

## **FNWE Grant & Mentorship Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does the Grant and Mentorship Program do?**

In order to support the success of First Nations women entrepreneurs, the Grant and Mentorship Program matches experienced First Nations women entrepreneurs with potential/new business owners to create the foundation for launching a viable business. It also provides FNWE resources, learning opportunities and micro-grants to explore a new business idea.

### **What is Mentorship?**

Our mentoring philosophy centers around creating nurturing relationships between entrepreneurs just beginning their business journey and those who have many years of experience running a business or supporting businesses on their entrepreneurial journey.

Unlike traditional business mentorship, we believe mentoring relationships stand to be most successful when they are reciprocal. Both mentors and mentees are encouraged to listen, challenge, and support the other throughout the process. Centering culture in a mentoring relationship places emphasis on respect, relationality, and reciprocity and Indigenous ways of knowing, learning, and teaching. As a result, both mentees and mentors can benefit from the mentorship relationship through building connections and sharing of information.

### **What are the expectations of Mentees?**

It is expected that the applicant works with their Mentor and FNWE Business Coach to develop a road map that leads to the launch of a business and that the use of financial and mentorship resources will be used towards business expenses incurred.

It is also expected that the mentee will have completed a full business plan and cashflow, at the end of the 6-month mentorship relationship. The mentee may then be invited to apply for the FNWE Micro-loan and Grant Program.

### **Who can apply?**

- First Nations women with status who are at the pre-launch or early start-up phase in their business;
- Indigenous women-led and controlled businesses;
- The applicant must be 18 years of age, or older;
- Must be a resident of Ontario;
- Must be a for-profit or social enterprise;
- Full or part-time businesses;
- Applications relating to farm and food production businesses are welcomed from applicants across Ontario. As well, applications relating to all business sectors are welcomed from applicants in South Central and Eastern Ontario

### **What can the micro-grant be used for?**

Micro-grants can be used for typical start-up business expenses. These include but are not limited to:

- Purchase of office and administrative expenses;
- Business Planning;
- Business insurance;
- Incorporation costs;
- Professional fees (business registration, legal, accounting, etc.);
- Rent expenses;
- Marketing and advertising expenses;
- Leasing or purchase of small equipment; and
- Advisory services/expenses
- Other start-up costs on a case-by-case basis

### **What can Mentees expect?**

- 6-month mentorship relationship
- Must meet In-person or virtually at least twice per month
- Micro-Grant of \$3000

### **How much of a grant will each mentee receive?**

Each mentee will receive up to \$3000 for eligible start-up expenses. Funds will be advanced to participants as approved by the FNWE Business Coach.

### **What is the application process?**

Once your application is received you will be contacted and additional information about your project may be sought. When all information is obtained, your application will be screened for eligibility.

Once screened, the mentee will be contacted with a decision about their application and will be matched with a mentor.

### **What information is required to apply?**

The following are required when applying:

- Completed application form
- Status Card
- Driver's License

### **Where do I get more information and an application?**

For more information, go to [www.indianag.on.ca](http://www.indianag.on.ca).

For an application call 1.800.363.0329 or email: [fnwe@indianag.on.ca](mailto:fnwe@indianag.on.ca)

### **If I need assistance to complete the application, where can I go?**

IAPO's FNWE Business Coach can assist you in completing your application form.