

# **STRATEGIC PROGRAM INVESTMENT FUND: NOTICE OF APPLICATION PROCESS**

## **Overview and Background:**

In 2013, three class action lawsuits alleging systemic abuse concerning the Huronia Regional Centre, Rideau Regional Centre and Southwestern Regional Centre were settled (the "Settlements") by the plaintiffs and the Ontario Government without any admission of liability and were subsequently approved by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The Settlements provided for apologies, commemoration initiatives and individual compensation. The Settlements also provided that surplus funds from the Settlements would be used for one-time investments, called Strategic Program Investments ("SPI"), to benefit individuals with a developmental disability and their families. There is approximately \$7.4 million available from the Settlements for distribution for such one-time investments.

Applications are being accepted for SPI projects. This Notice reflects the plaintiffs' and Ontario's shared interest in consulting and seeking to agree on the specific organizations that will receive allocations pursuant to the Settlements.

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the SPI allocation **is to enhance the ability of individuals with a developmental disability to guide and influence decisions affecting them from a system and personal point of view.**

## **Eligible Applicants:**

Applicants must:

- Be a legally established or incorporated entity, such as a Not-for-Profit organization;
- Demonstrate the expertise and experience necessary to support the delivery of the proposed project;
- Have the accountability structures or processes in place to support the delivery of the intended project;
- Have a Canadian bank account; and
- Be in a position to accept the SPI allocation upon being selected and must begin the project within 3 months of receiving the SPI allocation.

## **Application Content:**

Applications for SPI funds must include the following information, which will be used by the parties to evaluate proposals:

- Objectives and project description;
- Implementation plan, including key project milestones;
- Amount requested and budget outlining project costs;
- Anticipated timelines for commencing and completing the project;
- Relevant past experience of organization in completing similar projects; and
- Identification of organization members, their experience, qualifications and specific role in the project.

Applications must include contact information for:

- the organization (legal name, address, phone and email); and
- one person who can respond to questions about the application.

While not a requirement for the application process, if applicable, the application should identify how the allocation of SPI funds will benefit former residents of the Huronia, Rideau and Southwestern Regional Centres.

Applicants are encouraged to provide their applications in plain language and provide an accessibility plan identifying how the project will be completed in a way that involves people of all abilities.

Applicants must confirm in their application that their organization conducts itself in accordance with the laws of Ontario, including the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Organizations receiving an SPI allocation will be notified by letter and email.

The provision of SPI funds may come in installments.

Successful applicants will be required to report on the allocation and the implementation of their project. Information from allocation reports will be provided to the Court.

The allocation of SPI funds will not create a need or expectation for ongoing government funding and will not replace or supplement existing provincially funded services. The SPI funds are strictly a term of the Settlement Agreements and the SPI amounts come from the Settlement funds. Organizations allocated SPI funds are accountable to Class Counsel and the Ministry of Community and Social Services for using SPI funds in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and approved project proposal.

Successful applicants will sign an indemnity to save harmless Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario from all legal claims made in respect of the allocation of SPI funds. As such, successful applicants will obtain and maintain in force such insurance as is necessary and reasonable to meet these obligations.

**Disclaimer:**

Applications are not guaranteed the allocation of funds.

Successful applications are not guaranteed to be allocated the total amount of SPI funds requested.

SPI funds received may only be spent on eligible activities.

**Proposal submission instructions and contact information:**

One copy of the application must be sent in hard copy or electronic form to the following:

**Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Program Policy Implementation Branch - Litigation Unit  
5700 Yonge St, 1sr floor  
Toronto, ON, M2M 4K2**

**OR**

**[SPIapplications@ontario.ca](mailto:SPIapplications@ontario.ca)**

All applications must be post-marked by **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017** if being mailed, or received by **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017** if sent electronically.

Submissions received after this deadline will not be reviewed.

Questions in respect of the application process can be directed to:

**Jody Brown**  
**Koskie Minsky LLP**  
**Jbrown@kmlaw.ca**  
**416-595-2709**

**OR**

**Astero Patsali**  
**Ministry of Community and Social Services**  
**[SPapplications@ontario.ca](mailto:SPapplications@ontario.ca)**  
**416-325-4252**