



## **Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Call for Proposals 2025-2026**

### **Inuit Midwifery, Prenatal Postpartum and Birthing Support Projects**

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) is looking to support Nunavut communities and organizations to enhance access to a continuum of culturally safe prenatal, birthing and postpartum projects, programs and services for Inuit.

#### **Background**

In 2017, the Federal Government Budget announced an investment of \$6 million over five years to increase access to culturally safe Indigenous midwifery services in First Nation and Inuit communities. Budget 2021 included an additional \$26.5 million over three years to further expand Indigenous midwifery and doula services. New budget investments were made in 2024.

NTI receives a portion of this funding through an Inuit distinctions-based allocation. NTI is working collaboratively with the Government of Nunavut (GN), to determine Inuit training pathways to increase the number of midwives in Nunavut, as well as on the anticipated overhaul of the *Midwifery Act*.

While this work is underway, NTI wishes to engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal governments to fund programs and services that increase supports for Inuit during the prenatal and postpartum periods. In August 2025 the NTI Board of Directors approved \$3 million of midwifery funding to go towards community-based contributions. To distribute this \$3 million NTI is issuing this call for proposals.

#### **Mandate**

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) represents Inuit under the *Nunavut Agreement*. NTI's mission is to foster the economic, social, and cultural well-being of Inuit through the implementation of the *Nunavut Agreement*. NTI coordinates and manages Inuit responsibilities set out in the *Nunavut Agreement* and ensures that the federal and territorial governments fulfill their obligations.

#### **Governance**

NTI is governed by a Board of Directors elected by Nunavut Inuit. The majority membership of the Board are held by the three Regional Inuit Association (RIA) Presidents and Vice-Presidents. The NTI President and Vice-President are elected by Nunavut Inuit, regardless of regional residency. NTI works collaboratively with RIAs in policy development and development of pan-territorial programs while RIAs focus on regional issues and operations.

## Proposal Guidelines

The purpose of this RFP is to provide and enhance opportunities for Inuit to support cultural revitalization and broader supports for pregnant individuals to mitigate some of the negative and ongoing trauma and impacts of colonization, including evacuations for birth.

Example areas of eligible projects and services for prenatal, birthing and postpartum programs and services are listed below, but are not an exhaustive list and NTI welcomes unique ideas/priority areas for action:

### **Community-Led Visioning/Planning:** Examples include:

- Gathering information to understand the history of birth in the community as well as the current and traditional birthing practices;
- Assessing the community's perinatal, newborn and infant health needs;
- Restoring/preserving Inuit midwifery knowledge and birthing practices;
- Engaging Elders and community leadership on a long-term vision for a thriving and sustainable Inuit midwifery practice.

### **Inuit workforce development (education and training):** Examples include:

- Providing financial assistance to Inuit midwifery and doula students, including salaries/stipend/bursaries, housing, childcare support and transportation.
- Delivery Inuit-specific full spectrum doula and birth support worker training.

### **Programming and service expansion:**

- Creating new or enhancing existing services/programs related to prenatal, birthing and postpartum care.
- **Note:** due to funding largely being confined to the 25-26 and 26-27 year, with some possibility of extension (but not guaranteed), new programs or services should describe a plan for sustainability in their proposal.

### **Minor infrastructure investments:**

- Identifying existing/creating new spaces to deliver programs and services, doula/birth support services including:
  - Minor capital renovations
  - Capital design and planning

Funding does not cover deficit recovery, honoraria for Board members (for regular operations delivery), start-up/operational costs for commercial enterprises, or support for developing cultural/professional industries.

Successful applicants must adhere to the minimum reporting requirements.

### **Eligible Recipients**

Priority will be given to:

- Not-for-profit organizations in Nunavut
- Nunavut Municipalities

Other eligible recipients include:

- Nunavut Inuit for-profit firms with majority ownership by Nunavut Inuit enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement* proposing a non-profit activity
- Not-for-profit Inuit or Indigenous organizations outside Nunavut with at least two-thirds of their clientele made up of Nunavut Inuit enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement*.
- Recognized national Inuit organizations in partnership with NTI and/or RIAs developing joint programs to benefit Nunavut Inuit enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement* may also be considered for funding.

### **Timeframe of Activities**

Funding is for fiscal year 25-26, however, carry forward into 26-27 will be permitted given the timeframe of the call out for proposals.

### **Monitoring and Reporting Requirements**

Contribution recipients will be required to provide a report on the completion of their activities and achievement of intended outcomes, as well as a detailed financial report. Contribution recipients may also be asked to provide a progress report, depending on the start and end date of activities.

As such, proposals must include a plan for monitoring and reporting that suits the schedule and scale of the proposed activities.

## **Sharing of Resources**

Contribution recipients will be required to make any resources produced available for use by the public and other organizations free of charge so that Nunavut continues to amass a range of contemporary, Inuit-specific resources and information about promising practices. The intention is that in future years these resources will support expanded delivery of high quality, Inuit-specific programming across Nunavut.

## **Proposal Format**

The proposal may be submitted in Inuktitut or English. The proposal must include:

- A description of the applicant showing they are eligible for funding;
- An overview of the project;
- A detailed description of all the activities of the project;
- The expected outcomes of the activities;
- A budget that includes a full breakdown of all project costs and indication of the amount requested;
- A description of each project team member (staff and/or consultants), the role of each team member, and whether they are a Nunavut Inuk enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement*;
- A description of how the applicant has successfully delivered projects in the past;
- Declaration of any conflicts of interest; and,
- A monitoring and reporting plan.

## **Submission Deadline**

Proposals will be received by Friday January 30, 2026, but may be submitted any time before then.

## **Proposal Evaluation**

Proposals will be assessed on individual merit and the strength of their connection with the call for proposals, goals and objectives of the funding and the employment of Nunavut Inuit enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement*. NTI also strives to balance applications across the territory to ensure equitable access to support. Review of proposals may take up to one month.

## **Contact Information**

For more information about this call for proposals, contact:

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