What We Heard

Summary

Between November of 2023 and January of 2024, the WSCC reached out to 35 safety training organizations to collect feedback on draft components of a proposed funding program they would be eligible to apply for.

The purpose of engaging potential users of the proposed program was to see if the proposed application process was feasible and accessible as presented, and what the WSCC could do to make the process as fair, clear, and easy as possible. This engagement built on previous, broader engagements informed development of the funding program up to this point.

Of the 35 organizations that were invited to provide feedback, 13 are located in the Northwest Territories, 10 in Nunavut, and 12 are outside of the territories. In total, 21 individuals from 18 different organizations responded. Participants were offered three ways to provide feedback: one-on-one discussions, emails, and virtual group sessions.

Results

Overall, the feedback from participants confirms that proposed program components meet the expectations and needs of the safety training providers we spoke with. The majority of respondents (**79%**) said they were likely to apply to the program as proposed.

- All (**100%**) participants agreed that the structure is consistent with other funding programs, and that the WSCC can improve processes by:
  - Clearly explaining eligibility requirements for all funding options (single and multi-year),
  - Providing clear instructions and application templates, alongside reasonable deadlines, and;
  - Covering a portion of administrative costs, and making “respectful” requests for financial statements.

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- **61%** of participants provided feedback on ways to improve program accessibility, such as:
  - Advertising the deadline ahead of the application period and making sure interested parties have access to the evaluation matrix that the WSCC will use to screen applications,
  - Sharing information on needed OHS training, and the communities where these services are needed,
  - Providing support for the application and reporting processes including considering accepting audio applications and reports, and
  - Connecting organizations to explore partnerships for application and delivery.
- Some stakeholders (**27%**) shared a preference for funding to be provided only to Northwest Territories and Nunavut-based organizations, and to those who hire northern instructors, or instructors with northern experience.

The WSCC sincerely thanks all participants for their time and providing feedback. The results of this engagement will greatly help to fine-tune this program, and ultimately increase availability of and accessibility to occupational health and safety knowledge in communities across the north.