



Agriculture Water Infrastructure

Stream 1: Producer Projects

STREAM GUIDE 2024/25



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If there is a discrepancy between this program guide and the information found on www.iafbc.ca, the website will take precedence.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program (AWP) aims to increase adoption of efficient irrigation infrastructure and improve agricultural water supply and management in British Columbia. Through this program, the Government of BC seeks to see improvements to stream flows, fish populations and an increased and more sustainable food production.

Program Objective

The objectives of this program are to:

- Maximize available water for agricultural uses, particularly irrigation and livestock watering, in water-scarce and drought-prone areas that will be increasingly stressed by climate change and will benefit from more efficient infrastructure or storage.
- Increase agricultural production with additional water infrastructure in areas with sufficient water supply or with high potential for farmland expansion.
- Protect agricultural land from flooding with effective drainage and diking infrastructure resulting in improved food production in areas subjected to excess water.

Program Goal

Improve water security in agricultural areas and food security in BC.

Program Structure

Funding is available through four funding streams. This program guide outlines Stream 1.

Funding Stream	Funding Allocation to Stream	Max. Funding Amount per Project	Cost-Shared Ratio
Stream 1: Producer Projects	up to \$10M	up to \$1M per project	50%
Stream 2: Community Projects	up to \$23M	up to \$1M-\$2M* per project	50%
Stream 3: Assessments, Engineering Studies or Plans	up to \$5M	up to \$200K per project	50%
Stream 4: Strategic Projects	up to \$5.2M	TBD	TBD

* Maximum to be confirmed after Expression of Interest stage and before application stage.

Please see www.iafbc.ca/awp for eligibility details on the other Agriculture Water Infrastructure program streams.



STREAM 1 OVERVIEW

One of the primary methods to alleviate both spring flooding and summer drought is the construction or enhancement of water storage systems. A well-designed storage system can capture a portion of the peak spring flow for use later in the summer when demand is highest.

Water storage infrastructure will be eligible where there is an indication that the water supply is currently unable to meet agricultural demand, where it is unlikely to meet demand under future climate change conditions, and where upgrades are required for existing infrastructure that are failing.

Successful applicants of Stream 1: Producer Projects will receive cost-shared funding to increase agriculture water availability.

Within Stream 1: Producer Projects, there are five eligible activities:

1. Rehabilitation and upgrades of (regulated and unregulated) agricultural dams and reservoirs to meet regulatory requirements.
2. Improvement, expansion or new construction of dugouts and related storage infrastructure for irrigation water and livestock watering including rangeland.
3. New construction of other water storage infrastructure.
4. Improvement, expansion or new construction of off-farm conversion of conveyance ditches to pipelines where savings of 30 to 50% can be achieved.
5. Improvement, expansion or new construction of water delivery systems to the farm gate from off-farm storage infrastructure and licensed intakes on streams.

Eligible Participants

To be considered eligible for this stream, applicants must be BC-based and an individual producer (i.e. a single farm), including:

- Producer - Cooperative
- Producer - Corporation
- Producer - Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Producer - Partnership
- Producer - Sole proprietorship
- Indigenous Producer - Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Indigenous Producer - Partnership
- Indigenous Producer - Sole Proprietorship
- Indigenous Cooperative
- Indigenous Corporation

Individual producers and Indigenous producers who use water for a mix of agricultural and non-agricultural uses are eligible.

Ineligible Participants

The following applicants are not eligible to participate in this stream:

- Non-agricultural individuals or groups (including Seafood/Aquaculture)
- Provincial and federal governments
- Crown Corporations
- Local Government or Regional District
- Irrigation District or Improvement District
- Diking District
- Non-Profit Organization – Agriculture
- Non-Profit Organization – Conservation
- Water Users' Community
- Indigenous Community
- Indigenous Governing Body
- Indigenous Organization – For-Profit
- Indigenous Organization – Non-Profit

Ineligible Projects and Activities

The following projects and activities are not eligible for funding or reimbursement in this stream:

- Used Materials
- Activities or costs incurred prior to approval (no retroactive approval permitted)
- In-kind activities
- Activities to support non-agricultural water uses
- Activities not directly related to agricultural water uses
- Purchase of farm equipment and related accessories or attachments (including tractors, skid steers and trailers)
- Activities that are not compliant with federal, provincial or local/municipal regulations
- Financial compensation for lost income, production or land or other associated losses due to water shortages, government orders, or other reasons
- Activities to remove land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Purchase of land or easement
- Regular or on-going operating or maintenance activities
- Training or educational courses
- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and related charges
- Activities currently receiving funding from other funding sources
- GST and other taxes/credits reimbursed to applicant
- Wells
- Water quality treatment
- Irrigation systems (new or existing) funded under Beneficial Management Practices Program (BMP 1804)



Cost-Shared Ratio & Funding Amounts

Stream 1: Producer Projects

Min. Funding Amount	Max. Funding Amount	Cost-Shared Ratio
\$200,000	\$1,000,000	50%

Stacking of funds from other government programs is allowed up to 100% of project costs provided the programs are not delivered by IAF.

What does min/max. funding amount mean?

Your Total Project Cost (not including GST, in-kind activities, or any other ineligible items) must be equal to or exceed \$400,000. If your Total Project Costs are greater than \$2,000,000 you can still apply but will only be reimbursed a maximum of \$1,000,000.

IMPORTANT: If your project does not meet or exceed the minimum funding amount at the time of reporting/payment, the project is at risk of cancellation (i.e. if the final reimbursement amount is \$199,999, the project may be cancelled).

What's a cost-shared ratio?

The cost-shared ratio is the respective share of (eligible) Total Project Costs contributed by the applicant and the funder. In this case, 50% of the eligible costs would be paid by the applicant with the remaining 50% paid by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (via IAF).

Application Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the activities listed below, applicants to Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program – Stream 1: Producer Projects must also:

- Have completed any required assessments, engineering studies or plans (within or outside of IAF-delivered programs) **prior to applying for funding.**
- Meet all technical, environmental, and regulatory standards and/or requirements, as applicable, e.g., a water licence has been issued/amended; documentation from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship confirming the proposed work is mandatory or recommended, and an authorization has been provided by the Dam Safety Program for the alternation, improvement, or replacement of a dam; approval from Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). If permits are pending/under review but the application is otherwise complete, please refer to [Review and Adjudication](#).

Activity 1: Rehabilitation and upgrades of (regulated and unregulated) agricultural dams and reservoirs

Rehabilitation and upgrades of (regulated and unregulated) agricultural dams and reservoirs to meet regulatory requirements.

- Dams with deficiencies where the dam owner have not been ordered to make repairs or lower the reservoir. Deficiencies are most often identified by the owners' consultant. They will often provide recommendations on how to remediate the dams. The Dam Safety Program in these cases works with the dam owner on a plan to remediate without issuing an order.
- An assessment by the Dam Safety Program staff would be legally required before the work begins and when upgrade is completed.
- Increasing the size of the storage will require an authorization from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

- Construction, materials, machinery/equipment (gates, valves, etc.) and other costs associated with the construction.
- Pumping systems and watering troughs to keep livestock out of the existing reservoir are recommended and are eligible costs, provided the reservoir is deemed to provide a secure source in periods of extended drought. Fencing if installed along with a pumping system is recommended and eligible cost to keep cattle out of the reservoir.
- Other professional services associated with the project supervision.

Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Water distribution system
- Used materials

Regulatory Requirement

- Water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)
- Water licence for the proposed storage volume
- Assessment/approval/authorization from the [Dam Safety Program staff](#) of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Change approval to make changes in and about a stream (if applicable)
- Easement (if applicable)

Pre-Construction Requirement

- Engineering assessment, plan or other consultative services conducted by Qualified Professionals as required by the Dam Safety Program of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (as described in Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program (2024-32) Stream 3, Activity 3 to 6). The plan, as applicable, should include the items listed under eligible costs within this activity.

Activity 2: Improvement, expansion or new construction of dugouts and related storage infrastructure

Improvement, expansion or new construction of dugouts and related storage infrastructure for irrigation water and livestock watering including rangeland.

- Producers on low flow water supplies will often install a dugout to enhance supply by augmenting water supplies during times of shortage.
- Lining of dugouts to improve water holding capacity.
- Installation of pumps and watering troughs to improve livestock watering and protect stream health.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

- Construction, materials, liner, pump, intake, machinery/equipment (e.g., gates, valves, etc.) and associated fittings and controls
- Power supply to farm property line as required
- Solar or wind power supply for remote livestock watering systems
- Planting of trees and snow fencing to facilitate snow collection and melt
- Dugout aeration systems (wind or electric compressors)
- Pumping systems and watering troughs to keep livestock out of the existing dugout are recommended and are eligible costs, provided the dugout is deemed to provide a secure source in periods of extended drought. Fencing, if installed along with a pumping system, is a recommended and eligible cost to keep cattle out of the dugout.
- Other professional services associated with the project supervision

Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Water distribution system
- Used materials
- Dugouts with design specifications that are legally considered as dams according to the [Dam Safety Regulation](#) (DSR)

Regulatory Requirement

- Water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)
- Water licence for the proposed storage volume
- Change approval to make changes in and about a stream (if applicable)
- Easement (if applicable)

Note: To determine if a water licence is required for a dugout, please refer to [Authorization Requirements for Storage and Use of Water in Dugouts](#).



Pre-Construction Requirement

Please refer to [Authorization Requirements for Storage and Use of Water in Dugouts](#), [Guidance on Farm Water Storage](#), [B.C. Agriculture Water Calculator](#), and [B.C. Farm Water Dugouts](#), or contact the [Dam Safety Program staff](#).

For dugouts and other water storage infrastructure with design specifications that are legally not considered as dams according to the [Dam Safety Regulation](#) (DSR): engineering design plan, prepared by a Qualified Professional, that includes, but is not limited to, farm water use requirement, water supply sources and volume, peak flow rate, dugout dimensions (depth, length and width) with berms, regulatory requirements, and the items listed under eligible costs within this activity.

Activity 3: New construction of other water storage infrastructure

New construction of other water storage infrastructure.

- New storage infrastructure will require an authorization from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- Water use will need to be licensed for each purpose.
- New storage infrastructure will require an engineering plan.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

- Construction, materials, machinery/equipment (gates, valves, etc.) and other costs associated with the construction
- Pumping systems and watering troughs to keep livestock out of the existing reservoir are recommended and are eligible costs, provided the reservoir is deemed to provide a secure source in periods of extended drought. Fencing if installed along with a pumping system is recommended and eligible cost to keep cattle out of the reservoir.
- Other professional services associated with the project supervision

Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Water distribution system
- Used materials

Regulatory Requirement

- Water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)
- Water licence for the proposed storage volume
- Assessment/approval/authorization from the [Dam Safety Program staff](#) of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Change approval to make changes in and about a stream (if applicable)
- Easement (if applicable)

Pre-Construction Requirement

Please refer to [Authorization Requirements for Storage and Use of Water in Dugouts](#), [Guidance on Farm Water Storage](#), [B.C. Agriculture Water Calculator](#), and [B.C. Farm Water Dugouts](#), or contact the [Dam Safety Program staff](#).

- For water storage infrastructure with design specifications that are legally considered as dams according to the [Dam Safety Regulation](#) (DSR): engineering assessment, plan or other consultative services conducted by Qualified Professionals as required by the Dam Safety Program of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (as described in Stream 3 Activity 3 to 6). The plan, as applicable, should include the items listed under eligible costs within this activity.
- For water storage infrastructure with design specifications that are legally not considered as dams according to the [Dam Safety Regulation](#) (DSR): engineering assessment or plan conducted by Qualified Professionals. The assessment and plan should include, but not limited to, farm water use requirement, water supply sources and volume, peak flow rate, infrastructure dimensions, regulatory requirements, and the items listed under eligible costs within this activity.

Activity 4: Improvement, expansion or new construction of off-farm conversion of conveyance ditches to pipelines

Improvement, expansion or new construction of off-farm conversion of conveyance ditches to pipelines where savings of 30 to 50% can be achieved.

Water demand will increase with climate change but adding water storage to supplement demand is not always an option. In these cases, the best way to maintain or increase production in water-scarce areas is by using existing water supplies more efficiently to maximize diminishing water supplies and help protect crops from increasingly frequent weather extremes. New delivery systems could also be built to provide better access to water in areas with sufficient supply. In these cases, anticipated warmer and longer growing seasons could lead to an increase in agricultural production with the funding of additional irrigation infrastructure.

Pipelines reduce conveyance losses and can also provide water to the farm under pressure, thus reducing pumping requirements.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

- Materials and construction costs for source development (e.g., surface storage and intake)
- Mainline distribution system including materials and construction costs (trenching, augering under roads, canals or watercourses).
- Electric power line extension, if required for an existing diesel pump or a new pump installation/upgrade to allow water to be brought from the off-farm water supply source to the farm property line. This may include upgrading from a single-phase to a three-phase connection if the pump upgrade requires three-phase.
- Other professional services associated with the project supervision.

Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Membership/share cost for tie-in to an existing pipeline
- Troughs, tanks, hydrants in the yard, livestock pens or barns
- On-farm water distribution systems
- Backflood irrigation works
- Used materials

Regulatory Requirement

- Water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)
- Water licence for the proposed storage volume (if applicable)
- Change approval to make changes in and about a stream (if applicable)
- Easement (if applicable)

Pre-Construction Requirement

Engineering study or design plan by Qualified Professionals to identify technical and construction requirements, e.g., survey of ditch length to be replaced by pipe, diameter of pipeline, location of pumphouse, locations of current and potential service connections, flow measuring devices, river/stream crossings, oil/gas/fibre optics pipeline crossings, and items listed under eligible costs within this activity.

Activity 5: Improvement, expansion or new construction of water delivery systems to the farm gate

Improvement, expansion or new construction of water delivery systems to the farm gate from off-farm storage infrastructure and licensed intakes on streams

This includes expansion of water distribution systems.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

- Materials and construction costs for source development (e.g., surface storage and intake)
- Mainline distribution system including materials and construction costs (trenching, augering under roads, canals, watercourses)
- Electric power line extension if required for an existing diesel pump or a new pump installation/upgrade to allow water to be brought from the off-farm water supply source to the farm property line. This may include upgrading from a single-phase to a three-phase connection if the pump upgrade requires three-phase
- Other professional services associated with the project supervision

Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Membership/share cost for tie-in to an existing pipeline
- Troughs, tanks, hydrants in the yard, livestock pens or barns
- On-farm water distribution systems



- Backflood irrigation works
- Used materials

Regulatory Requirement

- Water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)
- Water licence for the proposed storage volume
- Change approval to make changes in and about a stream (if applicable)
- Easement (if applicable)

Pre-Construction Requirement

Engineering study or design plan by Qualified Professionals to identify technical and construction requirements, e.g., diameter and length of pipeline, location of pumphouse, locations of current and proposed service connections, flow measuring devices, river/stream crossings, oil/gas/fibre optics pipeline crossings, and the items listed under eligible costs within this activity.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Applicants to the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program – Stream 1 can apply through the [IAF Client Portal](#) starting on June 27, 2024. Submissions of applications will begin on July 25, 2024, at 9:00am. Applications will be accepted until August 8, 2024.

Important Dates

June 27, 2024	Applications open (you can begin drafting your application)
July 25, 2024	Submit your application starting at 9AM
August 8, 2024	Applications Close at 4PM
Upon Approval	Project Start
3 years post-approval	Project End (Projects should be completed within 3 years, or before January 15, 2032)
January 15, 2032	Projects Complete



Application Process

Applicants can apply through the [IAF Client Portal](#). The application process will generally consist of:

Create an Account & Organization Registration

If you've (and your organization) applied for IAF-delivered funding in the past year (since January 2023) you already have an account and you're all set! Please ensure your contact details and organization information is up to date.

If you don't yet have an account, do not wait to start this process – it can take up to two business days to validate your organization!

Creating an account and registering your organization is simple:



1. Create a personal profile (name and email)
2. Provide organization information, including:
 - Name
 - Contact details
 - Type of organization
 - BC ID / CRA numbers, or a file number provided and recognized by the provincial government for organizations where BC ID or CRA numbers are not applicable.
 - Primary contact (if this isn't you)
 - And more

Apply for Stream 1: Producer Projects

Starting on June 27, 2024, select *Agriculture Water Infrastructure | Stream 1* from the **Funding Opportunities** section of the [IAF Client Portal](#) and provide:

- Applicant Type (examples: Producer, Local Government, Indigenous Community, etc.)
- Project Name
- Project Summary
- Proposed Start and End Dates
- Select the activities you intend to complete.
- Water problems/issues to be solved and how the project will address them.
- Project location (latitude and longitude)
- Performance measurement information
- Total Project Cost (budget)
- And more

Applicants will be required to provide copies of relevant documents (e.g., quotes, estimates, permits, licensing, assessment report, study, plan, design drawing, map, photo, letter of support, cost-breakdown, cost-benefit analysis, project schedule, project related correspondence) and/or status and copy of applications for any permits pending supplementary materials in support of their application (e.g., budget, water licence, change approval). These documents can be uploaded through the [IAF Client Portal](#) as attachments to the application.

IAF staff are available to answer questions regarding eligible activities, costs and/or the application process. IAF may also contact applicants for additional information or clarification to assess their application. Applicants can contact awp@iafbc.ca with any questions about the program or to receive support in developing their application or book an appointment.

Applicants are encouraged to include only activities they are confident will be completed on time and within budget limits.

Applications for funding should be complete at the time of submission (including any required permitting). If any required documentation is not submitted with the application, it will be returned to the applicant requesting missing information and can slow down funding decision timelines.



Have a question?

If you have any questions about your application, program eligibility, required documents, etc., IAF encourages you to reach out to awp@iafbc.ca. You can also book a 10-minute appointment (completed by phone) with an IAF staff member between June 27 and July 25. Prior to booking an appointment, you must start your draft application and provide the ID number (similar to AWP-202425-0#####). This gives you and the IAF staff member a specific application to reference and provide support for within the 10-minute timeframe. Applicants are limited to one booked appointment at this time.

Review and Adjudication

Upon receipt of a submitted application, projects are screened by the IAF Team. This review entails:

- Organization / applicant eligibility check.
- Initial review of application completeness including required permits/documents identified for each project activity in this guide.
- A detailed project / budget eligibility check.
- Confirmation of alignment with program eligibility.

If permits are pending/under review but the application is otherwise complete, IAF will proceed with adjudication, however, any approval will be conditional until all required documentation is received. Conditional offers/approvals will not receive contracts or be able to incur expenses and/or begin activities in their application until their project has met the conditions of approval.

Upon successful completion of the initial review, projects will be sent to a Technical Review Committee for secondary review and endorsement. This review entails:

- Secondary review of application completeness and confirm project meets all technical, environmental, regulatory standards and/or requirements (as applicable)
- Technical review of project / budget including but not limited to
 - Sufficiency of resources/capacity to achieve in timeframe permitted.
 - Project management and technical/human resources.
 - Highlight technical/permitting considerations needing further review or approval (if applicable).
- Prioritization, based on the pre-set priorities and evaluation criteria for the application intake as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, [find the prioritization criteria on the program's website here.](#)

During the review process, if the IAF or Technical Review Committee determines a further technical review is required for the project, then the entire project, or specific components of a project, may undergo additional review. This review is performed by a technical expert/specialist with expertise in the field most applicable to the project in question. The intent of the review is to:



- Clarify, confirm, or provide feedback on the proposed activities, methodology or budget item(s) that may be in question.
- Address technical, legal, or permitting questions.
- Validate claims of sector benefit.
- Confirm/clarify prioritization (if applicable).

Once identified, members of the IAF Team may work in consultation with funding partners to confirm the need for additional review and identify an appropriate specialist to conduct the review.

IAF will work to provide funding decisions within 10-12 weeks of receipt of the completed application submission. Please note, IAF will act in a timely manner to provide funding decisions but cannot determine how long the Technical Review Committee or subsequent technical reviews will take to complete.

Applicants will be notified by email of funding decisions via the [IAF Client Portal](#). Applications that meet program eligibility requirements will be prioritized based on the pre-set priorities and evaluation criteria for the application intake as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, [find the prioritization criteria on the program's website here](#).

Applications that are not successful will not be brought forward for any future application intakes and should another intake occur, applicants will need to re-apply for future consideration. However, upon request, applicants who are not successful in their funding application will be provided information on areas where future applications could be strengthened based on their project scoring and any considerations/suggestions noted in review.

All adjudication decisions are final.

Application can view the status of their application on the [IAF Client Portal](#) at any time.

Project Length

Projects receiving funding through Stream 1 of the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program can begin as of approval and should be completed within three years of approval. Projects may carry over between fiscal years.



NOTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

Funding Notifications and Contracts

If the project is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions via email and the [IAF Client Portal](#). The applicant then enters into an agreement with IAF which outlines the obligations of each party.

Funding is application and project-specific and must be used for the approved project and related expenses. Funds are non-transferable.

Project activities requiring financial resources cannot commence until the contribution agreement has been signed by both the applicant and IAF.

Projects receiving funding through Stream 1: Producer Projects of the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program can begin as of approval and must be completed within three years or before January 15, 2032, whichever is first. Projects may carry over between fiscal years.

Funding limits are set per stream per project. Applicants can apply to multiple streams; however, they will need to apply for each stream separately and can only have a single Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program (2024-2032) project underway at once. There is no lifetime maximum funding limit per applicant.

If the project is not approved, the applicant will receive a written response from IAF via email and the [IAF Client Portal](#).

Funding Details

An initial payment (up to 50%) may be made by IAF upon signing of a contribution agreement, however IAF may reduce this advance based on project/applicant risk. Interim and final payments will not be initiated by IAF until reporting requirements are satisfactorily met by the client. These requirements may include one or more progress reports or a single final report at the end of a project, based on the amount of funding approved, length of project, and project complexity/risk.

Interim and final payments will be made based on actual expenses reported and payments will be made in arrears. All projects will require a final report and a minimum of 20% of approved funding will be retained by IAF, pending submission of final reporting.



Funding Acknowledgements

This program is funded by the Government of BC, as such acknowledgement of funding is required when publicly communicating about a project and/or funding. To ensure appropriate acknowledgement, all communications and marketing materials, including public announcements or social media posts, must be pre-approved by the IAF Communications Team. Materials can be submitted via the [IAF Client Portal](#).

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants must complete a final report and audit (if applicable) prior to receiving final payment from the program and may be required to submit interim activity and financial reporting. All required reports must be filled out and submitted via the [IAF Client Portal](#) to be considered for funding reimbursement. It is important reports are submitted on time and with all required information. Please retain all invoices and receipts, you may be asked to submit some or all receipt/invoices following a review of your report(s) by the IAF Team. Expenses will be reimbursed based on audited receipts, financial report, and the approved project budget. All reporting will be completed via the [IAF Client Portal](#).

Changes to Contracted Projects

If you are not able to complete your project according to the approved workplan, please inform the IAF Team as soon as possible using the [IAF Client Portal](#).