

CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated 2-Year Program Application Information

Introduction

The Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers ([Cando](#)) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities ([FCM](#)) is pleased to welcome a new cohort of **eight** First Nation – municipal partnerships to participate in the First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Phase IV – **Accelerated 2-Year** participation model!

Since 2013 and over four cohorts of the program, CEDI has supported a total of 28 First Nation – municipal partnerships to build respectful and sustainable government-to-government partnerships and increase capacity to engage in long-term collaborative planning in community economic development and land-use.



Application Information

Who should apply?

- A **joint application** should be submitted by the interested partnership.
- This intake is **best suited** for partnerships with 1 First Nation and 1 municipality that have a pre-existing relationship and preliminary ideas for collaborative community economic development initiatives.

What outcomes can communities expect by the end of the CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated 2-Year Program?

The CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated 2-Year Program is intended to build upon pre-existing relationships to increase the collective capacity of First Nation and municipal governments to engage in long-term collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.

Over the course of the Accelerated 2-Year Program, partnerships who commit the time and capacity required (listed below) can expect to:

- Develop new jointly created processes for collaborative planning and community economic development
- Participate in shared learning and capacity development
- Build stronger relationships between elected officials and staff
- Advance planning for collaborative community economic development and land-use initiatives
- Establish joint strategic and work plans
- Jointly access a \$22,500 Capacity Development Grant to support in the capacity development and implementation of collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.

What are the participation requirements and expectations for selected partnerships?

The Accelerated 2-Year Program will run as two separate cohorts. Applicants will be asked to identify which cohort they prefer to participate in based on community availability and competing priorities (more information on CEDI program delivery and participation timelines below).

- Cohort 1 will run from August 2025 - March 2027
- Cohort 2 will run from November 2025 - March 2027.

First Nation and municipal governments **should apply if they have the commitment and the required capacity from their respective Council and staff to dedicate the following:**

1. Identify and assign Working Group champions, minimum of one elected official and two staff members (one senior administrative staff person and economic development officer/planner/lands manager) from each community, to lead participation in the CEDI program and attend monthly Working Group meetings.
 - Elected Working Group champions should be prepared to give 3 hours each month.
 - Staff Working Group champions should be prepared to give 5 hours each month.
 - Administrative support will be required from both communities (i.e., scheduling meetings, communicating with councils, communications support, etc.).

Working Group members will also contribute to the design and development of 4 workshops (approximately 2 workshops per year).

2. Interest and engagement from each respective Chief and Council and Mayor and Council to participate and encourage staff participation at the bi-annual full-day workshops.
 - These workshops will address objectives pertaining to relationship development, shared learning, capacity development, and advancing collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.
3. Additional staff or external consultants from each community may be required based on the knowledge and support needed to build capacity and advance collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.
4. Selected partnerships will be asked to commit, by band council or municipal council resolution (post-program acceptance), to participate for the full duration of the CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated 2-Year Program.
5. While there is **no direct cost** to participate in the CEDI program for selected communities, First Nation and municipal governments should be prepared to make in-kind contributions such as Council and staff time, mileage to and from meetings or workshops, and meeting spaces.

What are the program delivery and participation timelines?

There will be one intake for two separate cohorts within this CEDI Phase IV. The cohort placement will be determined during the selection process and will take into consideration things like government preferences, competing priorities and election schedules.

Estimated Phase IV Delivery Timelines		
Commitment/Deliverable	Cohort 1 Aug 2025 – Mar 2027	Cohort 2 Nov 2025 – May 2027
Interview with CEDI	June 18-25, 2025	June 18-25, 2025
First Working Group Meeting (reoccurring monthly)	Aug 2025	Nov 2025
1:1 Meetings with CEDI Team and CEDI Workshop #1	Oct – Nov 2025	Feb – Mar 2026
CEDI Workshop #2	April – May 2026	May – June 2026
CEDI Workshop #3	Oct – Nov 2026	Jan – Feb 2027
CEDI Workshop #4 / Program Graduation Celebration	Feb – Mar 2027	April – May 2027

Application Information

If you are a neighbouring First Nation government and municipal government interested in participating in the CEDI program, we ask that you **jointly complete the application** for consideration.

This Accelerated 2-Year Program is best suited for partnerships with 1 First Nation and 1 municipality. If you are applying as a partnership with more than 1 First Nation and 1 municipality, please contact CEDI Program Officer, Ryan Walker-Melton (ryan.walker-melton@edo.ca), for access to an adapted application form.

The program will consider joint applications from First Nation and municipal governments based on the following **criteria**:

- Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following from **elected leadership** of both the First Nation and municipality:
 - Time and capacity of elected officials to commit to the CEDI process.
 - 1 elected official (minimum) to participate in monthly CEDI Working Group Meetings, prepared to give 3 hours each month
 - Broader Council participation at bi-annual full-day workshops.
 - Interest and leadership in supporting and participating in inter-governmental relationship building.
 - Interest and leadership in exploring collaborative planning and community economic development and land-use processes.
- Applicants should have the capacity to dedicate staff resources from both the First Nation and municipality.
 - 2 staff (minimum) from each community to participate in monthly CEDI Working Group Meetings, prepared to give 5 hours each month
 - Broader staff participation at bi-annual full-day workshops.
 - Support of administrative staff as required.
 - Additional staff or external consultants as required.
- Applicants should be able to adhere to the timelines, objectives and expectations of CEDI program outlined clearly in this document

How can interested applicant partnerships learn more about this application process?

Informational Webinar on CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated 2-Year Program Application

If you are interested in applying to the CEDI program and have questions, please invite your joint applicant community to join you at the webinar on Wednesday, May 7th from 1:00 – 2:00pm MT.

This interactive session will provide an overview of the Accelerated 2-Year CEDI program application and intake process, it will highlight a CEDI partnership from Phase III, and provide an opportunity to ask questions to the CEDI team. Register at <https://www.cedipartnerships.ca/contact/partnership-opportunities/>

What important dates do First Nation – municipal joint applicants need to be aware of?

- **Application Deadline: Friday, May 30th, 2025, 11:59pmMT**
- Short-listed applicants will be notified by June 6th, 2025. Please note that we will be contacting short-listed applicants only.
- Short-listed applicants must be available for interviews between June 18th – 25th, 2025.
- Successful applicants will be notified by July 11th, 2025.

What are the next steps to apply?

Go to the CEDI Website to find the following documents to assist in the application process:

- Complete the joint and individual Application Worksheets (This is **NOT** the application. All applicants must complete the online application forms.)
- Application Online Forms (**please note all 3 Application Forms must be submitted to be considered**)
- Application Information Sheet
- More Information about CEDI

We suggest the following next steps:

1. Work with your applicant partner to review and prepare your joint responses prior to accessing the [Online Part 1: Joint Application Form](#).
2. Individually review the following applicable documentation and prepare your responses:
 - a. [Online Part 2: First Nation Application Form](#)
 - b. [Online Part 3: Municipal Application Form](#)

Joint applications must be completed by Friday, May 30th, 2025, 11:59pmMT.

Questions?

Please contact Acting Program Manager, CEDI Marissa Lawrence (marissa.lawrence@edo.ca) with any questions regarding the application process.

Please contact CEDI Program Officer, Ryan Walker-Melton (ryan.walker-melton@edo.ca) with any questions related to the application form.

If you would like to learn more about the CEDI program, please visit:
<https://www.cedipartnerships.ca/>