

1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs may provide funding to community governments in order to assist with the purchase of hearing assistance equipment to improve access to community meetings and events for persons with hearing disabilities.

2. Principles

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- a) All residents of the Northwest Territories, regardless of ability, should be encouraged and supported to partake in activities within their communities and to exercise their democratic right to be active citizens in local government matters.
- b) Community governments also play an important role in promoting, developing and delivering programs that address equal access for all community residents and should be encouraged and supported to continue these efforts.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to community governments eligible for financial assistance through contributions from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and as outlined in the attached schedule.

4. Definitions

Grant - An essentially unconditional transfer of appropriated funds to another party for a specified purpose.

5. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This Policy is issued in accordance with Financial Management Board's delegation of authority to Ministers to establish grants and contribution policies. Authority and accountability is further defined in Financial Administration Manual directives, 401, 401-1, 401-2, and 401-4 and as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Minister) is accountable to the Financial Management Board for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may approve changes to this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister may approve contributions to community governments for the purposes outlined in this policy. This authority and accountability may be delegated to the Director responsible or to regional Superintendents.



POLICY

03-06
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Hearing Assistance Grant

6. Provisions

See attached Schedules.

7. Financial Resources

Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. Prerogative of the Minister

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Minister to make decisions or take actions respecting contributions. In this regard, the Minister may make an exception to this Policy. Any exception will require substantiation in writing and must be recorded with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Vince R. Steen
Minister

Original signed November 2003

Date



POLICY

03-06
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Hearing Assistance Grant

Schedules

CONTRIBUTIONS

Program Eligibility Criteria

Schedule A-1

Eligible Community Governments

Schedule A-2

Schedule A-1

Program Eligibility Criteria

1. Purpose

To financially assist community governments to purchase hearing assistance equipment, which ensures that all community residents are able to hear, understand and partake in community meetings and events.

2. Eligibility

Community governments are eligible for funding for the following expenses and activities:

- (1) The purchase of hearing assistance equipment from a recognized assistance listening device provider for use at local public functions, meetings and events. The Department will maintain a list of recognized assistance listening device providers for this purpose.

Communities that place an emphasis on ensuring all residents are able to participate in community matters and events, especially those who are hard of hearing will be given priority.

3. Conditions

- (1) The total GNWT grant through this program cannot exceed \$5,000 per community.
- (2) Program funding will be restricted to the purchase of one hearing assistance package per community.
- (3) The proposed funding cannot be used for the purchase of personal hearing assistance equipment (i.e. hearing aids).

- (4) Program funding will be restricted to the purchase of hearing assistance equipment that will be owned and operated by the community government.

4. Review

- (1) The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will be responsible for program management. Approval authority can be delegated to regional Superintendents or the Director of Sport, Recreation and Youth.
- (2) The following criteria will be taken into consideration when reviewing applications:
 - (a) Priority will be given to proposals that establish a hearing assistance service that is currently not available in the community.
 - (b) Applications that include a contribution from the community or have the ability to leverage additional funding from other sources will be given priority, assuming all other elements of the proposal fit the criteria.
- (3) Applications must identify the hearing assistance equipment supplier.

Schedule A-2

ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS

Hamlet of Aklavik	
Hamlet of Fort Liard	
Hamlet of Fort McPherson	
Hamlet of Fort Providence	
Hamlet of Holman	
Hamlet of Paulatuk	
Hamlet of Rae-Edzo	
Hamlet of Sachs Harbour	
Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk	
Hamlet of Tulita	
Charter Community of Deline	
Charter Community of K'asho Got'ine	(Fort Good Hope)
Charter Community of Tsiigehtchic	
Charter Community of Wha Ti	
Dechi Laot'i Band	(Wekweti)
Gameti First Nation	Rae Lakes)
Jean Marie River First Nation	
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation	(Kakisa)
K'atlodeeche First Nation	(Hay River Reserve)
Lutselk'e Dene Band	
Nahanni Butte Dene Band	
Pehdzeh Ki Dene Band	(Wrigley)
Sambaa K'e Dene Band	(Trout Lake)
Behdzi Ahda' First Nation	(Colville Lake)
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	(Dettah)
Settlement of Deninoo	(Fort Resolution)
Settlement of Enterprise	
Town of Inuvik	
Town of Norman Wells	
Town of Fort Smith	
Town of Hay River	
Town of Fort Simpson	
City of Yellowknife	