



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Non-FNHA funded Treatment Centre Application Process

## Receiving Treatment

### *I have a client seeking treatment. How can my client enter into a treatment program?*

A client needs to have a referral partner complete the Subsidy Application for In-patient Addiction Treatment in full. FNHA will only review applications submitted by one of the following referral partners:

- Community Addictions Worker
- Addictions Counsellor or Social Worker
- Outpatient Clinic Worker

Referrals will not be accepted directly from treatment centre staff referring to their own centre. This is to ensure that the client is receiving the appropriate services they need prior to treatment and to ensure follow-up with after-care plans.

If a client needs assistance in finding a counsellor or addiction worker, please contact FNHA's Mental Health and Wellness team at: 1.855.693.3033 or email: nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca

### *What are the treatment options available to my client?*

FNHA-funded treatment centres will be considered the first and primary option for addiction treatment. All First Nations clients are eligible for treatment at all FNHA-funded treatment centres at no cost. Simply contact the treatment centres listed in the FNHA-Funded Treatment Centres Network to see if they are able to take in the client.

Provincially-funded treatment beds will be considered as the next option for addiction treatment if an FNHA-funded treatment centre bed is not available. The Province of BC (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) is responsible for all per diem payments in licensed and/or registered treatment facilities off-reserve for individuals who are eligible for income assistance. First Nations are eligible to access provincially-funded addictions treatment facilities and programs on the same basis as other BC residents.

In the event that FNHA-funded treatment centres or the NNADAP Treatment Centre Network outside of BC are unable to support your client appropriately, an exception can be made for funding at a non-FNHA funded treatment centre.

Any treatment centre funded through a subsidy application for in-patient addiction treatment must be licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act or registered with the Assisted Living Registrar. A \$40 per day subsidy is available for a maximum of 90 days. FNHA accepts no responsibility for treatment that is not given prior approval.

## Eligibility

### *How can my client become eligible for funding at a non-FNHA funded treatment centre?*

Certain requirements must be met before funding can be approved for a non-FNHA funded treatment centre. Failure to complete the pre-requisites will result in a delay or possibly a denial of the client's application. The following requirements must be met:

1. The referral partner has checked with the FNHA-funded treatment centre network for the availability of a treatment bed and none are available.
2. The referral partner has tried to access provincially funded treatment beds.
3. The referral partner has contacted the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to apply for provincial income assistance and the client has been officially deemed ineligible for funding.
4. The client is eligible and registered for FNHA Health Benefits.
5. The client must be free of commitments to the judicial system at the time of application. In order to ensure treatment has minimal interruption, all court appearances and hearings for probation must be completed prior to the commencement of treatment. This also applies to individuals ordered by the court to attend treatment as part of their release plan.

When those requirements are met, the client can be considered on an exception basis if:

- The client has a demonstrated need for specialized treatment services for concurrent disorders (mental health and substance use comorbidity)
- The client has an identified need for longer term treatment
- The client has been deemed ineligible for FNHA-funded treatment centre services due to complex health conditions
- FNHA-funded treatment centre services are not available when a client is ready for treatment (e.g., wait-time is more than 7 days)

If all requirements are met, the referral partner can complete a Subsidy Application for In-patient Addictions Treatment.

***Why does my client need to contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction if they are First Nations? Why can't they go directly to FNHA for funding?***

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction is responsible for funding per diem treatment costs for residents of BC who are eligible for income assistance. Per diems cover the costs of attending treatment homes registered through the Assisted Living Registry and facilities licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act operated by regional health authorities.

FNHA asks that referral partners support clients in applying for provincial income assistance. FNHA will only be able to fund clients who are ineligible for social assistance from the Ministry.

Typically, clients are eligible for social assistance if they:

- Are already receiving social assistance or other types of assistance (e.g., they are a Person with Disability)
- Have no fixed address (NFA)

For more information on how to apply for social assistance, please visit the [Ministry website](#).

***Please note that:***

Individuals will not be required to apply for income assistance through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction if they receive:

- Income assistance on-reserve and have housing that requires them to remain on Band Income Assistance
- Employment Insurance benefits due to pay back requirements

***My client lives on-reserve. How can my client become eligible for funding from the Ministry?***

If a client is living on-reserve and is deemed eligible for provincial income assistance, the Ministry will fund their treatment if it is off-reserve and treatment takes place at a home registered through the Assisted Living Registry or a facility licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act by regional health authorities.

Please contact [nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca](mailto:nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca) if you experience any challenges with the Ministry application process.

***How can my client become eligible for FNHA Health Benefits?***

Clients are eligible for FNHA Health Benefits if they have First Nations status and are currently enrolled in BC's Medical Services Plan (MSP).

Clients from outside BC are eligible for FNHA Health Benefits if they have First Nations status and have been living in BC for more than 3 months.

For further questions or to check the status of the client's eligibility, please contact FNHA Health Benefits at: 1.800.317.7878.

## Treatment Centres

***What is the FNHA-Funded Treatment Centre Network and why do I need to check with those treatment centres first?***

The FNHA-funded Treatment Centre Network refers to a group of residential treatment centres with beds funded by FNHA and Indigenous Services Canada. These treatment centres have funded beds available to First Nations clients regardless of their status and are considered the first choice for treatment.

FNHA expects all referral partners to check with the FNHA-funded Treatment Centre Network in BC before making a subsidy application. A list of these treatment centres and information about their services can be found on the [FNHA website](#).

***What if there isn't an FNHA-funded treatment centre near my client?***

FNHA Medical Transportation is able to cover travel costs for a client going into treatment. Please call FNHA Health Benefits at 1.800.317.7878 to apply.

***How do I know if a Non-FNHA-funded treatment program will be covered by FNHA?***

FNHA will only fund clients seeking treatment at a licensed or registered treatment centre that accepts FNHA's standard \$40 per diem rate for a maximum of 90 days, totaling \$3,600 per fiscal year.

### ***How can my client apply for treatment outside of BC?***

If the client is from BC but is currently a resident of a different province, please contact the provincial health authority in the client's province of residence or Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for funding assistance. More information about ISC can be found on their [website](#).

## **Review Decisions**

### ***The application I submitted was approved. How long is the approval good for?***

Funding approvals are valid for three months after the approval date. A client may attend treatment any time before that.

### ***My application was put on hold. Why?***

The most common reason applications are put on hold is due to pre-requisites not being met. Please refer back to your recommendation letter to see what steps are needed before the application can receive a second review. For a further explanation, please contact us at: [nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca](mailto:nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca)

### ***Why was my application not approved?***

The most common reasons for applications not being approved is that the client did not receive prior approval for funding before entering into treatment or the pre-requisites were not met. FNHA cannot fund treatment that has not received prior approval.

### ***How can I make an appeal if my application was denied?***

To appeal the decision, you can request a copy of the appeals form from FNHA. Complete and submit the appeals form to FNHA within 10 days of receiving the denial letter. You will need to provide a detailed explanation as part of your appeal.

The appeals form will be reviewed by an FNHA clinician, and the assessment will be sent to the Vice President of Programs and Services and the Chief Operating Officer for a final decision. You will be notified of the decision 10 days after submitting the appeals form to FNHA. Decisions made through the appeal process are final.

### ***My client was previously approved for funding and they are now in need of an extension. Will I have to make a second application?***

No, you won't need to make a second application. You can request an extension instead. Please email [nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca](mailto:nonfnhafundedtc@fnha.ca) for all extension requests. Extension requests must include a rationale from the treatment centre detailing why an extension is recommended.

## **Payment**

### ***How is treatment paid for once the application has been approved?***

FNHA will pay the treatment centre directly and all invoices should be sent directly to FNHA. FNHA will only pay the amount agreed upon in the approval letters that were sent to both the referral partner and the treatment centres. FNHA does not pay treatment centre fees for referrals that did not receive prior approval.

