>9. FUNDING AGREEMENTS</b>	<b>8</b>
9.1 Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA)	8
9.2 Amending an Agreement	8
<b>10. TIME PERIOD TO USE GRANT FUNDS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>11. USE OF OTHER GRANT FUNDS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12. REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF CONTRACT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>13. PAYMENT PROCESS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>9</b>
13.1 Payments	9
13.2 Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFE)	9
13.3 Credit Items	10
13.4 Calculation of Income Earned	10
<b>14. SITE VISITS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>15. COMMUNICATIONS AND PROJECT RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>SCHEDULE 1A – INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 1B – EVALUATION OF IC APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 2 – MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 3 – MEDIATION AND COOPERATIVE PROCESSES</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 4 – MUNICIPAL INTERNSHIP</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 5 – STRATEGIC INITIATIVES</b>	<b>30</b>

## 1. GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended to assist applicants in completing ACP application and financial reporting requirements for the 2017/18 program year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018). Before applying, applicants should consider both the general program information supplied in the main part of the guidelines and the component-specific information in the schedule(s).

## 2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017/18

- Intermunicipal Collaboration (IC) project eligibility focuses on projects which support intermunicipal land use and service delivery planning (see Schedule 1A).
  - IC project ranking criteria (see Schedule 1B) have been updated to ensure that projects selected for funding:
    - directly produce frameworks for regional approaches to service delivery, such as intermunicipal collaboration frameworks, intermunicipal development plans, or shared service agreements;
    - address outstanding regional service delivery gaps; and
    - resolve capacity-related barriers to successfully building regional frameworks.
  - Projects related to implementing regional services including facility construction, equipment purchases, pilots, training, and system upgrades are not eligible under the IC component.
  - The IC application limit is one application per managing partner, per program year. Municipalities can participate as a project participant in more than one application.
  - IC applications are due by January 2, 2018. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
    - The application must include a certification that council resolutions supporting the project are in place. Partnerships that do not have the required council resolutions in place prior to the application deadline must provide confirmation of their resolutions to Municipal Affairs via email to [acp.grants@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca) by February 2, 2018 (see Schedule 1A).
  - Projects that are awarded grants under the 2017/18 IC component should be completed by December 31, 2020.
- The Mediation and Cooperative Processes (MCP) Cooperative Processes stream now includes support for Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework negotiations. All MCP grants will require matching municipal contributions (see Schedule 3).
- The Municipal Internship application deadline has been changed to September 1, and the Land Use Planner grant amount has been increased to \$64,500 over two years as follows:

<b>Land Use Planner Stream</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Salary	\$35,000	\$19,000
Benefits	\$2,000	\$1,000
<b>Subtotal (municipal top-up contributions expected towards salary and benefits)</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
Year 1 Expenses; Year 2 Professional Development	\$6,000	\$1,500
<b>Total per year (of \$64,500)</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>

- The ACP Online (ACPO) system is available through MAConnect (see Section 4). ACPO gives municipalities the ability to:
  - create, edit, and submit ACP applications online;
  - view and track the status of ACP applications;
  - view agreement, payment, and reporting summary information for projects funded under ACP or the former Regional Collaboration Program (RCP); and
  - create, edit and submit ACP or RCP Statements of Funding and Expenditures (SFEs).

### 3. KEY DATES AND CONTACTS

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	QUESTIONS? CONTACT
Project Application Submission	Municipal Internship due September 1; Intermunicipal Collaboration due January 2, 2018; Mediation and Cooperative Processes, Municipal Restructuring, and Strategic Initiatives accepted up to February 1.	Call a Grant Advisor at 780-422-7125 (toll-free 310-0000), or email <a href="mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca">acp.grants@gov.ab.ca</a>
Statement of Funding and Expenditure (SFE)	Due within 60 days of project completion date identified in the conditional grant agreement.	Call a Grant Compliance Advisor at 780-422-7125 (toll-free 310-0000), or email <a href="mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca">acp.grants@gov.ab.ca</a>
Communication and Project Recognition	Ongoing.	Call Communications at 780-427-8862 (toll-free 310-0000), or email <a href="mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca">acp.grants@gov.ab.ca</a>

### 4. SUBMISSION METHODS

Applicants are encouraged to submit their grant applications and reporting through ACP Online (ACPO). Access to ACPO is through MAConnect, the web portal that provides external stakeholders secure access to Municipal Affairs' key business applications.

**Municipalities that already use MAConnect can request staff access to ACPO through the municipality's MAConnect Stakeholder Administrator.** The Stakeholder Administrator is the person delegated to manage access to applications in MAConnect on behalf of the municipality through the MAConnect Stakeholder Agreement.

All current Stakeholder Administrators are able to submit an electronic request through their MAConnect dashboard to grant a staff member access to ACPO. If the municipality needs to assign another Stakeholder Administrator, a request can be emailed to [ACPOaccess@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ACPOaccess@gov.ab.ca).

Municipalities that do not have access to MAConnect will need to enter into a Stakeholder Agreement before requesting access to ACPO. The Stakeholder Agreement can be requested by emailing to [ACPOaccess@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ACPOaccess@gov.ab.ca) or contacting 780-644-2413 (toll-free 310-0000). Once the Stakeholder Agreement has been signed and returned to Municipal Affairs, the municipality will be able to request access to ACPO through their designated Stakeholder Administrator.

An ACPO user guide is available on the ACP website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership).

ACP grant applications, project amendment/time extension requests and SFEs can also be submitted by email, fax or mail. Fillable PDF forms are available on the ACP website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership).

**Email:** [acp.grants@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca)

**Fax:** 780-422-9133

**Mail:** Attn: Regional Grant Programs (**Applications**) or  
Grant Compliance and Payments (**SFEs**)  
Alberta Municipal Affairs, Grants and Education Property Tax Branch  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10155 - 102 Street, Edmonton AB T5J 4L4

## 5. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ACP program is to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building initiatives.

The ACP program is designed to support municipalities in attaining the following key program outcomes:

- New or enhanced regional municipal services;
- Improved municipal capacity to respond to municipal and regional priorities; and
- Effective intermunicipal relations through joint and collaborative activities.

## 6. FUNDING COMPONENTS

Project funding is administered under five distinct funding components. Information regarding specific objectives, eligibility criteria, and other conditions for each component are found in Schedules 1-5.

Intermunicipal Collaboration (IC) (Schedule 1A)	• Develop regional land use plans and service delivery frameworks
Municipal Restructuring (MR) (Schedule 2)	• Explore regional governance and minimize costs associated with municipal restructuring processes such as amalgamation, dissolution, or viability reviews
Mediation and Cooperative Processes (MCP) (Schedule 3)	• Resolve intermunicipal conflict through dispute resolution alternatives and/or develop collaborative protocols
Municipal Internship (MI) (Schedule 4)	• Recruit and train interns to pursue senior administrator, finance officer, and land use planner positions in municipal government
Strategic Initiatives (SI) (Schedule 5)	• Support for initiatives that align with provincial priorities and address intermunicipal needs of strategic significance



## 7. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 7.1 Eligible Applicants

Applicant Type	Funding Component(s)
Municipalities (cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, specialized municipalities, special areas)	All*
Improvement Districts	IC, MCP, or SI
Métis Settlements	IC, MCP, or SI
Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society	IC, MCP, MI Administrator, or SI
Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership	MI Land Use Planner or SI
Municipally-controlled planning service agencies	MI Land Use Planner

\* Eligibility to apply under the MI streams is dependent on municipal population (see Schedule 4).

First Nations are eligible to participate under the IC component as non-managing, formal project partners on IC project applications.

The Minister may vary any program criteria, such as eligibility and application requirements, to respond to the Government of Alberta and Municipal Affairs' priorities.

### 7.2 Contributions to other Entities

Ineligible entities under the ACP include individuals, for-profit corporations, not-for-profit organizations, regional services commissions (excluding planning commissions), intermunicipal entities, and municipal subsidiary corporations (for-profit and not-for-profit).

Successful applicants may contract these entities to conduct project activities. In these instances, the contracted entity is not considered a project partner, and the applicant remains responsible for the use of the funds, achieving project outcomes, and reporting on activities related to the approved project.

### 7.3 Eligible Projects

Eligible project information is provided in the component schedules.

### 7.4 Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are ineligible for all components:

- Existing and ongoing operational costs;
- Floodway mapping costs;
- Costs already funded under other grant programs; and
- Goods and Services Tax (GST).

See component schedules for additional details on ineligible expenses.

## **8. APPLICATION AND AMENDMENT PROCESS**

### **8.1 Project Application**

A separate application form is required for each project submission, available through ACPO or as a fillable PDF on the program website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm).

Project applications can be submitted any time prior to the deadline(s) specified in Section 3.

PDF applications must be signed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), or duly authorized authority, who certifies that the information is correct and in accordance with program guidelines.

Applications submitted through ACPO contain a certification statement to be completed by the authorized user, and do not require a signature.

### **8.2 Review and Approval Process**

Each project application submitted to Municipal Affairs will be reviewed to ensure it meets the requirements outlined in these guidelines. Once a project is assessed, a recommendation is forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. All decisions by the Minister are final. Applicants will be advised in writing of the status of their submission, and a list of successful projects will be posted annually to the program website.

Project applications submitted under the IC component will be evaluated based on merit (see Schedule 1B), with scores assigned based only on the information provided in the application. Applicants should ensure all relevant sections of the form are completed, as incomplete applications may result in a lower score relative to other submitted applications. Funding decisions will be made by March 31 of the program year.

MI applications are due by September 1, IC applications are due by January 2, 2018, and applications under the other funding components (i.e., MR, MCP, and SI) should be submitted before February 1 to be considered in the current program year. It is anticipated that applications will be processed and municipalities advised of project funding status in writing, within ten to twelve weeks following submission, or by March 31 of the program year.

## **9. FUNDING AGREEMENTS**

### **9.1 Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA)**

Following the Minister's approval of a project, successful applicants must enter into a CGA with Municipal Affairs. The CGA sets out the terms and conditions for the grant funding. This includes project start and end dates, project scope, grant payment conditions, and reporting requirements.

### **9.2 Amending an Agreement**

If the project scope or time period to use grant funds change after the project approval, an amendment is required. This can be requested by submitting a Project Amendment/Time

Extension Request Form, available on the program website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm). The amendment request should be submitted prior to the CGA project completion date. Questions regarding scope and time changes can be directed to a grant compliance advisor.

## **10. TIME PERIOD TO USE GRANT FUNDS**

The ACP program year is based on the provincial fiscal year which commences April 1. Grant funds can be retroactively applied to approved projects beginning April 1 of the current program year unless otherwise stipulated in the executed CGA. See component schedules for specific details regarding time periods to use grant funds.

## **11. USE OF OTHER GRANT FUNDS**

ACP grants may be used in combination with funds from other provincial-municipal or federal-municipal grant programs, unless doing so is prohibited by the other program. Using ACP grant funds for costs covered by other programs, as per section 7.4, is not an allowable use of ACP funds.

If a grant recipient chooses to use multiple grant funding sources for a project, it is their responsibility to understand each grant program's specific funding requirements.

More information about specific requirements of provincial-municipal grant programs can be found on the respective program websites, accessible through the Municipal Grants Web Portal at <http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/municipalgrants.cfm>.

## **12. REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF CONTRACT**

All calls for proposals or tenders for projects funded under the ACP shall be carried out in accordance with the rules, regulations and laws governing such activities and in accordance with the best current procurement practices. They must also be advertised in accordance with the guidelines of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement ([www.newwestpartnershiptrade.ca](http://www.newwestpartnershiptrade.ca)), and the Agreement on Internal Trade ([www.ait-aci.ca](http://www.ait-aci.ca)).

## **13. PAYMENT PROCESS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **13.1 Payments**

ACP payments will be made following legislative approval of the provincial budget, and Ministerial authorization of the component budgets. Payments for approved projects will be made based on the conditions of the CGA. Typically the grant payment is made within one month following the execution of the CGA, unless stated otherwise.

### **13.2 Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFE)**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE. The SFE summarizes the grant amount received, the actual project costs, grant funding applied, portion of funding provided by other grant programs and municipal sources, and income earned and applied to the project. Income earned on the ACP grant funding becomes part of the funding available to apply to project expenditures.

The SFE must be signed by the CAO or delegate, who certifies that the grant recipient is in compliance with the terms of the CGA, program guidelines, and administrative procedures. All supporting documentation such as reports, drawings, and invoices for project costs must be retained by the municipalities for a minimum of three years following completion of the project. The SFE can be completed using ACPO or accessed on the ACP website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership.cfm).

The SFE may be subject to review by the Provincial Auditor General.

Additional reporting is required for the MI component (see Schedule 4), and may also be required under other components.

### **13.3 Credit Items**

Credit items must be reported on the SFE, and should include:

- Income earned on deposited or invested ACP grant funds.

The amount of income earned on the funds becomes part of the total grant funding available for the project.

### **13.4 Calculation of Income Earned**

The municipality must maintain separate accounting records for the grant funds.

The municipality is encouraged to invest and earn income on all unexpended grant funds, subject to the provisions of Section 250 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

The amount of income earned on grant funds may be calculated by one of two methods:

- the actual income earned on the funds being held; or
- the estimated (notional) income earned on the funds. For example, multiply the average grant funding balance over one or more months that the grant funds were held in an account by the average interest rate over those months.

## **14. SITE VISITS**

On an annual basis, Municipal Affairs may select and visit a number of municipalities to discuss ACP program delivery, explore suggestions for program improvement, and view completed ACP-funded projects where appropriate.

## **15. COMMUNICATIONS AND PROJECT RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS**

Municipalities may choose to recognize a project milestone through advertising, public information campaigns, or ceremonies and events. If a municipality initiates a communications event related to an ACP-funded project, they are asked to advise the Municipal Affairs Communications office of the proposed event a minimum of 15 working days prior to the celebration/launch/event.

News releases should acknowledge the province's contribution and must include a quote from the Minister or other GOA representative as determined by the province. Any advertising of ACP-funded projects should include a reference to the ACP program and the province's contribution.

To discuss project recognition options or communications requirements, please call Municipal Affairs Communications at 780-427-8862, toll free by first dialing 310-0000, or email [acp.grants@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca). All other inquiries should be directed to a grant advisor at 780-422-7125.

## Schedule 1A – Intermunicipal Collaboration

### 1. Objective

The objective of the Intermunicipal Collaboration (IC) component is to promote municipal viability by providing support to partnerships of two or more municipalities to develop regional land use plans and service delivery frameworks.

By having regional land use plans and frameworks for service delivery in place, municipalities lay the foundation to move from concept to reality. The plans and frameworks will ensure that:

- roles and responsibilities have been defined;
- participating municipalities are on board with the next step; and
- the partnership knows what it will take in time and resources to get their project off the ground.

### 2. Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible grant recipients (managing partners) under the IC component:

- municipalities (cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, specialized municipalities, improvement districts, and special areas);
- Métis settlements; and the
- Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society.

First Nations are eligible to participate as non-managing, formal project partners on IC project applications.

### 3. Eligible Projects

Projects which directly support intermunicipal land use or service delivery planning are eligible for grants under the IC component.

These are projects which produce plans, agreements, studies, or frameworks which the partnership can use to determine, establish, or govern integrated or cooperative approaches to municipal service delivery.

- A municipal service is defined as any activity or work undertaken by, provided for, or on behalf of, a municipality for the purpose of providing good government, facilities or other items that are necessary or desirable to develop and maintain safe and viable communities. Planning is considered a municipal service for the purpose of this component.

A partnership may undertake a regional service planning project in order to determine such factors as the costs, benefits, governance model options, revenue or cost-sharing arrangements, or operational requirements for intermunicipal service delivery.

Amendments to the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* will require the adoption of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) between municipalities. A partnership may apply for an IC grant to work towards elements of an ICF, such as gathering technical

expertise on the governance, delivery, and costs of intermunicipal services, or to create intermunicipal development plans.

The direct development of an ICF is eligible under IC. A partnership may apply for grant support to develop an ICF if there is an absence of in-house capacity to undertake the project, or if the expected scope of their ICF will be highly complex and require additional expertise and assistance. However, the regulations associated with ICFs will not be in place until later in 2017/18. Partnerships must consider regulatory requirements once they come into force.

Projects may include more than one element or deliverable related to the service planning initiative. For example, a partnership may submit a project application to develop several intermunicipal development plans for the partnership's region.

Applications will be reviewed to ensure that the project supports or creates arrangements for cooperative approaches to delivering services within the partnership, and that the project genuinely produces a regional result. If a project appears to only benefit the participants individually or if it is unclear how the project relates to supporting intermunicipal service delivery, the project may be deemed ineligible.

**Some regional partnerships may benefit from working with facilitators or dispute resolution specialists to prepare for intermunicipal service negotiations. Funding and support for these activities is available under the Mediation and Cooperative Processes (MCP) component. See Schedule 3 for further information.**

Certain regional projects may be a better fit under other ACP components or grant programs. Please see the table below for examples.

<b>Regional Municipal Service Delivery – Development Phases</b>		
<b>Phase</b>	<b>Eligible IC Projects</b>	<b>Projects Eligible Under Other Funding Sources</b>
<p><b>Explore Opportunity</b> To determine if a regional approach to municipal service delivery make sense</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a regional service needs or gaps assessment</li> <li>➤ Undertake a regional service-specific feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct broad exploration of regional governance options (See MR component, Schedule 2)</li> <li>➤ Work with a facilitator or dispute resolution specialist to prepare regional parties for regional service negotiations (See MCP component, Schedule 3)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Establish Scope</b> Decision tools and guidance documents to determine the best approach to regional service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify service-specific delivery options</li> <li>➤ Determine regional service cost sharing models</li> <li>➤ Develop a regional service-specific business plan or strategy</li> <li>➤ Develop a regional growth plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop regional governance study and/or business case (See MR component, Schedule 2)</li> </ul>

<b>Regional Municipal Service Delivery – Development Phases</b>		
<b>Phase</b>	<b>Eligible IC Projects</b>	<b>Projects Eligible Under Other Funding Sources</b>
<b>Lay Groundwork</b> Establish the framework for cooperative or integrated services within the partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Establish the legal framework for a regional service delivery authority</li> <li>➤ Develop and adopt an intermunicipal development plan or intermunicipal collaboration framework</li> <li>➤ Establish or update intermunicipal service sharing agreements</li> </ul>	
<b>Deliver Service</b> Implementation and direct delivery of the regional service	Capital projects and operating pilots are <u>not</u> eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facility construction; equipment purchases (Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Capital<sup>1</sup>, Federal Gas Tax Fund<sup>1</sup>)</li> <li>➤ Set up and ongoing regional service delivery costs (Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Operating<sup>1</sup>)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Information about these programs is available at the Municipal Affairs Grant Portal <http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/municipalgrants>.

***Eligible Project Costs***

Expenditures should be directly attributable to the project outcomes, and may include contract and project management costs.

A direct and itemized breakdown of expenditure items must be provided under the Budget section of the application form. If it is unclear how an expenditure item relates to the proposed regional service planning or development activities, the expenditure may be deemed ineligible.

***Ineligible Project Costs***

Capital expenditures, such as project expenditures associated with the construction, purchase, or betterment of capital assets or equipment, are not eligible under the IC component.

Costs associated with the direct implementation or delivery of services are not eligible. These include costs associated with:

- office set-up;
- hardware or software purchases, installation, or upgrades;
- training;
- operational service pilots;
- routine or regularly occurring data gathering;
- system updates or maintenance; and
- ongoing or regular salary and overhead expenses.



Additional costs incurred while using municipal resources to deliver the project, such as added costs for holding public consultations, or additional required compensation for in-house expertise above existing and normal salary arrangements, may be eligible. Sufficient detail and supporting rationale for all intended expenditures of this nature must be provided under the budget and project description sections of the application form.

#### 4. Application Process

Applications under the Intermunicipal Collaboration component are due January 2, 2018. No applications will be accepted after the due date.

Only one application per managing partner per program year will be considered. If an applicant submits more than one grant application as a managing partner, the first submitted application will be evaluated for funding.

Ensure that all relevant sections of the application form are completed prior to submission, as incomplete applications may result in a lower score relative to other submitted grant applications.

The application will not be considered for funding unless:

- the council resolution certification statement under the Partners section of the application form is checked to confirm that council resolutions or motions supporting participation in the project are in place;
- the application certification statement at the end of the application form is completed; and
- the application form is signed and dated by the managing municipality's Chief Administrative Officer or duly-authorized signing officer, if using the PDF version.

#### 5. Grant Amounts

The maximum grant available per project is \$200,000.

#### 6. Component Conditions

Applications under the IC component must involve a partnership of two or more eligible entities, as defined in the **Eligible Entities** section.

Eligible entities may participate in multiple project partnerships but may only be the managing partner on one IC project per program year.

The managing partner is the partnership member that submits the grant application on behalf of the partnership, enters into the grant agreement, receives and manages the grant funds on behalf of the partnership, and reports to the ministry on project expenditures and outcomes. All other formal partners are referred to as project participants. The managing partner and project participants must confirm their project involvement through council resolutions or motions. The resolutions or motions should confirm support for their involvement in the project and designate a managing partner.

The managing partner must certify that the resolutions or motions are in place on the grant application form and retain copies of the resolutions. Resolutions or motions do not need to be submitted with the application unless requested by Municipal Affairs.

An IC application can be submitted by January 2, 2018 even though all council resolutions are not yet in place. **However, a follow-up email to [acp.grants@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acp.grants@gov.ab.ca) that confirms that all council resolutions are in place must be received by February 2, 2018 in order for the grant application to be considered for funding.**

## **7. Payment of Funds**

ACP funds will be paid following legislative approval of the provincial budget and is contingent on a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) being duly executed.

## **8. Time Period to Use Grant Funds**

Grant recipients can retroactively apply grant funds towards approved projects effective April 1 of the program year unless otherwise stipulated in the CGA. No costs incurred prior to April 1 of the program year may be attributed to the grant.

A default project completion date of December 31, 2020 will be specified in the CGA to allow sufficient time for the partnership to complete the project. This is the date by which all eligible project costs must be incurred and the use of grant funds expire. If the partnership experiences unforeseen delays that will impact the timely completion of the project, a time extension request for the CGA may be considered.

Funding that is not expended by the project completion date in the CGA must be returned to the Government of Alberta.

## **9. Reporting Requirements**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE (see Section 13.2), and may be asked to provide additional reporting on the outcome of the grant.

SFEs must be submitted within 60 days of the project completion date.

If a project is completed earlier than the project completion date specified the CGA, a grant recipient is encouraged to submit their reporting at that time in order to close out their grant file.

## Schedule 1B – Evaluation of IC Applications

2017/18 IC grant applications will be scored using the following evaluation criteria to establish a primary ranking of projects based on merit and alignment with current program priorities.

Final decisions on funding recommendations will be made by a panel of program staff and may incorporate additional relevant factors such as geographic distribution of funds, past initiative funding, or distribution of funds across service areas.

PROJECT OUTCOME	
<b>1. Project results in a regional service delivery framework.</b>	<b>Maximum points: 25</b> <i>Corresponding application questions: 1 &amp; 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: project directly produces a regional service delivery framework.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g., shared service agreements, regional service governance models, regional service delivery plans, cost-sharing models, new or updated intermunicipal development plan (IDP).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: project produces information that is valuable but may or may not result in establishing a regional service delivery framework.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g., first-time acquisition of information related to a regional service initiative.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>2. Project produces an IDP or an intermunicipal collaboration framework (ICF).</b>	<b>Maximum points: 25</b> <i>Corresponding application questions: 1 &amp; 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: project produces an ICF or an IDP for municipalities that do not yet have one in place.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: project produces an updated IDP.</li> </ul>	
PROJECT PRIORITY	
<b>3a. Project will help to address outstanding regional service gaps.</b>	<b>Maximum points: 15</b> <i>Corresponding application question: 3a</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: project directly addresses an existing service gap through a regional solution.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: project provides other benefits for the partnership but may not be related to resolving an existing service gap or issue.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>3b. Project funding will help the partnership to resolve capacity-related barriers in order to undertake the project.</b></p>	<p><b>Maximum points: 10</b>  <i>Corresponding application question: 3b</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: the need for project funding is clear. Funding support will enable the partnership to undertake a regional initiative that requires additional expertise or resources beyond the existing capacity of the municipalities.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: grant approval will have a minimal impact on the partnership’s current ability to undertake the project.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PARTNERSHIP AND PROJECT READINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Regional partners are actively engaged in project delivery and demonstrate a good working relationship to support project success.</b></p>	<p><b>Maximum points: 15</b>  <i>Corresponding application question: 4a &amp; 4b</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: project is collaborative and all participating municipalities have ability to influence project outcomes. Processes are in place to facilitate input into decision making and resolve conflict.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: project delivery is driven by a third party and it is unclear how municipal partners will be involved.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5a. Project is well planned.</b></p>	<p><b>Maximum points: 5</b>  <i>Corresponding application question: 5a</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: project planning appears completed. There are no significant concerns regarding the partnership’s ability to execute the project successfully and achieve the expected benefits.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: insufficient information was provided to determine extent of planning for project delivery.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5b. Project budget estimates are supported.</b></p>	<p><b>Maximum points: 5</b>  <i>Corresponding application question: 5b</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>High score</u>: the basis for the budget estimates and requested grant amount was identified, and project costs appear reasonable.</li> <li>• <u>Low score</u>: insufficient information was provided to determine the basis of estimated project costs and requested grant amount.</li> </ul>	

## Schedule 2 – Municipal Restructuring

### 1. Objective

The Municipal Restructuring (MR) component provides financial support to municipalities for projects associated with regional governance and municipal restructuring processes such as amalgamation, dissolution or viability reviews.

The objectives of MR funding are to assist municipalities with the cost of:

- completing studies that may result in municipal restructuring or regional governance;
- infrastructure studies for municipalities undergoing a viability review or following a dissolution;
- transition following a dissolution or amalgamation; and
- debt servicing and critical infrastructure upgrades following a dissolution.

### 2. Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible for funding under the MR component:

- municipalities (cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, specialized municipalities, and special areas).

### 3. Eligible Projects

#### a) Restructuring Study Stream

The Restructuring Study Stream provides funding towards one of the following types of studies associated with municipal restructuring:

- regional governance study which must include the exploration of options that may lead to some form of municipal restructuring; and
- infrastructure study and/or asset management plan (during viability reviews).

#### b) Transitional Stream

For a municipality undergoing restructuring, the Transitional Stream supports eligible projects related to the administration, governance and legislative costs of the receiving municipality to incorporate the dissolved municipality into its ongoing operations. For amalgamations, the Transitional Stream supports eligible projects related to the integration of municipal administration, governance and services of the municipalities involved in the amalgamation.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- financial audit of pre-restructured municipality/municipalities;
- community engagement activities including, but not limited to, advertising, public notices, and signage to communicate with residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders following restructuring;
- infrastructure study or asset management plan following dissolution;
- integration or migration of administrative systems including, but not limited to, accounting and financial, assessment, communications, geographic information systems, information technology, and records management and taxation systems;
- legal and legislative costs including, but not limited to, contracts review, land title fees, electoral boundaries review, conducting by-elections, and bylaw and policy reviews;

- library costs including, but not limited to, establishment of new municipal library boards in the receiving municipality or amalgamated municipality;
- organizational review to optimize the structure and processes of the municipality;
- personnel costs including, but not limited to, additional staff time associated with the post-restructuring transition, staff training, and severance for staff employed in the former municipality or municipalities; and
- relocation of municipal operations in the dissolved or amalgamated municipality.

### **c) Infrastructure/Debt Servicing Stream**

For dissolved municipalities, the Infrastructure/Debt Servicing Stream supports upgrades to existing, municipally-owned capital infrastructure assets and equalization of any outstanding non-utility debt obligations of the dissolved municipality. The receiving municipality may apply for funds once needs are known and prioritized.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- repairs and upgrades for existing, municipally-owned infrastructure based on an infrastructure study, asset management plan, or supporting documentation from the past five years that identify the priority project(s) that needs to be addressed;
- work needed to meet infrastructure and environmental standards that directly affects the dissolved municipality or the health and safety of residents; and
- repayment of non-utility debt and the reduction of liabilities associated with the dissolved municipality.

## **4. Application Process**

Applicants are encouraged to contact a Municipal Sustainability Advisor prior to completing the application. Municipal Sustainability Advisors can be reached by telephone, toll-free at 310-0000, then 780-427-2225, or by email at [municipalsustainability@gov.ab.ca](mailto:municipalsustainability@gov.ab.ca).

## **5. Grant Amounts**

### **a) Restructuring Study Stream**

The maximum amount available under the Restructuring Study Stream is \$120,000 for infrastructure audits and \$200,000 per regional governance study and/or amalgamation study.

In the case of an amalgamation study where an application is submitted by a municipality as managing partner, in cooperation with all municipalities jointly exploring amalgamation, the managing partner will be eligible for up to 100 per cent of the maximum grant.

In the case of an amalgamation study where an application is submitted by a municipality that wishes to initiate amalgamation proceedings with one or more other municipalities, the initiating municipality will be eligible to apply for up to 10 per cent of the maximum grant to use towards amalgamation activities. If all of the municipalities party to the amalgamation proceedings agree to request the remaining funding, then up to the remainder 90 per cent may be approved and the initiating municipality would continue as the managing partner for the grant.

### **b) Transitional Stream**

The maximum amount available under the Transitional Stream is \$300,000 for post-dissolution transition. For post-amalgamation transition, entities are eligible for a maximum

amount of \$1,500,000. Eligible amounts are based on a base amount of \$100,000 plus \$400 per capita up to the above-stated maximums.

**c) Infrastructure/Debt Servicing Stream Post-Dissolution**

The total amount available under the Infrastructure/Debt Servicing Stream is a base amount of \$500,000 plus a per capita amount of \$1,500 to a maximum of \$3,000,000 for post-dissolution infrastructure projects.

**6. Component Conditions**

General Conditions for all MR component grants:

- a) A council resolution from the applicant must be submitted with the application.
- b) Agreement from other municipalities that are participating in the project (e.g. regional governance study or amalgamation study) or from municipalities that may be directly affected by the municipal restructuring (e.g. receiving municipality) should be in place and a copy of that agreement (e.g. emails, council resolution or formal agreement) submitted with the application.
- c) Municipalities involved in the projects may not separately apply under the MR component for the same study or restructuring process.
- d) Unused transitional grant funds cannot be applied to infrastructure projects, and vice versa.
- e) Applicants that have received restructuring grants in support of municipal restructuring that occurred prior to January 2014 are not eligible for MR funding.

If the cost of a project exceeds the maximum grant amounts, the municipality or municipalities involved are expected to cost-share or use other grant sources for the remainder of the project costs.

Conditions specific to the Transitional Stream:

- a) If grant funding was applied for following dissolution, grant funds must be accounted for separately by the receiving municipality in accordance with the Order in Council that dissolved the former municipality.

Conditions specific to the Infrastructure/Debt Servicing Stream:

- a) Funding to be used for existing, municipally-owned infrastructure projects is conditional upon the completion of an infrastructure study and/or asset management plan in the past five years, which assists with identifying and prioritizing critical infrastructure and municipal needs. If a recent infrastructure study, asset management plan, engineering study or related documentation does not already exist, eligible entities may apply for funds through the Transitional Stream to support an infrastructure study or an asset management plan.
- b) Infrastructure projects must be located within the geographic boundaries of the dissolved municipality, or if the infrastructure project is located outside the dissolved municipality, the project must directly benefit the residents and property owners of the dissolved municipality.
- c) Funding to be used for debt servicing requires receipt of audited financial statements of the dissolved municipality following restructuring.
- d) Debt reduction or debt servicing funds can only be applied to the debt of the former municipality that is transferred to the receiving municipality.

- e) If grant funding was applied for following dissolution, grant funds must be accounted for separately by the receiving municipality in accordance with the Order in Council that dissolved the former municipality.

## **7. Payment of Funds**

ACP funding will be paid following legislative approval of the provincial budget and is conditional on a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) being duly executed.

## **8. Time Period to Use Grant Funds**

Successful applicants can apply grant funds towards approved projects effective April 1 of the current program year unless otherwise stipulated in the CGA. Applicants determine the appropriate project completion date and should ensure that it allows sufficient time for all reporting activities to be completed. Infrastructure audits or studies funded through the Restructuring Study stream must be completed within nine (9) months from the grant approval date.

Projects occurring as a result of restructuring should be completed within two years following the municipal restructuring.

Funding that is not expended within the project completion date in the CGA, must be returned to the Government of Alberta.

## **9. Reporting Conditions**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE (see Section 13.2), and may be asked to provide additional reporting on the outcome of the grant.

A copy of the report or study funded under the Restructuring Studies Stream must be submitted to the Municipal Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs upon completion.



## Schedule 3 – Mediation and Cooperative Processes

### 1. Objective

The Mediation and Cooperative Processes (MCP) component provides support to municipalities to develop collaborative protocols and processes to proactively manage conflict, or to assist in the negotiation of service agreements for the creation of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs).

This enables municipalities to rely on an agreed-upon process for collaboration. This component also supports municipalities in using mediation, facilitation, or other dispute resolution alternatives to resolve intermunicipal conflict as local solutions provide the ability to control the outcomes and create options in the best interests of residents. This component is comprised of a Mediation stream and Cooperative Processes stream.

### 2. Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible for funding under the MCP component:

- municipalities (cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, specialized municipalities, and special areas);
- improvement districts;
- Métis Settlements; and the
- Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society.

### 3. Eligible Projects

#### a) Mediation

The Mediation stream supports mediation or facilitative services to develop local solutions to conflicts municipalities may be having with their municipal neighbours, regional services commissions or other boards or agencies.

Eligible projects include:

- mediating conflict or facilitated negotiations between two or more municipalities; and
- mediating conflict or facilitated negotiations between a municipality and another entity.

#### b) Cooperative Processes

The Cooperative Processes stream provides proactive support to municipalities for building relations and cooperative processes within and between municipalities through the Collaborative Governance Initiative (CGI). There are three types of cooperative processes within this stream.

- i. **Protocol Development** funds a consultant or an appropriate expert's fees and travel costs to assist in creating collaborative principles, processes and protocols using consensus. This may involve an internal process with one municipality or an external process between multiple municipalities.

- An internal process example for a single municipality is when a municipality has a lack of consensus so a consultant is hired to help with the development of council and staff protocols and procedures regarding meeting management, roles and responsibilities, and strategic direction.
  - An external or multi-party example for groups struggling to work collaboratively would be to hire a consultant to facilitate discussions between multiple municipalities to assist with the development of cooperation protocols.
- ii. **Protocol Implementation** funds the implementation of the principles, processes, and protocols created in the Protocol Development. That is, piloting, testing, and adjusting the protocols to achieve the desired objective
  - iii. **ICF Negotiation** funds a mediator or third party facilitator's fees and travel costs to assist in the negotiation of service agreements pertaining to ICFs and/or IDPs. For example, neighboring municipalities with contentious or complex negotiations who require a third party in order to proceed with ICF negotiations.

The objective of IDP and ICF funding support offered through the MCP component is to help municipalities access third party facilitators or mediators if they have a **demonstrated need** for such services in their negotiations.

Applicants seeking grant funds to assist with contracting technical resources and expertise to develop an IDP or ICF, and who do not need additional negotiation support, should consider the IC component (see Schedule 1A).

#### 4. Application Process

Applications are typically completed after discussion with Ministry staff. Contact a Municipal Dispute Resolution Services staff at 780-427-2225 (toll free in Alberta by first dialing 780-310-0000) prior to completing the form.

For all funding streams under this component, an applicant is required to complete an application that is supported by council resolutions or motions from all project participants. In the absence of council resolutions, an application may be submitted with a letter from the requesting municipality (with a copy to the partnering municipalities) that demonstrates support for the project and is signed by the Chief Elected Official.

All MCP component applications will be considered throughout the year up until February 1 of the current program year. Funding decisions will be made on a quarterly basis (i.e., based on applications on hand at November 1, and February 1).

Decisions will be based on information provided in the ACP application form regarding the project's complexity and the immediacy of need. The degree of complexity will consider the number of issues, services, or factors that need to be negotiated and the number of municipalities involved. The immediacy of need for facilitation or mediation assistance will be based upon the following factors but not limited to:

- Degree of conflict or disagreement;
- History of conflict between the municipalities;
- Capacity to facilitate or resolve the issues or to collaborate; and the
- Likelihood of the conflict to escalate.

## 5. Grant Amounts

The MCP component has funding maximums as follows:

- Mediation Stream: \$15,000
- Cooperative Processes Stream:
  - Protocol Development: \$50,000
  - Protocol Implementation: \$30,000
  - Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Negotiation: up to \$50,000

The Minister may vary these maximum amounts and cost share contributions (see Section 6 below) in extraordinary or highly contentious projects, and may consider such applications outside of the quarterly application review periods.

## 6. Component Conditions

### Conditions specific to the Mediation Stream:

The Mediation stream grant of up to \$15,000 provides one-third of the cost of mediation and is conditional on the municipal partners contributing two-thirds of the total costs. For example, to receive a maximum mediation grant of \$15,000, the municipal partners would need to contribute an additional \$30,000, reflecting a total project cost of \$45,000.

### Conditions specific to the Cooperative Processes Stream:

Cooperative Process stream grants are conditional upon the municipalities matching the grant funding, and can include verifiable in-kind contributions. The matching amount must be expended proportionately to the grant funding amount.

Municipalities must complete all reporting requirements for the Protocol Development before applying for funding through the Protocol Implementation.

Reporting from the Protocol Development must be submitted to demonstrate the progress in the project and that the funding has been fully expended prior to submitting an application under the Protocol Implementation.

## 7. Payment of Funds

ACP funding will be paid following legislative approval of the provincial budget and is conditional on the following:

- a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) being duly executed; and
- for the Mediation stream, by way of installment upon receipt of a copy of the mediator's invoices submitted that demonstrates project costs; or
- for the Cooperative Processes stream, by way of lump-sum payment.

## 8. Time Period to Use Grant Funds

Successful applicants can apply grant funds towards approved projects retroactive to April 1 of the current program year unless otherwise stipulated in the CGA. Applicants

determine the appropriate project completion date and should ensure that it allows sufficient time for all reporting activities to be completed (typically one to two years). If the funding will not be expended by the agreed to project completion date, a time extension request must be submitted (see Section 9.2). Any grant funds unexpended upon completion or termination of the project shall be returned to the Government of Alberta.

## **9. Reporting Conditions**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE (see Section 13.2), and may be asked to provide additional reporting on the outcome of the grant.

A copy of the report or study funded under the Cooperative Processes stream must be submitted to the Municipal Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs upon completion.

## Schedule 4 – Municipal Internship

### 1. Objective

The Municipal Internship (MI) component provides support to municipalities and planning service agencies to recruit, train, and retain competent municipal employees who can progress into leadership positions in Alberta municipalities. The intent of this program component is to help train interns so that they may pursue careers in municipal administration, finance, or land use planning and help build the capacity of Alberta's municipal sector.

### 2. Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible under the MI component, including:

- municipalities (cities, towns, villages, municipal districts, and specialized municipalities);
- the Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society; (Administrator stream only)
- the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership (Land Use Planner Stream only); and
- municipally-controlled planning service agencies (Land Use Planner stream only).

Applicants requesting funding under the MI component must meet specific population thresholds to be eligible (based on Municipal Affairs official population figures in effect at the time of application):

Program Stream	Population Range
Administrator	Between 700 and 75,000
Finance Officer	Between 2,500 and 125,000
Land Use Planner	Between 5,000 and 125,000

### 3. Eligible Projects

The MI component has three streams:

#### a) Administrator

The Administrator stream allows for the hosting of an intern for a one-year period. Host organizations help train and develop interns by providing them with learning opportunities across the key functional areas of municipal operations and management.

#### b) Finance Officer

The Finance Officer stream allows for the hosting of an intern for a one-year period. Host organizations help train and develop interns by providing them with learning opportunities in the finance department and exposure to other key functional areas of municipal operations and management.

### **c) Land Use Planner**

The Land Use Planner stream allows for the hosting of an intern for a two-year period. Host organizations must undertake the majority of land use planning activities in-house and have a senior planner on staff to supervise the intern. Interns in the Land Use Planner stream are expected to work towards attaining the Registered Professional Planner accreditation by documenting their education and responsible professional experience in the logbook under the Alberta Professional Planners Institute, the affiliate of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

For all streams, host organizations are expected to provide their intern with experience across the key functional areas of municipal operations and management. Municipalities that are not able to offer an intern experience in all of the functional areas are encouraged to collaborate with another municipality. Collaborations can be arranged so that the intern spends small blocks of time with each host (e.g. two or three months on a rotating basis or the term may be split into two six-month blocks).

Having the opportunity to work closely with staff, council, and senior management in a municipality or a planning service agency is a valuable experience for new professionals pursuing a career in the municipal sector.

## **4. Application Process**

Applications for the MI component are due by September 1 of the funding year, with the internship to commence the following May.

MI applications are evaluated after the September 1 deadline. Funding is awarded based on information provided in the ACP application form up to the maximum number of internship positions available in the program year.

## **5. Grant Amounts**

The amounts available under the MI component vary by host type as follows:

- Administrators: \$43,000
- Finance Officers: \$43,000
- Land Use Planners: \$64,500

## **6. Component Conditions**

Just as interns are expected to demonstrate certain attributes, host organizations are also expected to meet certain criteria, including:

- The municipality must meet the population thresholds as outlined in Section 2 of this schedule, to be eligible for grant funding. Municipally-controlled planning service agencies are also eligible for the Land Use Planner stream;
- For the Land Use Planner stream, host organizations must undertake the majority of their planning in-house and have a senior planner on staff;
- A strong council-administration relationship must exist and there must be strong commitment from both groups to have an intern;

- There must be an organizational commitment to the MI program's vision and goals;
- A dedicated supervisor is appointed for the intern. The supervisor is to be the Chief Administrative Officer or a senior manager (Administrator stream); senior financial officer (Finance Officer stream); or a senior planner (Land Use Planner stream);
- A sufficient commitment of resources, both financial and staff, must be made; and
- There must be an ability to provide training in a wide range of municipal functions and interest in sharing knowledge and experiences with the intern.

An eligible municipality or organization can apply under any or all of the streams of this program component in a program year; however, the applicant must complete separate applications as each stream is evaluated separately.

Collaboration with another municipality is not required to host an intern if the municipality has the capacity and desire to host on its own. A municipality may wish to partner with another municipality if it is not able to provide an intern with experience in the major functional areas of municipal operations and management. Refer to the Internship Program website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/ms/internship/](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/ms/internship/) for information on these functional areas and program expectations.

If choosing to collaborate, one municipality is to be named the managing partner. This municipality must meet the minimum population requirement for the stream being applied for and is responsible for submitting the application. Informal collaboration is also encouraged; however, such an arrangement is not considered a partnership as just one of the municipalities is considered to be the host.

## **7. Payment of Funds**

ACP funding will be paid following legislative approval of the provincial budget and is subject to a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) being duly executed.

## **8. Time Period to Use Grant Funds**

Successful applicants can apply grant funds to eligible project expenditures effective January 1 of the hosting year. Administrator and Finance Officer internships are to be completed one year from the intern start date; Land Use Planner internships are to be completed two years from the intern start date. Any grant funds unexpended upon completion or termination of the project shall be returned to the Government of Alberta.

## **9. Reporting Conditions**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE (see Section 13.2). Additionally, supporting documentation is required and may include a Workplan, an Interim Report, a Year 1 Report (Land Use Planner) and a Final Report, as per the CGA.

## Schedule 5 – Strategic Initiatives

### 1. Objective

The Strategic Initiatives (SI) component provides grants for initiatives in which the project outcomes are of ministry or provincial strategic significance and do not align with the other program components.

### 2. Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible for grants under the SI component:

- the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership;
- municipalities (cities, towns, villages, summer villages, municipal districts, specialized municipalities, improvement districts, and special areas);
- Métis Settlements; and the
- Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society.
- The Minister may vary this criteria to include entities undertaking projects of provincial and municipal strategic significance.

### 3. Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include:

- support for the operations of metropolitan growth management boards; and
- projects of provincial strategic significance that are deemed a ministry priority.

### 4. Application Process

Contact a Grant Advisor to discuss any proposed SI projects. Application forms for the SI component will be provided after discussion with Ministry staff.

### 5. Grant Amounts

The maximum amount of funding available under the SI component is a ministry determination.

### 6. Component Conditions

All projects funded through the SI component will need to demonstrate the strategic significance of their project and how it aligns with ministry or provincial priorities.

The Minister may modify any program criteria such as eligibility and application requirements to respond to Government of Alberta and Municipal Affairs priorities.

### 7. Payment of Funds

ACP funding will be paid following legislative approval of the provincial budget and is subject to a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) being duly executed.



## **8. Time Period to Use Grant Funds**

Successful applicants can apply grant funds towards approved projects effective April 1 of the program year unless otherwise stipulated in the CGA. Applicants determine the appropriate project completion date to be specified in the CGA and should ensure that the project completion date allows sufficient time for all reporting activities to be completed. If the funds will not be expended by the agreed to project completion date, a time extension request should be submitted (see Section 9.2). Any grant funds unexpended upon completion or termination of the project shall be returned to the Government of Alberta.

## **9. Reporting Conditions**

The grant recipient must submit an SFE (see Section 13.2), and may be asked to provide additional reporting on the outcome of the grant.

