

Frequently Asked Questions

Renewal of the Community Action Program for Children and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program 2026 to 2030

PURPOSE

- This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document provides information about the renewal of the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP).
- The FAQ document has been developed using the extensive feedback and questions received from funding recipients and community partners through the capacity supports post-webinar surveys and through ongoing engagement with the PHAC Regional Contacts.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has supported the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (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.
- PHAC recognizes that CAPC and CPNP have been an important source of stable funding and have been positive in supporting community capacity. PHAC is extending all current funding agreements under CAPC and CPNP to March 31, 2026. Starting April 1, 2026, funding for existing recipients will be delivered through a new streamlined and simplified contribution agreement. To minimize the reporting burden for recipients and provide greater flexibility in the allocation of funds, the CAPC and CPNP programs will be merged into a single program called the Community Action for Prenatal and Child Health Program (CAPCHP).
- New contribution agreements under the CAPCHP program will provide ongoing stable funding for existing CAPC and CPNP recipients from 2026 to 2030.
- In Quebec, CAPC and CPNP agreements will be extended to March 31, 2028 due to the creation of the new provincial health agency, Santé Québec. CAPCHP will be implemented at a different time for recipients in Quebec.

Reason for Renewal

- The reason for merging the existing CAPC and CPNP programs into a single new program is to strengthen the overall administration of the program and streamline reporting requirements.
- Existing recipients are being asked to complete an application to renew their funding from 2026 to 2030. The reason for the application is to provide updated information about community needs and priorities, as well as updated workplans.
- There are no planned project closures and overall program funding levels and regional allocations will not change under the renewed program.

- Starting in April 2026, CAPC and CPNP will be combined into a single program called the Community Action for Prenatal and Child Health Program (CAPCHP) with two streams of activities: 1) prenatal and postnatal health education and support, and 2) parenting and child health education and support. These two streams incorporate the activities that have been funded to date under CAPC and CPNP.
- Building on the proven success of CAPC and CPNP, the renewed CAPCHP will continue to support public health capacity by mobilizing communities to promote the health and well-being of pregnant women and people, infants and young children (0-6 years) and their parents/caregivers by reducing barriers for equity-deserving families and addressing community-specific needs.
- The refreshed objectives of CAPCHP will continue to focus on health promotion. They are:
 - **To build community capacity** to encourage and support the health and well-being of pregnant women and people, infants and children (0-6 years) and their parents and caregivers;
 - **To build partnerships and intersectoral collaboration** to promote the health and well-being of pregnant women and people, infants and children (0-6 years) and their parents and caregivers;
 - **To facilitate the development and exchange of knowledge** to promote the health and well-being of pregnant women and people, infants and children (0-6 years) and their parents and caregivers.

Solicitation Process

- On February 17, 2025, PHAC will launch a solicitation process for CAPCHP, for project funding for the period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2030.
- The solicitation process will be non-competitive and targeted to existing CAPC and CPNP recipients only. The purpose of the solicitation process is to obtain up-to-date information on community needs and priorities, as well as updated workplans and budgets for the period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2030.
- The proposal intake period will be open for eight (8) weeks, with the deadline for submissions on April 14, 2025 at midnight (EST).
- **All** existing CAPC and CPNP funding recipients that are in good standing (i.e., up to date on their financial and performance reporting for the 2023-24 fiscal year) will be asked to submit proposals to cover planned activities from 2026 to 2030, at current annual budget allocations.
- Consistent with previous funding under CAPC and CPNP, the eligible age range for project activities under CAPCHP is prenatal to age 6. Project proposals must be aligned with the program's health promotion objectives, which are the same as the objectives under CAPC and CPNP.
- To confirm that funding and project activities are aligned with current community needs, all applicants will be required to conduct and submit a community needs assessment as part of their proposal. PHAC has provided guidance to recipients on what is required for the community needs assessment.

- Where beneficial for existing recipients, for example to support administrative, financial and programming efficiencies, organizations are encouraged to consider forming collaborative partnerships.
- PHAC is providing capacity supports and resources to help recipients to prepare for the upcoming solicitation process. Over the past several months, PHAC has been offering a series of webinars on how to conduct community needs assessments, explore collaborative partnerships and undertake proposal development.
- These webinars are available online on a dedicated website (<https://capacity-capacite.com/>). The supports include:
 - A three-part, pre-recorded webinar series on community needs assessments, collaborative partnerships and proposal development.
 - Additional resources such as case studies, checklists, a worksheet template, etc.
 - Post-webinar surveys to collect questions and help improve the supports.
 - Questions-and-Answers (Q&A) on each topic area.
- The capacity supports will be available throughout the solicitation process. Recipients can return to the webinars at any time. PHAC representatives are also available to answer any questions that recipients may have throughout the process.
- The solicitation process is not intended to screen out existing recipients. It is intended to obtain updated project information to support the provision of funding from 2026 to 2030.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GENERAL

Q1. Why is CAPC/CPNP being replaced with a new program?

Question	Why is CAPC/CPNP being replaced with a new program?
Answer	<p>The Community Action for Prenatal and Child Health Program (CAPCHP) combines CAPC and CPNP, building on the important work, value and legacy of the two programs.</p> <p>The 2021 evaluation of CAPC/CPNP recommended that after 25 years, the two programs be renewed and updated to reflect the evolving and increasingly complex needs and challenges in communities; to improve the exchange of information and resources to address these challenges; and to streamline program administration.</p> <p>Based on a comprehensive policy review and engagements with provinces, territories and currently funded recipients, PHAC is proceeding to merge both CAPC and CPNP into a single program, aligned with current community needs and priorities.</p>

Q2. What is changing with the new program?

Question	What is changing with the new program?
Answer	<p>CAPC and CPNP will be merged from two programs into a one single program with two streams of activity. This will reduce the administrative burden and streamline reporting requirements for funding recipients (i.e., one workplan, one budget, one cash flow forecast and record of expenditures, one progress report, one annual reporting tool).</p> <p>Project activities will be informed by an up-to-date community needs assessment that will be undertaken at the start of the contribution agreement. This will ensure that project activities undertaken from 2026 to 2030 address current community needs and priorities using a structured, evidence-based process.</p>

	<p>What will <i>not</i> change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall program funding and regional allocations will stay the same. • The same activities and eligible expenditures will continue to be funded under the new program. • The flexibility to develop programming and supports that respond to current and emerging maternal and child health issues in communities will continue under the new program. • CAPCHP will continue to reach pregnant women and people, infants and young children (0-6 years) and their parents/caregivers facing vulnerable circumstances, such as poverty, social or geographical isolation, and/or systemic barriers. • CAPCHP will continue to encourage the development of partnerships, and the identification of financial and in-kind support.
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Q3. Why is my project being asked to re-apply?

Question	Why is my project being asked to re-apply?
Answer	<p>Projects are being asked to re-apply to provide updated information on community needs and priorities, as well as budgets and workplans for funding from 2026 to 2030.</p> <p>At the same time, to simplify administration of the program, provide greater flexibility to recipients, and minimize reporting burden, CAPC and CPNP are being merged into a single new program: the Community Action for Prenatal and Child Health Program (CAPCHP). Going forward, for organizations that previously had to report separately on CAPC and CPNP activities and funding, will now only need to submit one workplan, one budget, one annual report, etc.</p> <p>Recipients will have over eight weeks to complete the application process, from February 17, 2025 to April 14, 2025. PHAC will review and assess these proposals and will follow-up with recipients if there are any questions, or clarification needed. New funding agreements will be put in place by April 1, 2026.</p>

Q4. Does PHAC anticipate any project closures as a result of the application process?

Question	Does PHAC anticipate any project closures as a result of the application process?
Answer	<p>PHAC expects to fund the same recipients at the same program funding levels through this process. Regional allocations are not changing.</p> <p>The solicitation process is not intended to reduce the number of current recipients, or to reduce programming and supports for children and families. The intention is to obtain updated project information to support activities from 2026 to 2030.</p> <p>PHAC remains committed to strengthening public health capacity by mobilizing communities to promote the health and well-being of pregnant women and people, infants and young children (0-6 years) and their parents/caregivers by reducing barriers for equity-deserving families and addressing community-specific needs.</p>

Q5. Why is the process different for recipients in Quebec?

Question	Why is process different for recipients in Quebec?
Answer	<p>The solicitation process for the new program will be implemented in Quebec at a different point in time. Details will be communicated to Quebec recipients in the near future.</p> <p>This is due to the creation of Santé Québec, the new provincial health agency which was put in place as of December 1, 2024. The creation of this new health agency will have repercussions for existing CAPC recipients and may have implications for some CPNP recipients due to integration of the former two agencies (CISSS and CIUSSS) into Santé Québec.</p> <p>In the meantime, all current CAPC/CPNP funding agreements in Quebec are being extended until March 31, 2028.</p>

FUNDING

Q6. Will I get the same level of funding in the new program, or will my funding be decreased or increased?

Question	Will I get the same level of funding in the new program, or will my funding be decreased or increased?
Answer	<p>PHAC expects that all existing CAPC and CPNP funding recipients who are in good standing (i.e., up to date on their reporting for 2023-24) will continue to receive funding at current levels for 2026 to 2030. Annual funding amounts will be the same. They are not expected to decrease or increase, unless a recipient signals an intention to partner with another existing CAPC or CPNP recipient.</p> <p>For recipients who are not in good standing, PHAC has already been in touch to provide support and resolve outstanding reporting issues. If you did not receive any communication about your status, then your organization is in good standing and is not affected.</p>

Q7. What if I can't submit proof of other funding from other sources (e.g., provincial/territorial, municipal, or other)?

Question	What if I can't submit proof of funding from other sources (e.g., provincial/territorial, municipal, or other)?
Answer	<p>Recipients are not required to have funding from other sources in order to receive PHAC funding. However, in many cases, recipients are leveraging funding from other complementary programs. This helps to support the overall sustainability of project activities. Where this information is available, it will be helpful to provide. However, it is not a mandatory requirement.</p>

Q8. Can I apply for more funding than I currently receive?

Question	Can I apply for more funding than I currently receive?
Answer	<p>As overall program funding levels have not changed, organizations will be invited to submit funding requests at their current project funding amount.</p>

	<p>Applicants will be asked to submit a proposed budget that reflects realistic, anticipated costs in each budget category (e.g. salary, rent, utilities, etc.).</p> <p>Note: Given inflation and other cost of living increases, organizations may need to streamline or adjust project activities and budgets to align with the current funding envelope. For example, in order to pay staff a ‘living’ wage, projects may need to reduce the number or frequency of activities offered.</p> <p>Recipients can refer to the capacity supports webinars and additional resources, as well as the current <i>Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures Guide for CAPC/CPNP</i> for guidance.</p>
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Q9. What will happen to my funding if I do not apply to the new program?

Question	What will happen to my funding if I do not apply to the new program?
Answer	<p>In cases where some current CAPC/CPNP recipients choose not to apply to the new program, the funding will remain in the regional funding envelope.</p> <p>A process will be followed to reallocate funding to another existing CAPC/CPNP recipient in the region who will be able to offer programming for children (0-6 years) and families in the community.</p> <p>These reallocation decisions will be considered after the solicitation process has been completed, and incremental funds will be flowed to recipients through further amendments, if required.</p>

Q10. Why is there no additional funding for the new program?

Question	Why is there no additional funding for the new program?
Answer	<p>For over three decades, PHAC has provided stable and consistent funding through CAPC and CPNP to improve health promotion objectives and provide upstream supports to reduce health inequalities in the early stages of life.</p> <p>CAPC and CPNP provide \$80.6M annually (combined) to community-based groups across Canada. This funding will continue under the new Community Action for Prenatal and Child Health Program (CAPCHP).</p> <p>CAPC and CPNP are intended to fill gaps and enhance other programs and services funded through provincial/territorial and other mechanisms.</p>

	<p>Beyond the funding provided through CAPC/CPNP, the Government of Canada has made significant investments in early childhood, including a transformative investment of over \$30 billion over 5 years through Budget 2021 to build a Canada-wide early learning and child care system with provinces/territories and Indigenous partners.</p> <p>PHAC is sensitive to funding pressures faced by CAPC/CPNP funding recipients, particularly given the impacts of inflation. While overall program funding levels will not change, the renewed CAPCHP will offer greater flexibility and streamlined administration and reporting for funding recipients.</p>
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PROCESS

Q11. What will I be expected to submit in the solicitation?

Question	What will I be expected to submit in the solicitation?
Answer	<p>Organizations will be invited to submit a project proposal, which will include a completed application form, proposed workplan and budget, as well as a completed, current community needs assessment.</p> <p>A community needs assessment worksheet was provided as part of the capacity supports webinars. Organizations can choose to use the worksheet as a template, or use its own format, that best supports their proposed project.</p> <p>The application form, workplan and budget templates, as well as the requirements and assessment criteria will be shared at the launch of the solicitation process. PHAC will also provide training for applicants to help prepare their proposals.</p> <p>In the meantime, please refer to the capacity supports webinars. At the beginning of each webinar there is a “2026-2030 Program Application Requirements” section. This provides useful information about what PHAC will be looking for.</p>

Q12. What is PHAC looking for in my proposal?

Question	What is PHAC looking for in my proposal?
Answer	<p>PHAC will review proposals for completeness, eligibility and alignment with the assessment criteria.</p> <p>As part of the review and assessment process, PHAC may request clarification or further information on an applicant's proposal. For example, if there is missing or incomplete information in the application, or if there are revisions needed to ensure that the application meets the requirements of the new program, PHAC will communicate directly and promptly with the applicant to help work through the process.</p> <p>The requirements and assessment criteria will be shared at the launch of the solicitation process, and training for applicants will be provided.</p>

Q13. Will I get help with my proposal during the solicitation?

Question	Will I get help with my proposal during the solicitation?
Answer	<p>Over the past several months, PHAC has been offering a series of webinars on how to conduct community needs assessments, explore collaborative partnerships and undertake proposal development.</p> <p>These webinars are available online on a dedicated website (https://capacity-capacite.com/).</p> <p>The capacity supports webinars and additional resources will be available throughout the solicitation process.</p> <p>At the launch of the solicitation process, PHAC will provide training for applicants to help prepare their proposals. PHAC will also respond to applicants' questions about the process in future communications.</p>

Q14. Will my proposal have to meet all of the new program objectives?

Question	Will my proposal have to meet all of the new program objectives?
Answer	<p>Proposals must be aligned with at least one of the CAPCHP objectives. In some instances, proposals will be aligned with multiple program objectives,</p>

	depending on what best meets the needs and priorities identified in the project's community needs assessment.
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Q15. Can I apply for a different stream than my current CAPC or CPNP funding?

Question	Can I apply for a different stream than my current CAPC or CPNP funding?
Answer	<p>Organizations can apply for one, or both streams, depending on what will best meet the needs and priorities identified in the project's community needs assessment. Applicants are not limited to the historical CAPC/CPNP project activities under their previous funding agreement(s).</p> <p>For example, if the organization was previously only receiving CAPC funding, but the community needs assessment identifies that there is a new need for prenatal and postnatal health education and supports in the community, in addition to ongoing parenting and child health education and supports, the organization can apply for both streams.</p> <p>Note: Funding allocations will remain at current levels, so applicants will have to determine which priorities to address and what activities to undertake within existing funding levels.</p>

Q16. Have the activities and eligible expenditures changed?

Question	Have the activities and eligible expenditures changed?
Answer	<p>The new program will support the same activities and eligible expenditures as the CAPC and CPNP programs. PHAC will be looking for project activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • align with CAPCHP program objectives; • address a demonstrated community need; and, • not duplicate other programming. <p>Recipients can refer to the current <i>Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures Guide for CAPC/CPNP</i> for guidance.</p>

Q17. Can I apply as a new coalition or collaborative partnership?

Question	Can I apply as a new coalition or collaborative partnership?
Answer	<p>Applicants can submit a proposal on behalf of a group of partner organizations to form a coalition or collaborative partnership and submit a single consolidated proposal for funding that would flow through a “Further Distribution of Funding Agreement” with PHAC.</p> <p>If an applicant is submitting a proposal on behalf of a coalition or collaborative partnership that includes other current CAPC/CPNP recipients, the applicant may apply for the total combined annual funding for all existing CAPC/CPNP recipients covered by the proposal.</p> <p>PHAC will share more information on “Further Distribution of Funding Agreements” at the launch of the solicitation process. In the meantime, please refer to the capacity supports webinars and additional resources.</p>

Q18. Can I make changes to my existing coalition or collaborative partnership?

Question	Can I make changes to my existing coalition or collaborative partnership?
Answer	<p>An existing coalition or collaborative partnership can make changes to the group of organizations applying together.</p> <p>The applicant who would submit a single consolidated proposal, for funding that would flow through a “Further Distribution of Funding Agreement” with PHAC, must be an existing CAPC/CPNP recipient in good standing.</p> <p>The partner organizations who would receive flow-through funding from the applicant can be either existing recipients or other community partners.</p> <p>PHAC will share more information on “Further Distribution of Funding Agreements” at the launch of the solicitation process. In the meantime, please refer to the capacity supports webinars and additional resources.</p>