

Northern and Regional Economic Development Program

Fact Sheet

Program Overview

The Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) program is a competitive grant program that promotes sustainable, long-term economic growth and diversification by supporting high-impact projects across the province. The program advances the Alberta government's strategic priorities by enabling municipalities, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit organizations to pursue projects that strengthen investment readiness, support local business retention and expansion and enhance regional competitiveness.

Program Details for 2026/2027

- Application Intake Period: Opens August 24, 2026 | Closes 4:00 pm Alberta Time November 19, 2026
- Grant Amounts and Funding Ratio: Applicants may request between \$10,000 and \$300,000 for eligible projects. The program provides up to 50 per cent of total eligible project costs, or up to 75 per cent for projects led by Indigenous communities.
- Project Duration: Projects may span up to three years, allowing applicants to plan and execute more complex or multi-phased initiatives.
- Eligible Applicants: Incorporated not-for-profits with an economic development mandate, municipalities, and Indigenous communities, including First Nations, Metis Settlements, and Indigenous-owned not-for-profit entities.
- Application Submission: Applications must be submitted via the Online Application Portal. A 'basic' Alberta.ca account will be required to access the Online Application Portal.

Program Priorities

The 2026/2027 intake continues the program's core structure and priorities, with updated guidelines that provide greater clarity for applicants based on feedback from previous intakes. Projects must demonstrate alignment with one or more of the following priority areas:

- Increase investment readiness and regional attractiveness for private investment.
- Support planning and feasibility studies that lead to economic development enabling investments that boost regional growth.
- Support local and regional business and industry, including retention and expansion.

Collaboration and Regional Impact

Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with partners and collaborators to broaden project impact. Collaborative applications and initiatives that demonstrate regional benefit are prioritized in the competitive review process.

Application Supports

Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration's Regional Economic Development Specialists (REDS) provide advisory services, economic information, pathfinding support and tools and resources. The REDS have local and regional knowledge of the economic development opportunities and challenges facing Alberta's regions. REDS are available to provide information, coaching and advice on how to strengthen applications. You can find your local REDS representative at www.alberta.ca/regional-economic-development-resources#specialists.

Program Guidelines and the Application Companion Guide will be made available on the NRED Program website (www.alberta.ca/northern-and-regional-economic-development-program) on August 24, 2026,

providing a step-by-step guide to the application process. Several information sessions will be held in fall 2026 for potential applicants. Scheduling details will be provided after the intake period opens.

Review and Approval

Applications will be evaluated based on alignment with program priorities, the strength of the project's rationale and anticipated economic impact, collaboration, management approach, and budget. Further details on evaluation are outlined in the Program Guidelines.

Contact Information

For more details or questions regarding the NRED Program, please contact:

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