

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Community Action Program for Children and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program: Extension to 2026, New Program 2026 to 2030*

#### PURPOSE

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- The purpose of these frequently asked questions is to support funding recipients and community partners during the extension and renewal of the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP).

#### KEY MESSAGES

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- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has supported CAPC and CPNP for over 25 years. These programs remain important in improving health promotion objectives and providing upstream supports to reduce health inequalities in the early stages of life.
- The most recent evaluation of CAPC and CPNP confirmed the ongoing relevance and positive impacts of the programs. It also highlighted some challenges and potential opportunities for PHAC to strengthen the programs.
- PHAC has carried out a careful review and has considered the important feedback received during the engagement process that took place in 2023 to develop the plan for renewing the programs. As part of the new program:
  - CAPC and CPNP will merge into a single program with two streams:
    - 1) prenatal and postnatal health education and support, and
    - 2) parenting and child health education and support.
  - Program objectives will be refreshed to focus on public health promotion.
  - The eligible age range will be prenatal to age 6.
  - Where there is a demonstrated need, activities focussed on early learning will be eligible to continue, providing the overall project is centered on the new program's health promotion objectives.
  - Projects that wish to form collaborative partnerships are encouraged to do so, to support administrative, financial and programming efficiencies. However, this will not be a requirement.
  - PHAC will continue to work to alleviate administrative requirements by strengthening and streamlining aspects of monitoring and reporting.
- In the fall of 2024, PHAC will invite all existing CAPC and CPNP funding recipients that are in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting) to submit proposals for project funding under the renewed program, for the period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2030.
- As overall program funding levels have not changed, recipient organizations will be invited to submit proposals at current funding levels. The application process will be non-competitive and open only to existing CAPC and CPNP funding recipients.
- PHAC will be offering supports for currently funded recipients to help them prepare for the Fall 2024 application process, which may cover topics such as needs assessments and collaborative partnerships.
- In the interim, PHAC is extending current all CAPC and CPNP funding agreements that are in good standing to March 31, 2026.

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## PART 1: EXTENSION TO MARCH 31, 2026

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### Q1. What changes will PHAC be making to the programs during the extension?

PHAC will be extending all current CAPC/CPNP funding agreements in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting) until March 31, 2026.

During the extension period to March 31, 2026, the CAPC/CPNP programs will remain the same. Regional allocations and project budget amounts will also remain the same.

### Q2. When will funding recipients receive notification about the extension?

PHAC is implementing the extensions in a staggered approach (i.e. by group of agreements) to facilitate an effective and responsive amendment process.

For some regions, existing agreements expire at the end of March 2024 and for others this will be at the end of March 2025. The extension process will begin with those agreements expiring in 2024.

Recipients will receive a notification of timing and next steps in advance of the processing of their agreement.

### Q3. What types of activities and expenditures will be eligible during the extension to March 31, 2026?

The same types of activities and expenditures covered under the current CAPC and CPNP programs will continue to be eligible.

Funding recipients are encouraged to consider, wherever possible, what they can achieve within their current level of funding and adjust their workplan as needed, with the support of their PHAC Regional Office contact.

PHAC recently shared a new guide to provide more information on eligible and ineligible expenditures for CAPC and CPNP - the *Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures Guide for the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)*. If your project did not receive it via email, please reach out to your PHAC Regional Office contact or Centre of Grants and Contributions contact.

### Q4. Will projects in Quebec be able to reach children aged 7-12yrs during the extension?

Yes, all currently funded projects will be extended to 2026.

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## PART 2: NEW PROGRAM April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2030

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### Q5. What are the objectives for the new program (renewed CAPC/CPNP)?

PHAC listened to feedback from funding recipients in the 2023 engagement sessions, including insights on the program objectives.

The new program will aim to strengthen public health promotion by mobilizing communities to:

- promote healthy pregnancies and healthy birth outcomes;
- promote and support breastfeeding;
- strengthen parental abilities and build family resilience;
- improve early child health and wellbeing; and,
- facilitate access to public health supports to reduce barriers to health equity.

### Q6. What changes will PHAC be making to the programs during the renewal?

CAPC and CPNP will merge into a single program with two streams: 1) prenatal and postnatal health education and support, and 2) parenting and child health education and support. Organizations can apply for one or both streams to best meet the needs in their communities. They will be asked to identify those needs through a needs assessment as part of their proposal.

The new program will focus on public health promotion. Where there is a demonstrated need, activities focussed on early learning may be eligible to continue, providing the overall project is centered on the new program's health promotion objectives.

In the new program (2026-2030), PHAC will be encouraging funding recipients to explore opportunities to form collaborative hubs, coalitions and other types of partnerships. These may look different in different areas, depending on the needs and priorities of communities and organizations. PHAC will provide additional guidance on how these types of partnerships could work.

Collaborative partnerships are encouraged where reasonable and possible, and beneficial to the project – for example, if it leads to enhanced community/collective action, sharing of best practices and knowledge, and/or administrative or financial efficiencies.

### Q7. Who will be able to apply to the new program?

In the fall of 2024, PHAC will be inviting all existing CAPC/CPNP funding recipients (i.e. funding agreement holders) that are in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting) to submit proposals for project funding under the new program.

The application process will be non-competitive. Funding recipients can submit proposals on behalf of their existing or on behalf of new partnerships (as described above in Q6).

At the launch of the application process, PHAC will provide clear information about the requirements and assessment criteria for the application.

Q8. Will support be offered to help funding recipients prepare for the application process for the new program?

Yes, supports will be offered in spring/summer 2024 to help *prepare* for the launch of the application process, as well as *during* the application process in the fall 2024.

These supports may include information on how to develop community needs assessments, how to form collaborative partnerships, how to develop proposals and other topics that were raised during the recent engagement process.

Further details will be communicated when the support activities are underway.

Q9. What types of activities and expenditures will be eligible in the new program?

The new program will support similar activities as the former CAPC/CPNP programs, as long as they are aligned with the program's primary objective to support health promotion for pregnant women/people, young children and their parents/caregivers; address a demonstrated community need; and do not duplicate other programming.

The details related to eligible and ineligible activities and expenditures will be available to funding recipients during the launch of the application process.

Q10. Will projects in Quebec be able to reach children aged 7-12yrs in the new program?

No, as of April 1, 2026, programming to reach children aged 7-12yrs will no longer be funded. The eligible age range of the new program will be 0-6yrs.

All currently funded recipient organizations who are in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting) will be invited to apply to the new program.

Funding recipients who were serving 7-12yrs may assess their community needs and decide to apply for funding to provide programming to 0-6yrs.

Q11. Can an organization not currently funded under CAPC/CPNP access the 2026-2030 fund?

No, the application process will be open only to currently funded recipients in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting).

In some cases, currently funded recipients may wish to form partnerships with other organizations that may not be currently funded under CAPC/CPNP. These requests will be considered by PHAC on a case-by-case basis, given that the process is open only to currently funded recipients.

Q12. What will be the role of Provinces and Territories (PTs) in the new program?

The joint Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) approach continues to be valued and important for informing priorities in child health promotion and ensuring complementarity of activities and investments. By working collaboratively, we will help to support health equity for families and children.

Q13. Why are no additional funds available in the new program?

As overall program funding levels have not changed, recipient organizations will be invited to submit proposals at current funding levels.

CAPC and CPNP have been funded consistently for the past three decades. PHAC is sensitive to funding pressures faced by recipients and acknowledges that CAPC/CPNP has been an important source of stable funding and has been positive in supporting community capacity.

An objective of the new program is to maintain this funding during a transitional phase, while further development of the program continues.

Q14. Will there be opportunities to provide further feedback on the future of the program?

PHAC Regional Office contacts continue to be open to receiving comments and questions from currently funded recipients.