



Rural Continuing Medical Education (RCME) Community Program

Specialist, Sub-specialty, Indigenous and Funding for Innovation (SPIFI) Policy

SPIFI funding provides groups of rural physicians up to \$10,000/fiscal year to encourage and assist with the expenses associated in designing, planning and developing innovative education opportunities.

The RCME Community Program makes funding available to eligible RSA communities for community RCME planning, development and delivery. The design phase for the program identified that specialists, family physicians with sub-specialties, and Indigenous communities require additional assistance and supports to:

- Focus on RCME that cannot be addressed locally due to the lack of other relevant learners;
- Increase the capacity to deliver health care services to indigenous communities, through collective learning activities; and
- Support innovative delivery of, and approaches to community RCME.

SPIFI is an additional source of funding (over and above individual RCME and community RCME allocations) to enable groups of physicians to create and participate in networks that are not based on geography. The funding is available to design, plan, develop and take part in innovative education opportunities that are not available in their home community or communities.

For the purpose of this policy, groups of physicians will be defined as 4-6 plus physicians or 2 or more communities of physicians coming together to make application. Applications will not be considered from individual physicians.

Criteria:

1. Funds are available to groups of physicians who are living and practicing in an eligible RSA community. Exceptions where rural communities are reliant on the services provided by physicians outside of rural will be reviewed on an exceptional basis.
2. Funds are available to groups of physicians to involve Indigenous communities in activities that improve the capacity of health care providers to respond to local health care needs.

3. Funds are available to groups of physicians seeking to implement community RCME activities that are innovative in communities.
4. Funds are available to groups of physicians seeking to bring other relevant learners together to address their collective learning needs.
5. Activities must be consistent with the goal of addressing the communities' RCME needs in rural and isolated communities.
6. Groups of physicians may apply to RCCbc for funding up to \$10,000/fiscal year. Expenditures must be consistent with the criteria as set out in the RCME Community Program.
7. Efforts should be made to use Individual RCME, Community RCME and/or REAP funding to assist with expenses for the activity before accessing SPIFI funding.

Application:

The following is required in advance to the activity in order to be considered for funding:

- a. Application form;
- b. Participant list including specialties and communities involved; and
- c. Summary of cost/budget and other sources of funding supporting the activity.

The Provincial Manager, RCME Community and Provincial RCME Coordinators are available to support physician groups through the application process.

Administration:

1. Applications are reviewed and approved based on the above policy by the Provincial Manager, RCME Community Program; Executive Director, Operations; and Physician Lead, Community RCME, RCCbc.
2. All applications will be tracked and reported to the JSC RCME Sub Committee and the SPIFI Committee for reference, information and evaluation.
3. Successful applicants will be asked to identify the recipient that will administer the funds (eg. Division of Family Practice, health authority, medical corporation, etc). The RCCbc is also available to manage and hold funds on behalf of physician groups. A T4A will be issued if the funding is received by an individual.
4. A report must be submitted by the recipient that receives the funding no later than 30 days after the event/activity or the end of each year. A reporting template will be provided.