



**Pan-Canadian Health Promoter Competencies' Toolkit – Product Example:
Write Clear and Concise Briefs for Health Promotion Issues (Competency 4.3)**

**OPTIONS PAPER
Healthy Grant Fund – Opportunity**

Decision Required:

By *[date]*, to confirm the most suitable option for Public Health Unit with regards to the Healthy Grant Fund, which is funded through the ** government department (Ministry).

Overview of the Healthy Grant Funding Opportunity

- The Ministry created three streams under the Healthy Grant Fund:
 - Grants Project Stream will provide funding to local and provincial organizations for projects in priority risk factor areas.
 - A resource centre will build capacity of partnerships and communities in by providing training and support to build healthy communities.
 - Partnership Stream will promote coordinated planning and action among community partners to create healthy public policies.
- The six priority areas for the Healthy Grant Fund are Physical Activity, Sport & Recreation; Injury Prevention; Healthy Eating; Tobacco Use/Exposure; Substance & Alcohol Misuse; and Mental Health.

Context

- On *[date]*, Ministry sent packages informing Public Health Units of an opportunity to apply for funding through the Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream.
- By July **, Ministry has requested Public Health Units to confirm their receipt of the package and their intent to submit a proposal.
- Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream involves a phased-in process to develop three submissions which flow from the initial proposal. Key dates are as follows:
 - i. Proposal – *[August **]*
 - ii. Community Picture – *[February **]*
 - iii. Operational Plan – *[March **]*
- Ministry has confirmed that the overall fiscal envelope for this fund will remain the same as the previous provincial healthy organ fund. Individual Public Health Units have not been given an upset limit for the initial proposal stage. However, the budget for the proposal will need to be spent by *[date]*.

- In early 2010, this Public Health Unit accepted \$**,000 from Ministry under a separate funding stream (Healthy Grant Fund – Grants Project Stream). Public Health Unit is using the funding to work with a consultant to conduct an initial community consultation to create a plan for the Region. The community plan is to be completed by the end of November **.
- At this time, this Public Health Unit has not consulted with community stakeholders about the Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream, and will have an opportunity in September ** when the community plan consultations take place.

Roles & Responsibilities of Public Health/Host Agencies under the Healthy Grant Fund

– Partnership Stream:

- Lead agency for this stream
- Responsible for providing in-kind management and staff time to work on the partnership as well as provide expertise such as surveillance, research, planning and evaluation
- Accountable for transfer payment agreement and all related administrative support
- Required to participate in a Social Network Mapping process which is being lead by provincial resource centre.

Key Issues

- Public Health Unit is currently working with a consultant to engage community stakeholders; however, this process is scheduled to take place in September **. Therefore, Public Health Unit cannot assume the level of commitment for this proposed partnership within the region until consultations are complete.
 - Region currently has a number of existing, strong, and focused networks/coalitions
 - Community partners have indicated capacity concerns, and are therefore focusing their mandate to program delivery (i.e. policy work often out of scope)
- The in-kind contribution required from Public Health/Host Agency will be quite high due to internal staffing costs which will not be eligible for inclusion under the Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream budget
- The proposed Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream model appears to be very similar to the previous provincial healthy organ model. Based on experiences with the previous partnerships, Public Health Unit may have concerns with the proposed funding model. Also, community stakeholders may question reforming a partnership so similar to the previous healthy organ model.
- Initial release of funds is anticipated in October **. Proposed timing for funding to flow from Ministry will be problematic due to:
 - Municipal elections taking place in fall **
 - The Region’s fiscal year ends December 31st; however, Ministry monies may need to be rolled over into the subsequent calendar year.

Option A: No Intent to Submit Proposal

Description

- Public Health Unit responds with a letter of “no intent” to submit a proposal to Ministry on July 16, 2010. Ministry may then choose to seek another organization to host the partnership in the Region, at their discretion.

Analysis

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health Unit will continue to work towards the goals of the 10-year Strategic Plan which incorporate the priority areas articulated with Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream• Decreases administrative/staffing time dedicated towards Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream coordination• Does not diminish/confuse role of existing networks/coalitions in the Region• Allows Public Health Unit to still complete and use the community plan currently undertaken by consultants (with the existing initial grant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If another host agency is appointed, Public Health Unit may have less influence over direction of regional policies directly under the public health mandate• May possibly strain Public Health Unit’s relationship with Ministry, and jeopardize future funding opportunities• May possibly strain agency relationships due to rejection of funding in the absence of community engagement• Possible missed opportunity to work with community partners on key public health policy areas

Option B: Intent to Submit a Proposal (no conditions in August)

Description

- Public Health Unit responds with a letter of “intent” to submit a proposal to Ministry on July **. Public Health Unit commits to Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream as outlined in Ministry’s submission guidelines; however, does not request additional funding with the proposal.

Analysis

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain relationship with Ministry• Reinforces Public Health Unit’s mandate and leadership role to move forward on healthy public policy• In comparison to other agencies, Public Health Unit has relative capacity for in-kind staffing contribution as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possible confusion with previous provincial healthy organ initiative - anticipated that issues with previous partnership models will arise again (i.e. governance, funding, accountability)• Public Health Unit will have significant increase in roles and responsibilities to establish and maintain a partnership under Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream guidelines• In-kind contribution is expected to be high for both Public Health Unit and community partners (i.e. staffing, capital expenditures such as computers and office space)• Possible duplication of existing work currently being done by Public Health Unit and other networks/coalitions

Option C: Intent to Submit a Proposal (with conditions in August)

Description

- Public Health Unit responds with a letter of “intent” to submit a proposal to Ministry on July **. However, in the proposal submitted on August **, Public Health Unit stipulates that the proposal is conditional on the findings of the community consultation and the direction articulated in the community plan (to be completed by late November **). Public Health Unit will not request additional funding with the proposal.

Analysis

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain relationship with Ministry and community partners; however, if appropriate, community plan can substantiate a regional decision to not participate in Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream • Public Health Unit’s direction to move forward will be based on community consultation and commitment from stakeholders to engage in partnership • Potentially, another appropriate agency may be selected to host the Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream (based on expertise, capacity, funding mechanisms, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with Ministry may become strained if community partners decide not to participate in Healthy Grant Fund – Partnership Stream based on consultation and plan • In-kind contribution is expected to be high for both Public Health Unit and community partners (i.e. staffing, capital expenditures such as computers and office space) • A host agency, other than Public Health Unit, would not have the same level of accountability to the provincial public health standards