

Family Services and Housing
Strategic Initiatives and Program Support
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March 30, 2009

Ms. Marie Lands
Acting Chief Executive Officer
First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child
and Family Services Authority (Northern Authority)
Room 206 - 819 Sargent Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3E 0B9

Dear Ms. Lands:

Re: Differential Response Family Enhancement Funding

I am writing to advise you that funding for the Differential Response program for the 2008/09 fiscal year has been approved in order to begin the second phase of the provincial Differential Response Strategy within the context of the conceptual framework as accepted by Standing Committee.

The projects associated with this funding are those as described in the Northern Authority's DR submission as follows:

- a. Authority Differential Response Coordinator
- b. Lynn Lake Resource Center (associated with NCN DIA)
- c. Leaf Rapids Resource Center (associated with NCN DIA)
- d. Differential Response Developmental Costs

The eligible funding categories, based on a review of the 2008/09 Authority submitted funding details, for the 2008/09 funding is as follows:

1. Authority DR Coordinator (salary, benefits, operating)	\$ 90.7
2. Differential Response Developmental Costs/start-up, i.e., \$20.0 DR preparatory, \$75.0 consult/research, \$60.0 other (e.g., travel)	\$163.3
3. Agency IT (computer - MES compatible)	\$ 7.0
Total 2008/09 Allocation	<u>\$261.0</u>

We have received an invoice (FNA-162) for \$75,604.75 for the Northern Authority's Differential Response Coordinator. As this invoice has not been paid, we are including all of the Coordinator funding in this cheque and will not process the invoice.

At this time, we are advancing the 2008/09 balance (\$261,000.00) to you (cheque # 3831089) in order that the appropriate planning and project development/readiness/preparatory work on the introduction of Differential Response/Family Enhancement may proceed centrally and with specific projects under the guidance of the Authority in a coordinated, collaborative manner, including cross-Authority and cross-project work related to common/shared and/or co-managed activities.

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Please submit a detailed spending plan for the 2008/09 funding provided herein by return, noting specific allocations for Authority-led and individual agency projects/activities and the associated purpose. Standard Financial (and Program) Reporting Requirements apply as well.

This funding, and any future funding, is being provided with the following key understandings:

1. All active cases will be entered into the provincial Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS) using either the Protection (PRT) or Prevention (DR-FE) service streams. This compliance is necessary in order to track all cases and do a thorough evaluation to meet the funding requirements for full implementation of the province's Differential Response Initiative and as preparation for roll-out planning.
2. As agreed by all members of Standing Committee, the standardized risk assessment tool will be used in the initial assessment and as the basis for streaming of all new cases. Although it is understood that this risk assessment tool will be evaluated during phase two, universal usage is necessary to provide valid and reliable evaluation results. This tool is available in CFSIS for use as is a distinct CFSIS DR-FE case category for cases streamed to DR. CFSIS training will be made available. Consideration should also be given to the universal use of the strength-based family assessment tool in the full roll-out of DR-FE.
3. DIA projects are to be coordinated under the guidance of Standing Committee.
4. Cross-Authority cooperation, collaboration and efficiencies will be maximized.
5. The evaluation component will start at the beginning of the 2009/10 year and each project will have an established logic model. Each project (at the Authority and Agency levels) will develop and submit detailed work and spending plans prior to initiation.
6. The Authority has an approach that includes documentation to assess agency readiness in order for DR/FE to be implemented.
7. Standards for the implementation of DR/FE are developed using the standards development protocol, prior to full provincial roll-out.
8. Ongoing Authority quality assurance frameworks need to include DR-FE.
9. Common criteria and a structured decision making process will be developed and used for decisions regarding ongoing support and closure for FE cases.
10. Each Authority's plan will require a training strategy.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ben Van Haute, A/Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives and Program Support, at 945-8300.

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Senior staff will be in contact with you to schedule a meeting to discuss with you 2009/10 and associated requirements/expectations for moving forward.

Thank you for your patience and continued support during this process. We look forward to working with you, your staff, your agencies' and their staff, and other stakeholders in the collaborative introduction of Differential Response/Family Enhancement in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
CLAUDIA ASH-PONCE
Claudia Ash-Ponce
Executive Director

BVH/gk

cc Ms. Carolyn Loeppky, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Services
Mr. Peter Dubiensi, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery

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