

# REGIONAL SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY & CRISIS FUND



VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION  
First Nations Health Authority

The **Regional Short-Term Emergency & Crisis Fund** is an FNHA legacy fund that is available for Vancouver Coastal First Nations communities experiencing public health emergencies such as tragic unanticipated losses, environmental disasters, mental health crises, substance use crises as well as other types health related emergencies and crises that impact the community's ability to respond in a safe way. This **short-term fund** may be used to support your community for up to a maximum of four-weeks to support community level stabilization activities.

As a provincial First Nations health and wellness organization, our mandate is to support the health, healing, wellness and cultural needs of First Nations peoples during an emergency or crisis. The FNHA's unique provincial health governance structure allows us to work at all levels: nationally, provincially, regionally, and locally to help First Nations communities navigate mandated supports by other system partners, like Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (EMCR), First Nations Emergency Support Services (FNESS), Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), Regional Districts, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority etc.

## What is the short-term fund pathway?

The short-term fund pathway was established to help First Nations communities respond, stand-up surge capacity, stabilize, de-escalate, and wrap-around community during their time of need. The short-term fund pathway is a one-time, in-community emergency and crisis fund available to the 14 Vancouver Coastal First Nations Communities. Short-term is defined as four-week maximum. This is not a sustainable funding resource.

## How do you access this fund?

Health Directors and Health Leads can email any member of the regional team to access the short-term fund. You will be supported by a team member to co-develop a proposal and budget which will be immediately processed through our internal expedited process. Regional Team staff are also available for in-community deployment to help support meeting coordination, logistics, planning, documentation, reporting etc.

Eligible Expenses	
<i>Traditional Healing/Medicines</i>	<i>Surge-Capacity</i>
<i>Wellness Practitioners</i>	<i>Food for Gatherings</i>
<i>Cultural Supports</i>	<i>Logistics for Gatherings</i>
<i>Healthcare and Clinical Services and their Travel Costs</i>	<i>Debriefing and Recovery Gatherings</i>

**Please be advised that the FNHA does not provide 24/hour services, if anyone is experiencing severe symptoms you should call BC First Responders by calling 9-1-1.**

## Who do you contact?

To access support, please email [VC.HEM@fnha.ca](mailto:VC.HEM@fnha.ca) or connect with any member of the FNHA Vancouver Coastal Regional Team.

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The FNHA Vancouver Coastal Region works to reform the way we approach emergencies and crises at the community-level and is fully committed to continue to partner and support the 14 Vancouver Coastal First Nations Communities experiencing emergencies and crises.

Proposal and Budget Opportunities	
❖ <b>Interim 24/hour Community Crisis Lines:</b> an expedited and short-term resource answered by trained staff or volunteers. The staff can be subject specific or open for anyone to call them.	❖ <b>Psycho-educational Groups:</b> facilitated by either a Knowledge Sharer or Healthcare Professional, these are topic specific groups that start with education on a specific topic followed by an opportunity to ask questions and share related experiences. It allows for people to process the learnings in a safe way.
❖ <b>Community Support Groups:</b> small groups, safe space facilitated by Healthcare Professional that allows community members to come together and share. It can be either a check-in general group or topic specific.	❖ <b>Sharing of Information/Educational Sessions/Training:</b> this is a gathering to share very specific information that will be of interest to those attending. Facilitated by 1-2 Educators, this is a good way to ensure that everyone has the same information on a chosen topic.
❖ <b>Community Debriefing:</b> facilitated by a trained Healthcare Professional who uses a set of skills and questions to allow people to process their thoughts, feelings and concerns after an incident.	❖ <b>Psychological First Aid (PFA):</b> this kind of support happens anytime from the first few hours up to 4 weeks after an event. This support is focused on using PFA by helping people stay grounded, get through the tough few days after a major crisis and uses the skills of listening, setting small goals with people and referring to other resources.
❖ <b>Community Circles:</b> a sacred space to share experiences, teachings and thoughts facilitated by an Elder or Knowledge Sharer.	❖ <b>Mental Health Clinician/Counselling:</b> Mental Health Clinicians who are trained in doing crisis assessments and crisis response in times of mental distress.
❖ <b>Crisis Counselling:</b> counselling sessions in response to an emergency or crisis situation. This is short-term counselling of up to 4 sessions, with a focus on immediate needs, safety planning and resource coordination.	❖ <b>Community Gatherings:</b> gatherings to support a specific need, cultural practice or healing, sometimes complimented by food, which brings people together for social connection without the expectation of talking about the event or crisis.
❖ <b>Community Peace Keepers:</b> these are the natural helpers who lift others spirits, the people in-community who are known for their helping, good energy and listening skills.	❖ <b>Community Elders / Knowledge Sharers / Healers / Medicine People:</b> these are the people who carry traditional and/or cultural teachings and knowledge. They may lead or support ceremony, offer guidance, use plant medicines, offer brushings or smudging as examples to help people.