

Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST)

Program Guidelines

Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to assist local governments participating in the Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST) in complying with the program terms and conditions. Local governments include municipal authorities, Metis Settlements, and the Townsite of Redwood Meadows (referred to as 'municipalities' in these guidelines).

1. Program Objectives

Through the MOST, the Government of Alberta (GOA) and the Government of Canada are providing funding to support municipalities, which have experienced significant operating impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding will be used for incremental operating costs incurred due to COVID-19 response and restart, as well as other operating losses or deficits incurred as a result of COVID-19 impacts on revenues and operations. This funding is provided through two separate allocations: general operating, and public transit support. Funding provided under both components will be administered together.

2. Key Dates and Contacts

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	QUESTIONS? CONTACT
Executed Memorandum of Agreement	Submit by October 30, 2020	Call a Grant Advisor at 780-422-7125 (toll-free 310-0000), or email MA.MunicipalStimulus@gov.ab.ca
Payment	Once memorandum of agreement has been signed	
Deadline to spend funds	March 31, 2021	
Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFE)	Due July 2, 2021	

3. Memorandum of Agreement

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be e-mailed to municipalities, and will cover both the general operating and public transit allocations. The MOA must be signed by the Chief Elected Official and Chief Administrative Officer or duly authorized signing officer. Municipalities should

complete the MOA, including witnesses for each signatory, and scan and submit them via email to MA.MunicipalStimulus@gov.ab.ca.

A duly executed MOA is sufficient to trigger payment. There is no application form for MOST.

Questions related to the submission of the MOA or reporting documents can be directed to a Grant Advisor by calling 780-422-7125 (toll-free 310-0000) or MA.MunicipalStimulus@gov.ab.ca.

4. Funding Formula and Allocations

Under the MOST funding formula, each municipality active as of May 1, 2020 will receive an allocation. MOST funding is allocated to municipalities in three funding envelopes, each with its own allocation formula. Allocations are available online at the [program website](#).

The Minister retains the authority to exclude Improvement Districts that do not have an advisory council from the funding allocation formula.

Funding Envelope	Amount	Allocation Approach
MOST Transit	\$140 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Available to municipalities with public transit systems, and is allocated based on ridership (2018 Canadian Urban Transit Association statistics).
MOST General Operating	\$436.488 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$426.488 million is available to all municipalities, which receive \$5,000 in base funding with the remainder allocated according to population.\$10 million is available only to the towns of Jasper, Banff and Canmore, and is allocated based on estimated average daily visitors.
Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Operating*	\$30 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Previously allocated as part of Budget 2020.

*MSI Operating funding is considered part of the MOST only for the purpose of matching federal funds. MSI Operating funding continues to be governed by the [MSI Operating Program Guidelines](#).

5. Eligibility Requirements

5.1) Eligible Recipients

For program purposes, an eligible recipient is referred to as a 'municipality' and includes any city, town, village, summer village, specialized municipality, municipal district, improvement district, special area, Metis Settlement, and the Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society.

For public transit funding, eligible recipients are those municipalities with public transit services that have ridership included in the 2018 Canadian Urban Transit Association statistics.

5.2) Eligible Expenses

Municipalities may use MOST funding for incremental operating costs incurred due to COVID-19 response and restart, as well as other operating losses or deficits incurred as a result of COVID-19 impacts on revenues and operations.

Incremental operating costs could include costs such as Personal Protective Equipment, communications, additional cleaning, supplemental staffing, and additional supports for vulnerable populations.

Operating losses or deficits could include losses or deficits due to decreases in revenues such as parking fees, recreation facility entrance fees, and building permit fees.

MOST funding may only be used for eligible operating expenses or operating losses or deficits incurred between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. **Any funds not used for eligible expenses incurred before March 31, 2021, must be returned to the Government of Alberta.**

Municipalities that receive a MOST Transit allocation must use that portion of their allocation on eligible expenses associated with their public transit systems.

6. Payment Process

MOST payments are based on allocated funding amounts. There will be one MOST payment for each municipality, covering both the general operating and public transit portions, as applicable, conditional on the execution of the MOST Memorandum of Agreement and receipt of this agreement by Municipal Affairs.

7. Financial Reporting Requirements

7.1) Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFEs)

Each municipality that received funds is required to submit an SFE by July 2, 2021 that reports on the use of MOST funds. The SFE form will be distributed at a later date, and will capture basic information including the category of expenditure to which the funding was applied. Expenditure categories will include:

- Personal Protective Equipment (General)
- Supplemental Cleaning (General)
- Supports for Vulnerable Populations (General)
- Replacement of reduced revenues (General)
- Personal Protective Equipment (Transit)
- Supplemental Cleaning (Transit)
- Replacement of reduced revenues (Transit)

Municipalities that receive funding under the MOST Transit envelope must report transit-related expenditures that are greater than or equal to the amount of funding received under the MOST Transit envelope.

7.2) Site Visits

Following program completion, Municipal Affairs program representatives may select and visit a number of municipalities to discuss the overall experience with the MOST program.