

# DIRECT TO FARM SUPPORT: PEI EMERGENCY ON FARM SUPPORT FUND FOR COVID-19

**Program Policy:** Supporting the health and safety of farms and farm workers, through funding for on farm mitigation activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The *Direct to Farm Support: Prince Edward Island (PEI) Emergency On Farm Support Fund* (EOFSF) is designed to support enhanced on-farm mitigations activities to improve the health and safety of all farm workers, domestic and temporary foreign workers, by limiting the spread of COVID-19 in agricultural operations. Funds will be distributed in an equitable manner, to ensure that under-represented groups will benefit from the EOFSF.

## 2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous Organizations who are primary agricultural producers;
- Primary agricultural producers;
- Small to medium-sized agri-businesses;
- Others may be considered upon request

Note: Cost-sharing between Government and Applicant is increased from 50:50 to 60:40 for under-represented groups. See sections 6 (funding) and 10 (definitions) for details on under-represented groups and their definition.

## 3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Adjustments to on farm operations as a result of COVID-19 to ensure worker safety;
- Incremental disposable and non-disposable personal protective equipment (*disposable* PPE is capped at 10% of the maximum funding amount, meaning a maximum of \$3,000 per applicant); and
- Costs related to worker training and safety protocols.

## 4. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

**Activity:** Adjustments on farm operations as a result of COVID-19 to ensure worker safety. For example:

- Added sanitation (cleaning and disinfection) and security requirements.
- Adjustments to current processes and processing stations to accommodate social distancing
- Adjustment to transportation to ensure social distancing during movement on-farm or between off-farm accommodations and on-farm (renting or leasing of vehicles only).
- Technological modifications to adhere to public health protocols (e.g. HVAC modifications or upgrades)
- Equipment such as safety barriers (e.g. Plexiglass dividers)
- Purchase/rental/lease of additional housing (on farm), portable buildings, and/or installations/site modifications. For farm business where an outbreak of COVID-19 is confirmed, off-farm housing options would also be eligible.
- Enhancement to required employer-provided housing for workers as a result of COVID-19 to ensure worker safety;
- Support for temporary housing arrangements in cases where existing facilities cannot adequately allow for physical distancing;
- Site modifications and/or transportation for wellness checks
- Disinfection and cleaning in the event of a farm outbreak
- Third-party disinfection and cleaning services to adhere to public health recommendations

**Activity:** Incremental disposable and non-disposable personal protective equipment (*disposable* PPE is capped at 10% of the maximum funding amount, meaning a maximum of \$3,000 per applicant). For example:

- Body temperature screening/fever detection systems, including thermal scanners
- Washing stations
- Workstation dividers
- Full and half facepiece respirators
- Impact goggles and face shields
- Face masks and coverings, including N95 masks
- Sanitizers and cleaning products
- Particulate filters and gas/vapor cartridges
- Safety glasses
- Disposable gloves

**Activity:** Cost related to worker training and safety protocols. For example:

- Expenses associated with worker implementation of enhanced protocols, such as:
  - Interpretation services, training on COVID-19 protocol
  - COVID-19 related signage and other written materials (e.g., COVID-19 protocols, etc.).

## 5. INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES & EXPENSES

- On-going operational expenses not associated with COVID-19
- Labour and meal expenses, other than those related to the prevention and control of COVID-19
- Expenses related to retail or other on-site sales activities
- Personal Protective Equipment that was required pre-COVID-19
- Expenses associated with the *Quarantine Act* for isolation of Temporary Foreign Workers (14 days upon arrival)
- Regular capital (which are capital expenditures made in the ordinary course of business) and machinery expenses
- Purchase of transportation vehicles
- Land purchase

## 6. FUNDING

- Funds are distributed directly to applicants.
- Cost-sharing for eligible activities and expenses is 50:50 (Government / Applicant). Government will fund 50% of project costs, with the remaining 50% paid for by the applicant.
- Project cost-share is 60:40 (Federal Government / Applicant) for Applicant owned (having more than 50% stake in the company) by women, youth, Indigenous, visible minorities or persons with disabilities. Government will fund 60% of project costs, with the remaining 40% paid for by the applicant.
- The maximum amount funded per business will be \$30,000.

Note: Eligible expenses are retroactive to March 15, 2020. Application forms are due, and must be submitted to the EOFSF Program Officer, no later than January 15, 2021. Financial Claim and Final Report forms are due, and must be submitted to the EOFSF Program Officer, no later than February 15, 2021.

## 7. EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

An evaluation and audit of this program is planned to assess the performance, relevance and impact of the program. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis. Contractual obligations for the applicant will include the collection of data for reporting purposes.

## 8. PROGRAM TERMINATION

- This program is effective as of March 15, 2020.
- Application forms are due, and must be submitted to the EOFSF Program Officer, no later than January 15, 2021.
- Financial Claim and Final Report forms are due, and must be submitted to the EOFSF Program Officer, no later than February 15, 2021.

## 9. HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the Department of Agriculture and Land via regular mail or e-mail.

### E-Mail Applications

Applications may be submitted via email at [PEIEOFSF@gov.pe.ca](mailto:PEIEOFSF@gov.pe.ca)

Please include "EOFSF" in the subject line

### Regular Mail Applications

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at

PEI Department of Agriculture and Land

11 Kent Street

PO Box 2000

Charlottetown, PE

C1A 7N8

(902) 368-4880 (telephone)

(902) 368-4857 (facsimile)

## 10. DEFINITIONS

- **First Nations and Indigenous:** Includes individuals who are registered on a band list, registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*, Métis, Inuit, or Indigenous communities such as band and tribal councils, First Nations, Métis organizations.
- **Persons with disabilities:** Individuals who have a long-term or recurring physical, mental, sensory, psychiatric or learning impairment.
- **Primary agricultural producers:** For the purpose of this program, this is defined as agricultural producers that produce agricultural products for resale and employ farm workers (domestic and temporary foreign workers).
- **Visible minorities:** Individuals, other than Indigenous peoples, who are non-caucasian in race or non-white in colour.
- **Women:** Individuals who are born female or who identify as female.
- **Youth:** Individuals who are aged 30 and under.