

ENHANCED OPERATING FUNDING FOR RURAL MUNICIPALITIES TO ADDRESS ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

How do municipalities apply for this new money?

Funding totaling \$10 million has been added to the municipal operating basket to help municipalities and northern affairs communities support ongoing critical infrastructure needs. Municipalities will not need to apply for this funding. There is no administration or red tape for local governments.

How is the money being allocated to individual municipalities?

Funding will be provided to all municipalities based on the following population thresholds:

Municipal Population	Grant Level
Less than 2,000	\$37,000
2,000 to 5,000	\$61,500
5,001 to 10,000	\$138,500
10,001 or more	\$246,000

Over the last six years, an average of \$9.7 million in annual provincial funding has been provided to municipalities and northern affairs communities through the former Municipal Road and Bridge Program. Adding \$10 million in funding to the municipal operating basket ensures that municipalities continue to receive stable, predictable funding for infrastructure priorities, with less red tape.

In addition, municipalities will also be supported to meet their infrastructure needs with provincial and federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the additional \$2 million in the Manitoba Water Services Board budget for municipal water and sewer infrastructure and the PST decrease, which is estimated to save municipalities outside of Winnipeg a total of \$1.3 million per year.

When will municipalities receive this money?

Funding will be provided as part of the annual municipal operating grant to municipalities, with payments distributed on March 31, July 31 and Sept. 30.

This unconditional funding can be used for projects starting anytime during the construction season or can be held in reserve for a number of years to complete larger projects, allowing municipalities to efficiently plan for future infrastructure needs.

Are municipalities required to use this money for road and bridge projects?

No. This funding is unconditional and municipalities can allocate funds towards their own strategic priorities and projects. This funding provides municipalities with flexibility to direct provincial funding.

Can municipalities stack this money with other government programs or initiatives?

This funding is unconditional and complementary to federal funding, which means these funds are stackable. Specifically, communities can use the funds as their contribution towards Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program projects or apply the funds towards projects funded under the federal Gas Tax Fund.

Can funding that a municipality receives under its municipal operating grant be allocated towards cost-shared funding programs?

The funding is unconditional and municipalities can allocate funds towards their own strategic priorities, including cost-shared programs. Any funding that a municipality allocates from its operating grant towards a cost-shared program is considered a municipal contribution.