

Municipal Enforcement Support Program (MESP) Frequently Asked Questions

We are not sure if we are eligible for the program. Should we still apply?

Any municipality that is interested in enforcing public health orders should apply to the program, whether they consider themselves eligible or not. While some municipalities may not be eligible for full financial support for their by-law enforcement personnel, participating in the program will still enable the municipality to access training and a provincial coordination network. The program will also be the mechanism for delivering ticket revenue to municipalities.

Why does the program ask for an estimate of COVID-related costs?

Municipalities are asked to provide a high-level estimate of COVID impacts to substantiate the need for provincial support to strengthen enforcement.

Manitoba will take federal and other operational funding related to COVID-19 into account when evaluating a municipality's eligibility, particularly if the program is oversubscribed. In the unlikely event that a municipality has received more COVID-related operational funding than they have experienced financial impacts, that municipality would likely be expected to exhaust that surplus before being eligible for the financial support provided under the program.

All municipalities that are interested in being engaged in local enforcement are encouraged to apply, regardless of their own assessment of their eligibility. Apart from the financial supports, the other elements of the program will still be available, including training, a connection with the provincial coordination network and the provision of ticket revenue.

Can enforcement be done by municipal staff or just the by-law enforcement officer?

Municipal by-law enforcement officers are authorized the Additional Enforcement Personnel Regulation to directly enforce public health orders. Anyone that the municipality has appointed as a by-law officer under *The Municipal Act* to act on its behalf may enforce public health orders.

Will municipalities who contract bylaw enforcement services be able to claim these costs for additional enforcement that may required during this time?

Municipalities may use third-party enforcement contractors as part of this program. Eligible municipalities will receive financial support under MESP for these personnel.

Municipalities are looking at sharing enforcement services. Do we complete one intake form as a partnership or does each individual municipality file their own?

Municipalities are asked to submit individual forms. This will allow the individual municipalities to be

entitled to receive 100 per cent of the ticket revenue from any tickets issued within their municipality. Municipalities that will be sharing enforcement personnel are reminded that each municipality where the by-law enforcement officer will be acting will need to have appointed that person as a by-law enforcement officer in accordance with *The Municipal Act*.

Can we bring new by-law enforcement officers onboard as part of this program?

Yes. Municipalities that expect to be able to hire additional enforcement personnel are encouraged to include this information with their intake form when estimating available enforcement resources that will participate under the program.

Do we still need to apply for the program if all we want to do is take part in the training?

Municipalities should apply to MESP if they would like to participate in the training sessions, whether or not they believe themselves to be eligible. Training spots are delivered through MESP.

How can we access the training?

The training will be facilitated by Commissionaires Manitoba and conducted virtually with live instruction utilizing a virtual classroom to maximize availability and participation. Training will focus on understanding public health orders, compliance realities and risks for non-compliance, enforcement and ticket writing, review of writing Provincial Offense Tickets, handling confrontation and staying safe.

Training dates will be available shortly after MESP applications are approved.

Will officers have to respond to household parties; what if they are alone?

Bylaw enforcement officers can engage in low risk situations and should rely on their training. There are resources and assistance from others that the by-law enforcement officers can access such as the RCMP. It is not mandatory for any by-law enforcement officer to engage in any situation.

Will the municipalities be responsible for prosecution costs?

Municipalities will not be responsible for prosecution costs. However, by-law enforcement personnel may be required to attend court in the event of a contested ticket. If such costs occur outside of the program timeframe, the cost of by-law enforcement officer time will be the municipality's responsibility. However, municipalities will have access to 100% of the ticket revenue to offset any such incidental costs of enforcement.

Can unpaid tickets be added to taxes?

All tickets will be processed through provincial courts, and municipalities will not be responsible for collecting ticket revenue.

Will there be additional program intakes?

The second intake is now open, and intake forms will be assessed as received on a weekly basis until December 11, 2020. Additional intakes remain a possibility. However, any decision will be dependent on future circumstances.