

Briefing Note

For Decision

NOTE ID: BN001

March 17, 2025

MEMO TO: The Deputy Minister

SUBJECT: Approval of a \$55,000 Grant to the Nexus Community Institute

1. SUMMARY

This briefing note recommends the approval of a \$55,000 grant to the Nexus Community Institute to support the continuation and expansion of its community development programs in southern Ottawa. The Institute's initiatives have been in operation for eight years and are recognized for their positive impact on family settlement, women's empowerment, and rural economic development. The grant aligns with federal priorities on community resilience and inclusive economic participation in smaller and rural communities.

3. BACKGROUND

The Nexus Community Institute is a not-for-profit organization delivering community development services in southern Ottawa. Its work focuses on strengthening community capacity, promoting economic opportunities, and improving social inclusion. Over the past eight years, the Institute has implemented a series of programs that support family settlement in smaller communities, provide women with resources and connectivity opportunities, and conduct community-based research aimed at enhancing rural and small-town capacity. Feedback from beneficiaries and community stakeholders has consistently indicated that these programs are effective and well-received.

The current grant application for \$55,000 seeks funding to sustain and expand these initiatives. Specifically, the funds will enable the Institute to enhance its programming for women's empowerment, increase outreach to new families relocating to the region, and conduct additional research to inform evidence-based community planning and development.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

The requested funding aligns with federal objectives related to rural development, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth. The Nexus Community Institute has a demonstrated track record in delivering successful programming with measurable outcomes. Additionally, the Institute

leverages partnerships with local governments and community organizations, increasing the potential for sustained impact beyond the life of this funding cycle.

There is low financial risk associated with this grant, as the Institute has consistently met past reporting and accountability requirements. Continued investment in these programs is expected to contribute to broader government goals related to rural community sustainability and family well-being.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Nexus Community Institute's programming continues to demonstrate relevance and effectiveness in advancing rural community development and social inclusion. The proposed grant would sustain and enhance these contributions, supporting federal policy objectives.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Deputy Minister approve the \$55,000 grant to the Nexus Community Institute to support its ongoing community development initiatives in southern Ottawa.