

**Bulletin #2020-44**  
**MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**  
**FISCAL AND STRATEGIC POLICY BRANCH**

**Important Notice to all Chief Administrative Officers  
and Elected Officials**

**Federal Safe Restart Funding – Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Federal Safe Restart Funding Program?**

The Federal Safe Restart funding program provided \$19.0 billion to provinces and territories to help them deal with COVID-19 pandemic related financial pressures. Funds from the Safe Restart Agreement between Manitoba and the federal government will help municipalities continue to deliver the services that Manitobans rely on.

**What is Manitoba's share of funding under the Federal Safe Restart Agreement?**

Manitoba municipalities received a total of \$105.6 million under the Federal Safe Restart Agreement. This includes \$72.6 million in unconditional operating funding and \$33.0 million from the transit stream.

Operating funding under the Safe Restart Agreement was distributed to all municipalities on a per capita basis in late October 2020. A total of \$33.0 million in transit funding support was distributed to municipalities that operate public transit systems in late November 2020. Allocation of funding was based on 2019 ridership and projected transit losses.

**What can the funding be used for?**

Operating funding under the Federal Safe Restart funding program is unconditional. Municipalities can allocate funding according to local priorities. The funding is meant to cover expenses and deficits that were incurred during the first 6 to 8 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For municipalities that operate public transit systems, the transit allocation is to be used to cover transit related expenses and deficits due to COVID-19.

**What are the Federal Safe Restart funding reporting requirements?**

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves into 2021, the Government of Manitoba will continue to collaborate with our municipal and federal partners to monitor and understand the financial impacts of the pandemic at the local level.

Reporting of funding under the Federal Safe Restart program is not currently required. However, the department will be reaching out to municipalities in the new year to gain further knowledge and insight regarding COVID-19 related impacts and challenges.

**What else is the Government of Manitoba doing?**

The Manitoba government will provide \$500 million as part of a stimulus package to help restart Manitoba's economy. In 2020/21, this includes \$230 million in funding as Manitoba's contribution to the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Manitoba Restart Program also includes an additional \$50 million to be provided in 2020/21 and 2021/22 for other water and wastewater projects.

In addition, Manitoba advanced 75% of unconditional funding under the Municipal Operating basket to municipalities in March 2020 and the remainder was provided on September 30, 2020. Further, Manitoba has committed an additional \$45.0 million in Disaster Prevention funding and \$5 million for Fire Protection Grants.