

Indigenous Women Entrepreneurship (IWE) Micro-loan Financing Program Fact Sheet

Financing:

- IWE Micro-loan up to \$25,000
 - Up to 40% is eligible as a non-repayable loan portion (based on need & availability)
 - Amortization period: 1-3 years (Depending on financial projections)
 - Interest rate: from 4 to 8% (Depending on level of risk)
- Borrowers' equity: Minimum of 5% cash equity is required

Who Can Apply:

- First Nations women of all ages
- Must provide proof of First Nation ancestry, such as a Status Card or genealogical documentation confirming First Nation biological ties
- Must have majority (over 50%) ownership and control of the business

Eligible Businesses:

- Sole Proprietorships, Partnerships, Corporations, Co-operatives & Non-profit Social Enterprises.
- Side hustles, part-time businesses, and gig economy businesses
- Small-scale, flexible income-generating activities such as freelancing, online sales, or part-time contracting
- Often operated from home or on a part-time basis.

Project Requirements:

- Must be financially and technically viable.
- Must show potential for revenue generation and job creation.
- **Must include:**
 - Completed IWE Micro-Loan Financing Application
 - Project budget and financing plan
 - IWE Business Plan (template available)
 - First-year monthly cash-flow projections (template available)
 - Written cost quotes are required for all costs

Eligible Costs:

- Capital costs (equipment, renovations, inventory).
- Operating and working capital.
- Marketing, advisory services, and training related directly to the business such as training on bookkeeping systems.

Ineligible Costs:

- Pre-application expenses: Any costs incurred before the submission of a complete IWE Financing Application package, including the Business Plan, cash flow projections, cost quotes, and all required supporting documents (e.g., resume, business registrations).
- Renovations to personal living spaces.
- Personal-use vehicles.
- Refinancing of existing debt.
- Non-arm's length transactions or purchases made at inflated prices.
- Business acquisitions lacking independent financial statements and a certified business valuation.
- Asset purchases exceeding fair market value.
- Costs related to amortization or goodwill.

Credit & Financial Standing:

- Credit should be in good standing, but poor/no credit will be assessed case-by-case.
- Applicants must not be bankrupt.

For More Information

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A Community Futures Development Corporation



IWE
Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs