

Non-Government Organization Stabilization Fund

2023-2024 Annual Report

SEPTEMBER | 2024



Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund Annual Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This report outlines performance and financial information related to the functioning of the NGO Stabilization Fund, as administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

This report represents an important step in ensuring accountable use of the fund and promoting the effective delivery of support to NGOs across the Northwest Territories.

I want to recognize the important work of NGOs in serving residents of the Northwest Territories. MACA and the Government of the Northwest Territories remain committed to supporting organizations that carry on this important work.



The Honourable Vince McKay
Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
NGO Stabilization Fund.....	5
2023-2024 Performance Measurement.....	6
Key Activities.....	6
Application Process	6
Eligibility Screening.....	7
Assessment of Eligible Applicants.....	7
2023-2024 Trends	8
2023-24 Approved NGO Stabilization Funding.....	9
Conclusion.....	10
Contact Information	10

Introduction

The *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization (NGO) Operations Policy* (Policy) was implemented in 2009 as a contribution program to provide short term support to GNWT-funded NGOs facing extraordinary costs that threaten to destabilize their operations. The NGO Stabilization Fund is established by the Policy and is used to support NGOs who deliver critical GNWT-funded programs and services to Northwest Territories (NWT) residents.

This NGO Stabilization Fund 2023-2024 Annual Report was prepared in accordance with the recommendations from the 2020 program evaluation. The report provides information on the operation of the NGO Stabilization Fund in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

NGO Stabilization Fund

Recognizing that many NWT NGOs deliver critical services and programs that support GNWT policy objectives such as homelessness, addictions support, and shelters for women and families, the NGO Stabilization Fund was established in 2009.

Funding support is available for eligible NGOs who:

- deliver critical GNWT-funded programs or services to NWT residents;
- receive annual funding from the GNWT for the delivery of those critical services or programs and comply with existing funding agreements; and
- are registered and in good standing in the NWT either as a society, association or as created under NWT or federal statute.

Support can be granted for eligible one-time general costs to stabilize or develop organizational capacity to manage programs and services including:

- General management costs that cannot be attributed to specific programs or services. Examples are general administration and management, finances, and bookkeeping.
- Governance costs or board related costs. Examples are governance and board training.
- Organizational development costs related to the structure and processes of the organization.
- Additional extraordinary general operations costs related to general operations and maintenance that cannot be directly attributed to specific programs or services. Examples are one-time general office costs or one-time maintenance costs.

The program is application-based, and NGOs must apply each year to receive funding. The maximum amount provided per organization is \$50,000 annually. Demand for funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund normally exceeds the available annual budget.

2023-2024 Performance Measurement

Performance measures were established using baselines identified in the 2020-21 fiscal year, to enable ongoing monitoring of the NGO Stabilization Fund’s administration. The performance of the fund in 2023-2024 will be used as the baseline for future performance measures. Performance measures for 2023-24 are summarized in the table below:

Activity	Performance Measurement	Baseline	Target	2023-2024 Result
1.1 Calls for applications	Number of calls for applications by fiscal year	One call for applications per fiscal year as per the <i>Stabilizing Non-Government Organization (NGO) Operations Policy</i>	One call for applications will be issued each spring as per policy.	Call for applications ran from May 2, 2023, to May 31, 2023.
1.2 Application assessments	Number of applications assessed by fiscal year	22 applications assessed in 2020-2021. 27 applications assessed in 2021-2022. 29 applications assessed in 2022-2023	Two applications assessed per region and greater than ten applications total per year.	In 2023-2024, 44 applications were assessed.
1.3 Funded Projects	Number of projects funded by fiscal year	Minimum 14 projects. \$700,000/\$50,000 =14	Minimum 14 projects.	In 2023-2024, 23 projects were funded. There was an outstanding payment from 2021-2022 that was also approved.

Key Activities

Application Process

A public call for applications to the NGO Stabilization Fund for 2023-24 was issued on May 3, 2023, and the application deadline was May 31, 2023. 44 applications were received with a regional breakdown as follows:

- 31 in Yellowknife
- 1 from the North Slave Region (outside of Yellowknife)
- 7 from the South Slave Region
- 1 from the Inuvik Region
- 3 from the Sahtu Region
- 1 from the Dehcho Region

The total 2023-2024 funding requested as part of these applications was \$2,386,437. For the purposes of the report, only the 44 applications that were assessed as part of the 2023-2024 call-out are represented in the data, unless otherwise stated. One application was pre-approved due to an outstanding payment from a 2021-2022 agreement.

Eligibility Screening

All applications were screened for eligibility in accordance with the provisions of the Policy. Eligibility of organizations is determined using the following criteria:

- A. The organization must deliver critical GNWT-funded services;
- B. The organization must receive funding from GNWT; and
- C. The organization must be registered and in good standing in the NWT as a society or association or as created under NWT or federal statute.

Of the 44 applications received, 4 applications were deemed ineligible because the organizations did not meet the eligibility requirements. (2 organizations were not funded by the GNWT, and 2 organizations were not in good standing in the NWT as a society or association). While there were 40 eligible organizations, some applications included expenses ineligible under the Policy, which affected the amount of funding they were eligible for.

Results of the eligibility screening were communicated in writing to all applicants within three weeks of the application deadline.

Assessment of Eligible Applicants

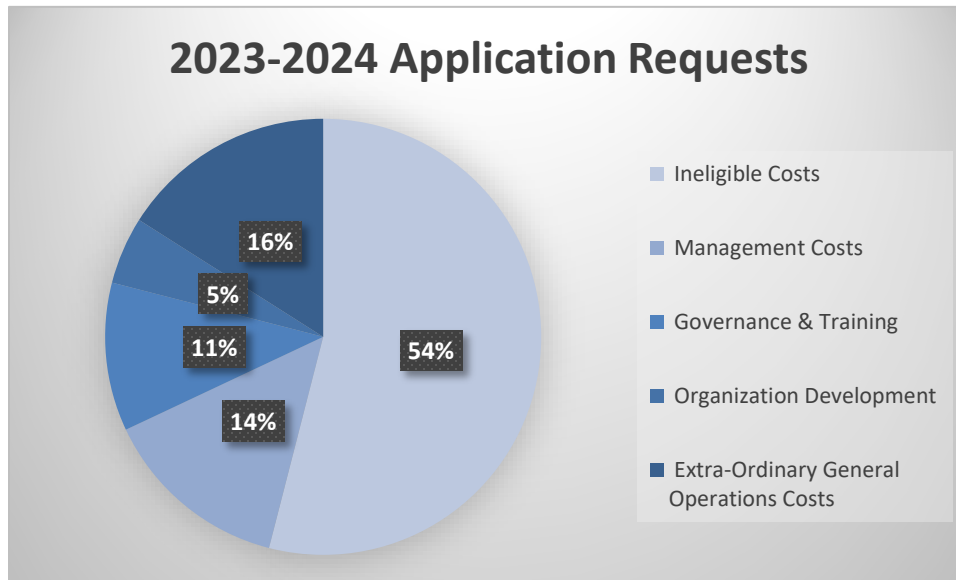
The assessment of eligible applications was carried out in accordance with the *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization Operations Policy*. Applications were prioritized for funding based on the following principles:

- A. Applications from NGOs who deliver the following programs and services take priority over applications from NGOs who deliver less critical services such as cultural or recreational program delivery. These priority programs include those that:
 - Help ensure people’s basic needs for shelter and food are met.
 - Provide social support within their community or communities.
 - Build capacity through education, training, and skill development.
- B. Collaborative projects or projects that benefit more than one NGO take priority over projects that benefit only the applicant NGO.
- C. Management costs (general administration, management, finances, and bookkeeping), governance and organizational development (strategic or expansion) take priority over extraordinary general operations costs (office costs, utilities, maintenance, and renovations).
- D. Projects that have not received support (new projects) take priority over projects that are similar to those supported in previous years for the same NGO.

Applicant Selection

The 40 eligible applications were evaluated and ranked by priority. Of those, 23 applications were approved; 5 applications were not selected as the associated projects included ineligible expenses; and the remaining applications exceeded the funding available. One additional application was approved for \$47,500 above the stabilization fund annual budget, for the Family Support Centre, to correct a processing error from the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Project Types - 2023-2024 NGO Stabilization Fund Applications



2023-2024 Trends

Eligible funding requested by NGOs increased compared to 2022-2023, as did requests for ineligible funding, which accounted for 54% of the total requested funding. NGOs actively sought funding for core operations, general programming, and regular personnel, however these costs are not eligible under the Policy.

Applications from organizations who have previously received NGO Stabilization Funding are a recurring theme. In 2023-2024, 52.5% of proposals were received from NGOs with projects approved in 2022-23. Applicants noted a lack of available operations funding from other GNWT programs to maintain their ability to offer critical GNWT services or programs.

Projects approved in 2023-2024 supported improved strategic planning and governance, bylaw maintenance and development, policy updates, communications, managerial transition support, financial and accounting systems and training, asset upgrades and minor renovations.

2023-24 Approved NGO Stabilization Funding

	Organization	Approved Funding*
1	Association Franco-Ténoise du Sud et de l'Ouest	40,000
2	Avens - A Community for Seniors	50,000
3	Children First Society	45,000
4	Dehcho Friendship Centre	11,175
5	Family Support Centre	50,000
6	Food Rescue Yellowknife	50,000
7	Foster Family Coalition	5,000
8	Hay River Youth Centre	16,500
9	HomeBase Yellowknife	20,000
10	Inclusion NWT	22,160
11	Ka'sho Got'ine Housing Society	33,720
12	Legholi Early Learning Society	45,000
13	Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT)	30,175
14	Makerspace YK	42,190
15	Northern Mosaic Network	5,000
16	Northwords NWT	30,000
17	NWT Montessori Society	10,000
18	Salvation Army Yellowknife Corps	50,000
19	Status of Women Council	20,000
20	Territorial Agrifood Association	6,080
21	Yellowknife Playschool Association	24,500
22	Yellowknife Women's Society	43,500
23	Zhatie Koe Friendship Centre	50,000
24	Family Support Centre 2021-2022	47,500**
	Total Funding Approved	\$ 747,500

*Approved funding was disbursed based on application requests, with maximum total allowable \$50,000.

- The Children First Society, Dehcho Friendship Centre, Foster Family Coalition, Hay River Youth Centre, Homebase Yellowknife, Ka'sho Got'ine Housing Society, Legholi Early Learning Society, Makerspace YK, Northern Mosaic Network, Yellowknife Playschool Association and Yellowknife Women's Society received less than requested as ineligible expenses under *the Stabilizing Non- Government Organization Operations Policy* were removed.
- The Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT) approved funding was less than application request due to limited remaining available annual budget.

** Extraordinary funding approved from 2021-22.

Conclusion

The NGO Stabilization Fund supports GNWT-funded NGOs with short term extraordinary funding to strengthen and stabilize NGOs who deliver critical GNWT programs and services to NWT residents. With limited funding options from governments and private sources and increased service and program needs within the NWT, MACA anticipates that the program will continue to be over-subscribed going forward.

MACA has developed a webinar to support NGOs in applying for future funding to reduce the number of ineligible organizations and ineligible project applications that are received. This webinar will be presented during the 2024-2025 funding application period to present information on the Policy, application guidelines, and give NGOs an opportunity to ask questions.

MACA welcomes additional input from stakeholders and the public on potential improvements to the program.

Contact Information

Sport, Recreation and Youth

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Government of the Northwest Territories

P.O. Box 1320

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 767-9166 ext. 21109

E-mail: youth_and_volunteer@gov.nt.ca

Website: www.maca.nt.ca