

# International Credential Recognition Fund



## Guidelines for Funding Proposals

Funded by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
Administered by ASPECT- Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training

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## Overview

The intention of the International Credential Recognition Fund (ICRF) is to find ways to improve the international credential recognition process by disbursing grants to employment service providers (ESPs) delivering community-based social services in British Columbia.

A guiding principle of this fund is that employment service organizations are connected to internationally trained newcomers and their communities. They can facilitate removing barriers for newcomers to navigate connecting to their chosen profession more quickly than without support.

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills made possible a one-time contribution of \$1,500,000 to establish this fund to provide grants to immigrant-serving organizations and their service partners for projects that support internationally trained professionals undergoing, or preparing for, their credential recognition process.

## Eligibility

The International Credential Recognition Fund is open to all community-based employment service providers (ESPs) who deliver services to newcomers. The target benefactors or clients are newcomers who require support with international credential recognition.

## Available Grants

There are three grant levels available: \$50,000, \$75,000, and \$100,000.

Organizations can submit as many proposals as they wish, but no organization will be awarded more than two grants. The goal is to support as many newcomers within as many communities in BC as possible. Grants can be used for all aspects of the proposed project.

Deadline for proposals is 11:59 pm on Monday, July 31, 2023. All proposals must be submitted through the online form.

## Funding Priorities & Assessment Criteria

In addition to the goals listed in the Overview section above, the following is a list of funding priorities and assessment criteria used in evaluating project proposals:

1. Does the proposed project identify and/or fill a gap in existing funding while accelerating the credential recognition process for newcomers, linking them to work in their target field?
2. Does the proposed project complement, overlap, but not compete with existing programs?
3. Does the proposed project address a means to remove barriers to credential recognition in BC while preparing clients for their chosen field?
4. Does the proposed project impact systemic improvements with the help and expertise of community-based employment service providers?
5. Does the proposed project have a built-in measurement system to track the successful outcomes of the funded projects? How will you measure success?
6. Does the proposed project consider the sustainability of the services after the funding ends? (Ideally, if the project program is successful, how could it be incorporated into existing programming?)
7. Does the proposed project remove barriers for clients in rural and remote communities obtain international credential recognition?
8. Does the proposed project include partnerships with other social service organizations, employers, or credentialing organizations? If so, how does it do that? What does it require from its partners? How can the project partners benefit?
9. Does the proposed project address issues related to obtaining international credential recognition in rural and remote communities that do not currently exist or provide adequate service levels?
10. Can the proposed project be scaled up or duplicated in other jurisdictions?

## Responsibility of Grant Recipients

A condition of receiving ICRF grants is the participation in hosted bi-monthly virtual roundtable discussions with ESPs to share information about their project. This requirement is intended to create a community of practice to avoid duplication of services and allow ESPs to learn from each other by answering the following questions:

1. What is your project and how is it removing barriers for clients to have their international credentials recognized in BC?
2. How are you measuring success of your program? Can you provide a status update toward achieving the program goals?
3. What is working well? What could be improved? Advice for next time?

Hosted virtual roundtable discussion are scheduled for October and December of 2023, and February of 2024. Exact dates are yet to be determined.

It is the intention of the ICRF to create opportunities to test new ideas, adapt existing programs, and share information with other ESPs in the province to find ways to achieve the best outcomes for internationally trained clients as they pursue their BC credentials.

## Timelines

The timeline for procuring and running projects is short, but it is expected that the proposed projects will likely augment existing services to address the client eligibility gap identified by the ESP community. At the project's end, fund recipients are expected to file a final report of their project. ASPECT will then prepare a report on behalf of all grant recipients to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, including success metrics, program details, and recommendations from the ESPs.

Although projects can continue beyond March 31, 2024, the funding will not. A report including outcome metrics is due before final payout.

July 12, 2023 @ 1pm	ICRF Information Session – Virtual
July 31, 2023 @ 11:59 pm	Application portal closes
August 1 – 15, 2023	Review of Applications
August 24 – 30, 2023	Successful grant recipients notified and agreements executed
September 1, 2023	Funds disbursed to ESPs (90% of total amount)

October 2023 TBD	ICRF Grant Recipient Roundtable # 1
December 2023 TBD	ICRF Grant Recipient Roundtable #2 plus short report
February 2023 TBD	ICRF Grant Recipient Roundtable #3 plus short report
March 1, 2024	Program Report Due to ASPECT
March 31, 2024	Final fund disbursed to ESPs (10%)