STRENGHENING THE ANTI-POVERTY AND NGO STABILIZATION FUNDS

WHAT WE HEARD

RENFORCER LE FONDS ANTI-PAUVRETÉ ET LE FONDS DE STABILISATION DES ONG

RAPPORT SUR CE QUE NOUS AVONS ENTENDU

Le present document contient la traduction française du sommaire et du message de la ministre.

Government of Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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_____

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French
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Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
Cree
_____

Tłı̨chǫ yatı k'è̀è̀. Dı wegodı newǫ dè, gots'o gonede.
Tłı̨chǫ
_____

Ɂerıhtł'ís Dëne Sųłıné yatı t'a huts'elkër xa beyáyatı theɂą ɂat'e, nuwe ts'ën yółtı.
Chipewyan
_____

Edı gondı dehgáh got'ı̨e zhatıé k'ę́ę́ edatł'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahłı́.
South Slavey
_____

K'áhshó got'ı̨ne xǝdǝ k'é hederı ɂedı̨htl'é yerınıwę nídé dúle.
North Slavey
_____

Jii gwandak izhii ginjìk vat'atr'ijąhch'uu zhit yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohkhìi.
Gwich'in
_____

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.
Inuvialuktun
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ᑖᑦᓱᒥᓇ ᑎᑎᕐᖃᐃᑦ ᐱᔪᒪᒍᕕᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᖅᓯᒪᓗᑎᒃ, ᐅᕙᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐅᖄᓚᕕᒋᐊᖁᑎᑦ.
Inuktitut
_____

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun
_____

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs is committed to strengthening NGO, Indigenous Government and Indigenous organization anti-poverty and stabilization work through a whole-of-government approach. To support this work, the department undertook a review of the Anti-Poverty Fund and the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund. A component of the review was engagement with key partners through participation in an online survey. The review findings will help ensure programming aligns with mandate commitments and fiscal sustainability goals while maintaining or enhancing critical services.

The What We Heard Report presents information gathered through the survey.

METHODOLOGY

An online survey was used to gather information from key partners. The survey was comprised of both closed- and open-ended questions that focused on topics such as: eligibility requirements, administrative processes, funding amounts, priority populations and services, and areas requiring improvement. The survey was open from June 10 to July 11, 2025.

A total of 78 respondents participated, with 56 representing NGOs and 22 representing Indigenous Governments and Indigenous organizations. The majority of respondents have applied for funding through the Anti-Poverty Fund (74%) and/or the NGO Stabilization Fund (55%).

PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

Anti-Poverty Fund: The Anti-Poverty Fund provides funding for anti-poverty initiatives in the Northwest Territories that show concrete action towards reducing poverty. The Anti-Poverty fund supports projects: providing a tangible service or support at the community level; demonstrating the potential to improve social outcomes for residents in a tangible and measurable fashion; proposing to develop or implement a new approach to program or service delivery at the community level; and demonstrating the ability to develop meaningful partnerships with other organizations and support an integrated approach in responding to multiple social issues.

NGO Stabilization Fund: The NGO Stabilization Fund helps stabilize or develop the capacity of NGOs who deliver essential GNWT funded programs or services to NWT

residents. The funds cover items including general management, governance, organizational development, and extraordinary operations costs.

WHAT WE HEARD

Anti-Poverty Fund

Key survey findings included:

- The majority of Anti-Poverty Fund applicants had projects that aligned with the Sustainable Communities (76%) and Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential (67%) pillars.

- 62% of respondents who applied, reported receiving funding.

- There has been an increasing trend in the number of projects funding since its inception, with three (3) projects funded in 2014/15 and 19 projects funded in 2025/26.

- The majority of respondents (69%) are very satisfied or satisfied with the organizations eligible for funding. While recognizing the importance of partnerships with Indigenous Governments or community governing authorities, respondents commented that establishing and maintaining relationships is time consuming and challenging. Some respondents felt that the selection of organizations for funding did not always demonstrate the practices of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- The majority of respondents (77%) are very satisfied or satisfied with the projects eligible for the Anti-Poverty Fund. Some respondents felt that existing projects with demonstratable success should be prioritized for selection while others felt longer-term projects that required more time to reveal intended outcomes and impacts should be highlighted. Some respondents also indicated that projects focused on underrepresented and underserved populations (e.g., racialized groups, Elders/seniors, homeless men, and skills development) should be the primary focus.

- While the majority of respondents (71%) are very satisfied or satisfied with the eligibility exceptions, some questioned the exclusion of research as a fundable activity since research is key to properly understanding existing issues and identifying new problems.

- Respondents satisfaction with prioritization of competing projects – based on partnerships, integrated case management, and sustainability - varied, with 57% being very satisfied or satisfied and 21% being very dissatisfied or dissatisfied. Respondents commented on: the challenge of establishing partnerships in small communities with limited partner options; the uncertainty regarding the meaning of integrated case management and difficulty finding someone in the community with the skill set to carry this out; and that sustainability was an

unrealistic criteria for most NGOs that are struggling with the fragmented approach to funding projects.

- Respondent satisfaction levels with the Anti-Poverty Fund administrative processes and requirements varied with many being very satisfied or satisfied with the financial statement submissions (71%) and reporting requirements (61%) while a number reported being very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the requirement for annual applications for multi-year projects (29%) and the timeliness of funding disbursements (25%). Additionally, respondents commented that there was a need for more transparency surrounding the external advisory committee applicant selection process and more support needed from GNWT staff to complete the applications.

- 41% of respondents are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the funding amounts. Some commented on the fact that while they had been funded previously, they did not receive funds in 2025/26.

NGO Stabilization Fund

Key survey findings included:

- Organizations applied for funds across all four areas: management costs; governance costs; organizational development costs; and extraordinary general operation costs.

- 63% of respondent organizations who applied, reported receiving funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund.

- There has been an increasing trend in the number of projects funding since its inception, with no projects funded in 2009/10 to 14 projects funded in 2025/26.

- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) are either very satisfied or satisfied with the NGO Stabilization Fund screening criteria. That being said, a number of respondents questioned the criteria requiring NGOs to be delivering critical GNWT funded services and to be receiving funds from the GNWT stating that there are many organizations delivering essential services to NWT residents that do not meet one or both of those criteria. Respondents also noted that the term 'critical services' needed to be clarified.

- Respondents' satisfaction with prioritization of competing projects was mixed, with high rates of satisfaction for the criteria that focused on management and governance and development costs (77%) and critical programs and services (70%). There were lower rates of satisfaction for the collaboration (56%) and new projects (60%) criteria. More generally, respondents questioned why they had received no funding when they met one or more of the prioritization criteria.

- Respondent satisfaction levels with the NGO Stabilization Fund administrative processes and requirements varied with many being very satisfied or satisfied with the reporting requirements (66%) and the submission of financial statements (65%) while a number reported being very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the requirement for annual applications for multi-year projects (29%). Similar to the Anti-Poverty Fund, respondents commented that there was a need for more transparency surrounding the applicant selection process and more support needed from GNWT staff to clarify the policy and complete the applications.

Moving Forward

Key survey findings included:

- Respondents indicated that there are many different populations in the NWT that should be prioritized for future funding. The populations identified most frequently included: Indigenous Peoples (75%); people living with low or no income (64%); people experiencing food insecurity (64%); people experiencing precarious housing/people experiencing homelessness (56%); and people living with mental health conditions (55%).

- Respondents indicated that many different services and supports are critical for partners to deliver. When asked to select the top five (5), respondents listed: mental health and wellbeing (77%); housing and homelessness (73%); food security (71%); child and family health and wellness (52%); and substance use (43%).

- When asked to what extent changes to specific administrative processes and requirements would reduce the burden on organizations, 68% of respondents reported that multi-year funding would greatly reduce the burden and improve predictability, staff retention and enable better planning. Access to lists of available funding (59%) and simplified application forms (57%) were also identified as substantially decreasing the workload. There were concerns that a single application form/single funding program would be problematic because of differing program mandates and priorities.

- Some respondents recommended that GNWT institute a 'one stop shop' for government funding and that departments pool similar funds to make it easier for organizations to access larger pots of money.

NEXT STEPS

The feedback gathered from partners and presented in this report, along with an analysis of historical data related to applications and administration and oversight of the programs will used to identify a more responsive approach to implementing these programs.

SOMMAIRE

RENFORCER LE FONDS ANTI-PAUVRETÉ ET LE FONDS DE STABILISATION DES ONG

CE QUE NOUS AVONS ENTENDU

SOMMAIRE

INTRODUCTION

Le ministère de l'Exécutif et des Affaires autochtones s'est engagé à renforcer la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour la stabilisation menée par les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) et les gouvernements et organisations autochtones en déployant une stratégie pangouvernementale. Dans ce contexte, il a entrepris un examen du Fonds anti-pauvreté et du Fonds de stabilisation des ONG. Cet examen passait notamment par la participation des partenaires clés, qui ont répondu à un sondage en ligne. Les résultats aideront à harmoniser les programmes avec les engagements prévus au mandat et avec les objectifs de viabilité budgétaire tout en maintenant ou en améliorant les services essentiels.

Ce rapport *Ce que nous avons entendu* présente l'information tirée du sondage.

MÉTHODOLOGIE

Nous avons recueilli de l'information auprès des partenaires clés à l'aide d'un sondage en ligne qui contenait des questions ouvertes et fermées sur des sujets comme : les exigences d'admissibilité, les processus administratifs, les montants de financement, les populations et services prioritaires et les points à améliorer. Le sondage s'est déroulé du 10 juin au 11 juillet 2025.

Au total, 78 répondants y ont participé, dont 56 représentants d'ONG et 22 représentants de gouvernements et d'organisations autochtones. La plupart d'entre eux avaient demandé du financement au Fonds anti-pauvreté (74 %) ou au Fonds de stabilisation des ONG (55 %).

RÉSUMÉ DES PROGRAMMES

Fonds anti-pauvreté – Ce fonds finance des initiatives concrètes de lutte contre la pauvreté aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, à savoir des projets qui : offrent des services ou un soutien concrets dans une collectivité; démontrent un potentiel d'améliorations sociales concrètes et mesurables pour les résidents; prévoient la création ou la mise en place d'une nouvelle façon d'offrir un programme ou un service dans une collectivité; démontrent la capacité d'établir des partenariats fructueux avec d'autres organisations et de déployer une stratégie intégrée pour s'attaquer à plusieurs problèmes sociaux.

Fonds de stabilisation des ONG – Ce fonds aide à stabiliser ou à développer les ressources des ONG qui assurent la prestation de programmes ou de services essentiels financés par le GTNO aux Ténois. Il couvre notamment la gestion générale, la gouvernance, le développement organisationnel et les coûts de fonctionnement exceptionnels.

CE QUE NOUS AVONS ENTENDU

Fonds anti-pauvreté

Voici les principaux résultats du sondage :

- La plupart des auteurs d'une demande au Fonds anti-pauvreté avaient un projet s'inscrivant dans le pilier « Entretenir des collectivités durables » (76 %) ou le pilier « Favoriser un mode de vie sain et le développement du potentiel ténois » (67 %).

- Un total de 62 % des répondants ayant fait une demande ont reçu des fonds.

- Le nombre de projets financés depuis la création du Fonds est passé de trois en 2014-2015 à dix-neuf en 2025-2026.

- La plupart des répondants (69 %) se disent très satisfaits ou satisfaits des organisations admissibles au financement. Tout en reconnaissant l'importance des partenariats avec les gouvernements autochtones ou les autorités des collectivités, les répondants ont fait observer qu'établir et cultiver des relations demande beaucoup de temps et d'efforts. Certains estimaient que la sélection des organisations à financer ne tenait pas toujours compte des pratiques d'équité, de diversité et d'inclusion.

- La majorité des répondants (77 %) se disent très satisfaits ou satisfaits des projets admissibles au fonds. Certains jugent que les projets déjà en place qui ont connu un succès manifeste devraient être sélectionnés en priorité, mais d'autres estiment qu'il faudrait mettre en relief les projets à long terme qui demandent plus de temps avant que les

résultats et effets attendus se fassent sentir. D'autres encore sont d'avis que la priorité devrait aller aux projets ciblant des populations sous-représentées et mal desservies (groupes racisés, aînés et personnes âgées, hommes sans-abri, développement des compétences, etc.).

- La plupart des répondants (71 %) sont très satisfaits ou satisfaits des exceptions aux critères d'admissibilité, mais certains ont émis des doutes sur l'exclusion de la recherche comme activité finançable, celle-ci étant essentielle à la bonne compréhension des enjeux et au repérage des problèmes émergents.

- La satisfaction des répondants varie quant au classement prioritaire des projets, d'après les partenariats, la gestion de cas intégrée et la viabilité : 57 % se disent très satisfaits ou satisfaits, mais 21 % se déclarent très insatisfaits ou insatisfaits. Leurs commentaires concernaient : la difficulté d'établir des partenariats dans les petites collectivités où il y a peu d'options; la définition peu claire de la gestion de cas intégrée et la difficulté de trouver quelqu'un dans la collectivité ayant les compétences nécessaires pour assurer cette gestion; et le critère de la durabilité qui est irréaliste pour la plupart des ONG qui ont de la difficulté avec la méthode de financement fragmentée.

- Le degré de satisfaction quant aux exigences et aux processus administratifs était variable : beaucoup se disent très satisfaits ou satisfaits du processus de soumission des états financiers (71 %) et des obligations de déclaration (61 %), mais certains sont très insatisfaits ou insatisfaits de l'exigence de renouveler les demandes chaque année dans le cas des projets pluriannuels (29 %) et de la rapidité des versements du financement (25 %). D'autres encore ont fait observer que le comité consultatif externe devait faire preuve de plus de transparence dans le processus de sélection des candidats, et que le personnel du GTNO devrait faire plus pour aider à remplir les demandes.

- 41 % des répondants sont très insatisfaits ou insatisfaits des montants de financement. Certains ont commenté le fait qu'ils n'avaient rien reçu en 2025-2026, bien qu'ils aient obtenu un financement antérieurement.

Fonds de stabilisation des ONG

Voici les principaux résultats du sondage :

- Des demandes ont été soumises dans les quatre secteurs : coûts de gestion, coûts de gouvernance, coûts de développement organisationnel et coûts de fonctionnement exceptionnels.

- Parmi les organisations répondantes ayant fait une demande, 63 % ont dit avoir reçu du financement du Fonds de stabilisation des ONG.

- On note une hausse du nombre de projets financés depuis la création du Fonds, qui est passé de 0, en 2009-2010, à 14, en 2025-2026.

- Les deux tiers des répondants (66 %) se disent très satisfaits ou satisfaits des critères de sélection du fonds. Cela dit, certains ont émis des réserves concernant les critères voulant que les ONG fournissent des services essentiels financés par le GTNO et reçoive des fonds du GTNO, soulignant le fait que beaucoup d'organismes fournissant des services essentiels aux Ténois ne répondent pas à l'un ou aux deux critères. Les répondants ont aussi souligné qu'il y aurait lieu de mieux expliquer le terme « services essentiels ».

- La satisfaction des répondants quant au classement prioritaire des projets varie : le taux est élevé pour les critères liés aux coûts de gestion, de gouvernance et de développement (77 %) et pour ceux liés aux programmes et services essentiels (70 %). On est moins satisfait quant aux critères concernant la collaboration (56 %) et les nouveaux projets (60 %). De manière plus générale, des répondants se demandaient pourquoi ils n'avaient reçu aucun financement quand ils répondaient à un ou plusieurs des critères de classement prioritaire.

- Relativement aux exigences et aux processus administratifs du Fonds de stabilisation des ONG, la satisfaction variait également. Bien que de nombreux répondants soient très satisfaits ou satisfaits des obligations de déclaration (66 %) et de celles concernant la soumission des états financiers (65 %), certains se disent très insatisfaits ou insatisfaits de l'exigence de renouveler les demandes chaque année dans le cas des projets pluriannuels (29 %). Comme dans le cas du Fonds anti-pauvreté, certains ont fait observer qu'il fallait plus de transparence dans le processus de sélection des candidats, et que le personnel du GTNO devrait faire plus pour expliquer la politique et aider à remplir les demandes.

Prochaines étapes

Voici les principaux résultats du sondage :

- Les répondants ont fait observer que certaines populations des TNO devraient être privilégiées pour le financement à venir. Les populations les plus souvent mentionnées : peuples autochtones (75 %), personnes à faible ou sans revenu (64 %), personnes dans l'insécurité alimentaire (64 %), personnes en logement précaire ou sans-abri (56 %), personnes ayant des problèmes de santé mentale (55 %).

- Les répondants ont signalé des services et des aides que les partenaires devraient absolument offrir. Invités à sélectionner les cinq plus importants, ils ont mentionné : la santé mentale et le mieux-être (77 %), le logement et la lutte contre le sans-abrisme (73 %), la sécurité alimentaire (71 %), la santé et le mieux-être de l'enfance et de la famille (52 %), et la lutte contre la toxicomanie (43 %).

- Interrogés au sujet des changements à faire dans les processus et exigences administratifs pour alléger le fardeau des organismes, 68 % des répondants ont dit qu'un financement

pluriannuel réduirait grandement ce fardeau et améliorerait la prévisibilité, le maintien de l'effectif et la planification. Les répondants ont également mentionné l'accès aux listes des fonds offerts (59 %) et la simplification des formulaires de demande (57 %) comme moyens d'alléger considérablement le travail. On a toutefois signalé qu'un formulaire de demande unique ou un seul programme de financement seraient problématiques en raison des différentes visées et priorités des programmes.

▪ Certains répondants ont recommandé que le GTNO crée un « guichet unique » pour le financement de l'État et que les ministères mettent en commun les fonds similaires pour faciliter l'accès à des montants plus importants.

PROCHAINES ÉTAPES

Les commentaires recueillis auprès des partenaires et exposés dans le présent rapport, avec une analyse des données antérieures ayant trait aux demandes, à l'administration et à la surveillance des programmes serviront à définir des méthodes mieux adaptées pour la mise en œuvre de ces programmes.

INTRODUCTION

The 2023-2024 transition of the Anti-Poverty file from the Department of Health and Social Services and the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to the Department of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA) presented an opportunity for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to strengthen NGO, Indigenous Government and Indigenous organization anti-poverty and stabilization work through a whole-of-government approach. This will be based on direct input from key partners and will help ensure programming aligns with mandate commitments and fiscal sustainability goals while maintaining or enhancing critical services.

To help inform this work a comprehensive review of the Anti-Poverty Fund and the NGO Stabilization Fund was undertaken. The review intends to understand how to facilitate more effective delivery of anti-poverty and stabilization initiatives, including:

- Stronger focus on critical services delivered by NGOs through refined eligibility requirements

- Streamlined funding opportunities

- Reduced administrative burden

To support the review, EIA engaged with key partners through participation in an online survey. Partners were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts and insights on the the Anti-Poverty and NGO Stabilization Funds and to make suggestions for moving forward.

The What We Heard Report presents the information gathered through the survey. The Report, along with an analysis of historical data related to applications and administration and oversight of the programs will used to identify a more responsive approach to implementing these programs.

METHODOLOGY

An online survey, hosted on Survey Monkey, was used to gather information from key partners. Partners were invited by EIA to take part in the survey. A follow-up email, with the survey link, was sent to the partners by the contractor supporting the administration of the survey. To enhance response rates, weekly reminders were sent by the contractor. Midway through the survey period, EIA also reached out directly to the partners to encourage their participation.

The survey was comprised of both closed- and open-ended questions that focused on topics such as: eligibility requirements, administrative processes, funding amounts, priority populations and services, and areas requiring improvement. The open-ended questions provided respondents with the opportunity to provide more in-depth information on the topics being queried.

The survey was open from June 10 to July 11, 2025. A total of 78 respondents participated (with a response rate of 50%).

RESPONDENT OVERVIEW

Partner Type

Figure 1 shows that survey respondents were comprised of NGOs (72%; n=56), Indigenous Governments and Organizations (28%; n=22).
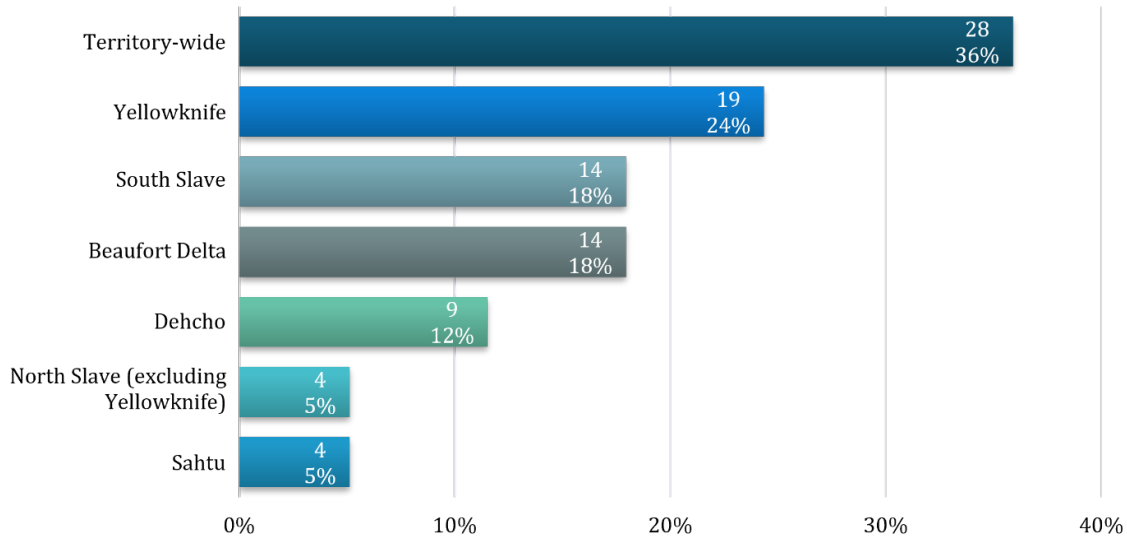
Figure 1: Overview of survey respondent organizations by partner group (Total number of respondents = 78).
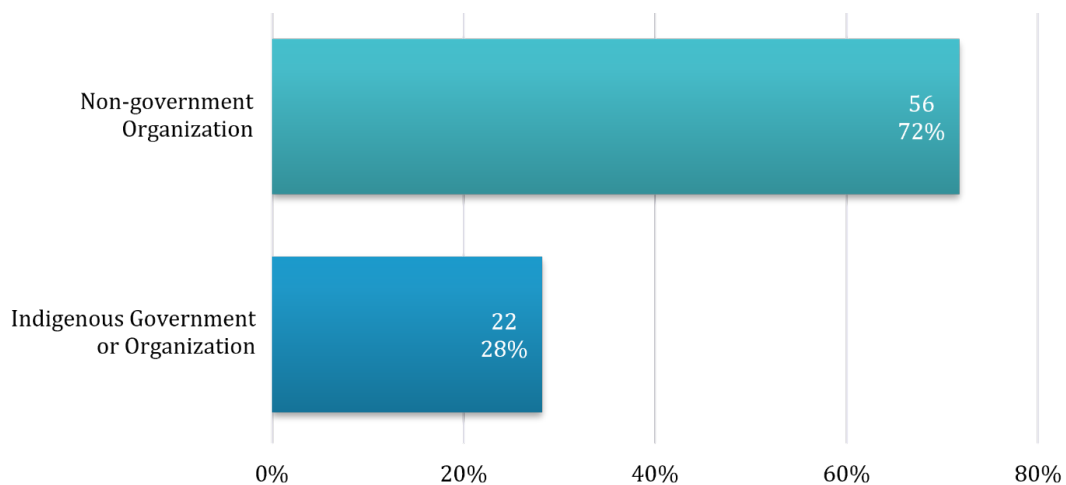
Region Served

Figure 2 shows that the majority of respondents provide services across the territory (36%; n=28) and in Yellowknife (24%; n=19)
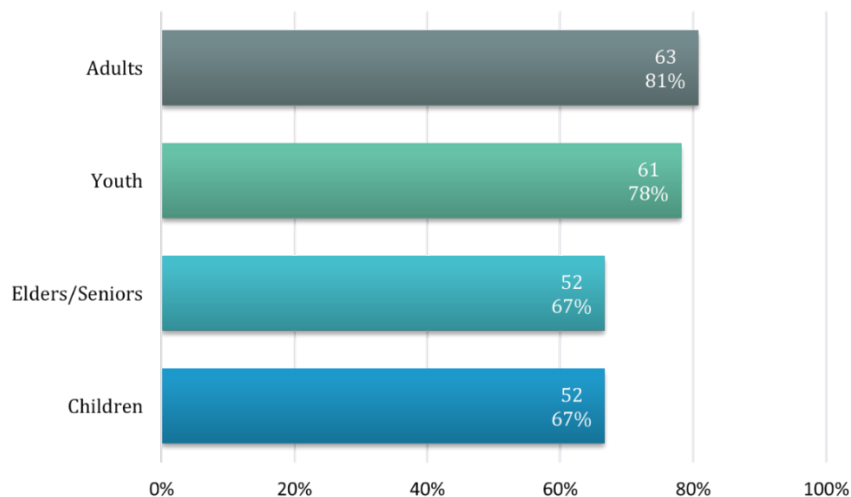
Figure 2: Overview of survey respondent organizations by region (Total number of respondents = 78).

Age Groups Served

Respondents were asked to identify all of the age groups their organizations serve (i.e., select all that apply). Figure 3 shows that respondents provide programs and services across all priority age groups.

Figure 3: Overview of priority age groups served by survey respondent organizations (Total number of respondents = 78).

Populations Served

Respondents were asked to identify all of the populations their organizations serve (i.e., select all that apply). Table 1 reveals that respondents serve a wide range of populations in the NWT. 'Other' populations identified included: all populations listed; entire NWT population; children; students; and seniors.

Table 1: Overview of populations served by survey respondent organizations (Total number of respondents = 78).

Population	Percent	Number
Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Inuit and Inuvialuit, Métis	83%	65
Women	68%	53
People living with low or no income	65%	51
Men	62%	48
People experiencing food insecurity	60%	47
Two-spirit	58%	45
People living with mental health conditions	55%	43
People living with substance use disorders	54%	42
Single parent/caretaker households	54%	42
People living with disabilities	53%	41
People of Colour	51%	40
Non-binary	50%	39
People who have contact with justice systems	50%	39
Youth and people who have transitioned out of foster care systems	50%	39
People living in overcrowded households	50%	39
People experiencing precarious houselessness and people experiencing houselessness	47%	37
People with lived experience in the criminal justice system	47%	37
Black people	45%	35
Newcomers and new to Canada	42%	33
Victims and survivors of intimate partner/family violence	42%	33
People living with chronic health conditions	38%	30

Programs and Services Provided

Respondents were asked to identify all of the programs and services their organizations provide (i.e., select all that apply). Table 2 shows that respondents offer a wide range of programs and services. 'Other' programs and services identified included: professional development; governance and leadership; media information; recruitment and settlement; family violence; and affordable home ownership.

Table 2: Overview of programs and services provided by survey respondent organizations (Total umber of respondents = 78).

Type of Programs and Services	Percent	Number
Community wellness	58%	45
Employment and skill development	50%	39
Food security	47%	37
Recreation, sports, and active living	46%	36
Mental health and wellbeing	41%	32
Education and literacy	38%	30
Arts and culture	36%	28
Child and family health and wellness	31%	24
Housing and homelessness	27%	21
Service integration/case management support	24%	19
Substance use	23%	18
Environment and/or climate	19%	15
Early learning and childcare	18%	14
Justice and legal services	17%	13

Funding Programs

Figure 4 shows that the majority of respondents have applied for funding from the Anti-Poverty Fund (74%; n=58) and/or the NGO Stabilization Fund (55%; n=43). Of those who applied, 39% (n=31) applied for funding from both programs. Only 11% of survey respondents have never applied for funds from either of these two programs.

Figure 4: Overview of funding programs applied to by survey respondent organizations (Total number of respondents = 78).
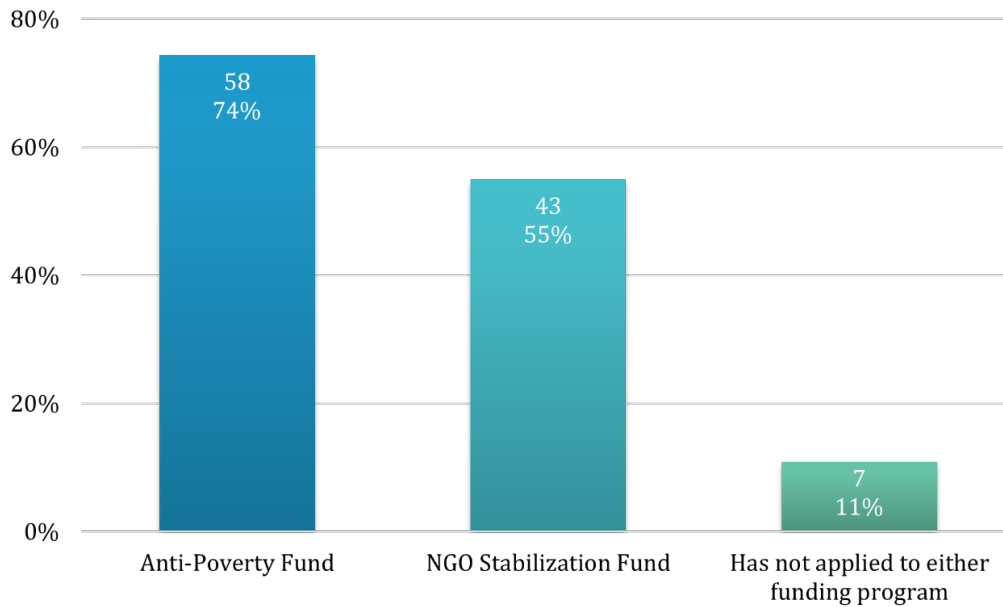
RESULTS

This section of the report presents What We Heard from the partners who participated in the survey. The information is organized into the following sections:

- Anti-Poverty Fund
- NGO Stabilization Fund
- Moving Forward

 Information in each section follows the survey questions sequence.

ANTI-POVERTY FUND

Program Overview

This program provides funding for anti-poverty initiatives in the Northwest Territories (NWT) that show concrete action towards reducing poverty. The Anti-Poverty fund supports projects:

- providing a tangible service or support at the community level;

- demonstrating the potential to improve social outcomes for residents in a tangible and measurable fashion;

- proposing to develop or implement a new approach to program or service delivery at the community level; and

- demonstrating the ability to develop meaningful partnerships with other organizations and support an integrated approach in responding to multiple social issues.

When the Anti-Poverty Fund was developed an external Advisory Committee was established to review and approve applications. Members representing NWT community governments, Indigenous governments, non-government organizations, the private sector, and the GNWT) had flexibility in approving applications based on their knowledge of community needs.

In your organization's application for the Anti-Poverty Fund, which pillars did your project (service or program) align with? (Select all that apply)

Figure 5 shows that the majority of Anti-Poverty Fund applicant projects aligned with the Sustainable Communities (76%; n=44) and Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential (67%; n=39) pillars.

Figure 5: Alignment of projects with Anti-Poverty Fund pillars (Total number of responses = 58).
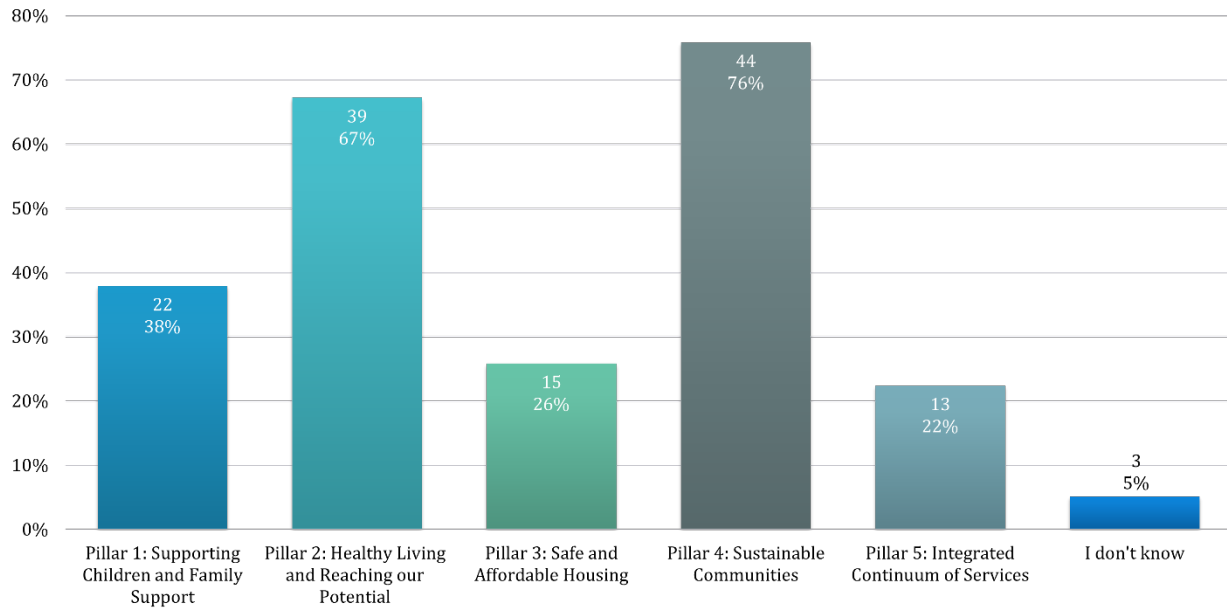
Has your organization ever received funding through the Anti-Poverty Fund?

Figure 6 shows that 62% (n=36) of survey respondents who applied to the Anti-Poverty Fund reported receiving funding.

Figure 6: Organizations funded through the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).
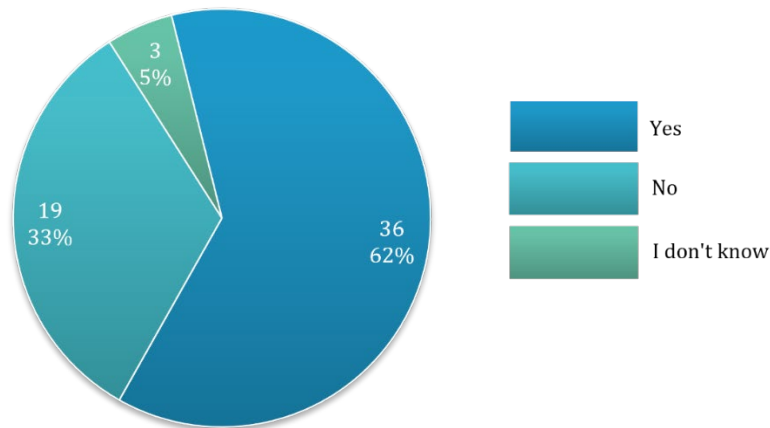
In which year(s) did your organization receive funding from the Anti-Poverty Fund? (Select all applicable years)

Table 3 reveals an increasing trend in number of projects funded from its early years to current day. It is important to note that all funds allocated to the Anti-Poverty Fund are disbursed each fiscal year.

Table 3: Years in which organizations received funding from the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of respondents = 36).

| Fiscal Year	Percent	Number
2025-26	53%	19
2024-25	78%	28
2023-24	61%	22
2022-23	53%	19
2021-22	47%	17
2020-21	25%	9
2019-20	25%	9
2018-19	17%	6
2017-18	11%	4
2016-17	11%	4
2015-16	11%	4
2014-15	3%	1
I don't know	8%	3

Please rate your satisfaction with the Anti-Poverty Fund eligible organizations.

Eligible Organizations:

- Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations in the NWT
- Community governing authorities (Band Council, Metis Local, Charter Community or municipal council)
- Non-government organizations that can demonstrate partnership or support from an Indigenous or community governing authority.

Figure 7 shows that the majority of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied (69%; n=40) with the eligible organizations.

Figure 7: Satisfaction with the organizations eligible for the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).
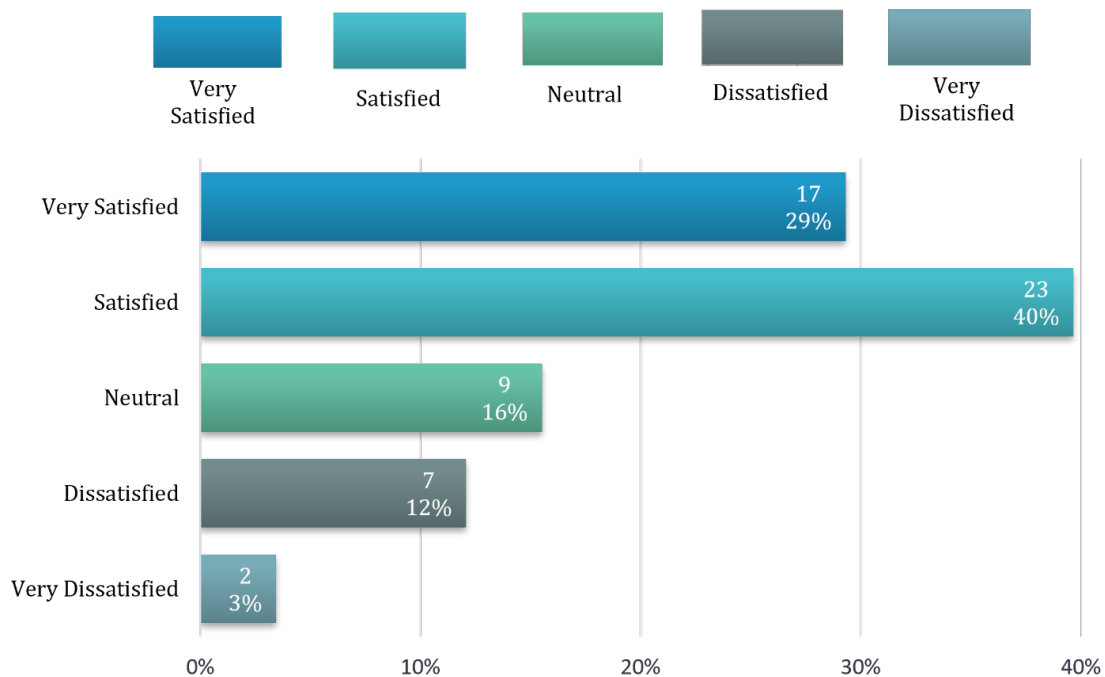
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with respect to eligible organizations, survey participants comments focused on two key themes:

1. **Partnerships**: Some survey respondents questioned the need for NGOs to demonstrate partnerships or support from Indigenous or community governing authorities. Some mentioned that while they understand the intent of establishing and maintaining relationships with Indigenous Governments, and recognize it is ideal, it is not always easy and can be burdensome given capacity constraints on both sides. It was also noted that requiring support from a governing (political) authority could act to undermine the autonomy of a non-partisan NGO.

> "As a volunteer-led organization, we recognize that in an ideal world we would build relationships with every Indigenous government connected to the [population] we serve. However, given our capacity and the nature of our work, this isn't currently realistic. And doing so without the ability/capacity to follow through meaningfully may be performative for the sake of securing funding."

2. **Fairness**: Some survey respondents indicated that the eligible organization requirements are not fair – lack of equity, diversity, and inclusion in allocation - with many organizations not being considered for the anti-poverty funding even though they have a demonstrated need. There was a request for a more inclusive approach to awarding the funds that acknowledges the unique challenges of racialized communities in the North. Additionally, some respondents commented that the Anti-Poverty Fund should only be available to NGOs given they have limited opportunities for other sources of funding, unlike Indigenous and community governments.

## Please rate your satisfaction with the Anti-Poverty Fund eligible projects.

Eligible Projects:

- Provide a tangible service or support at the community level

- Demonstrate the potential to improve social outcomes for residents in a tangible and measurable fashion

- Propose to develop or implement a new approach to program or service delivery at the community level

- Demonstrate the ability to develop meaningful partnerships with other organizations and support an integrated approach in responding to multiple social issues.

Figure 8 shows that the majority of survey respondents (77%; n=45) are very satisfied or satisfied with the projects eligible for the Anti-Poverty Fund.

Figure 8: Satisfaction with the projects eligible for the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).
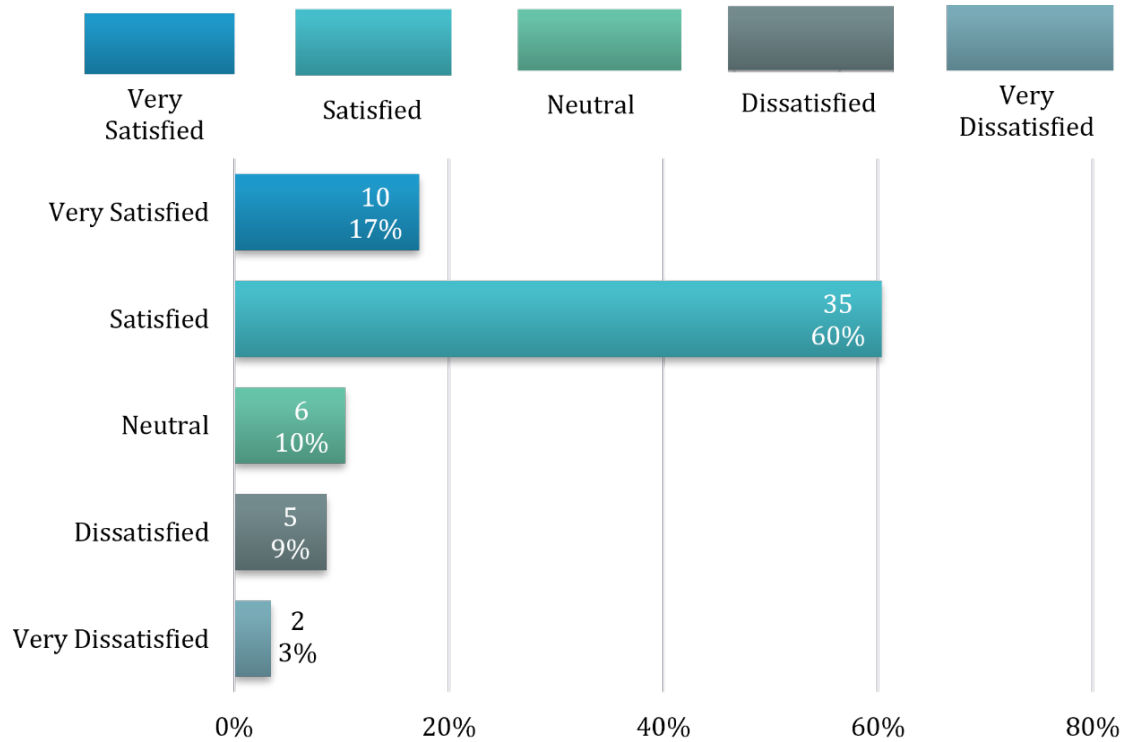
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with respect to eligible projects, some respondents commented that the focus should not be on new or innovative approaches, but instead on those projects that are delivering solid programming with demonstratable success (i.e., new is not always better). Continued funding for these projects was identified as essential to ensure ongoing stability and sustainability. It was suggested that greater attention be placed on funding longer-term projects that require more time to reveal intended outcomes and impacts (e.g., project that are addressing root causes). Some respondents also indicated that projects focused on underrepresented and underserved racialized groups (e.g., the Black community), Elders/seniors, homeless men, and skills development should be prioritized.

Please rate your satisfaction with the Anti-Poverty Fund eligibility exceptions.

Eligibility Exceptions:

- Generally, projects that propose to undertake research or consultation will not be considered, unless the proposals can demonstrate that the results of the research or consultation will support a planned community intervention.

Figure 9 reveals that the majority of respondents (71%; n=41) are very satisfied or satisfied with the eligibility exceptions.

Figure 9: Satisfaction with the eligibility exceptions for the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).
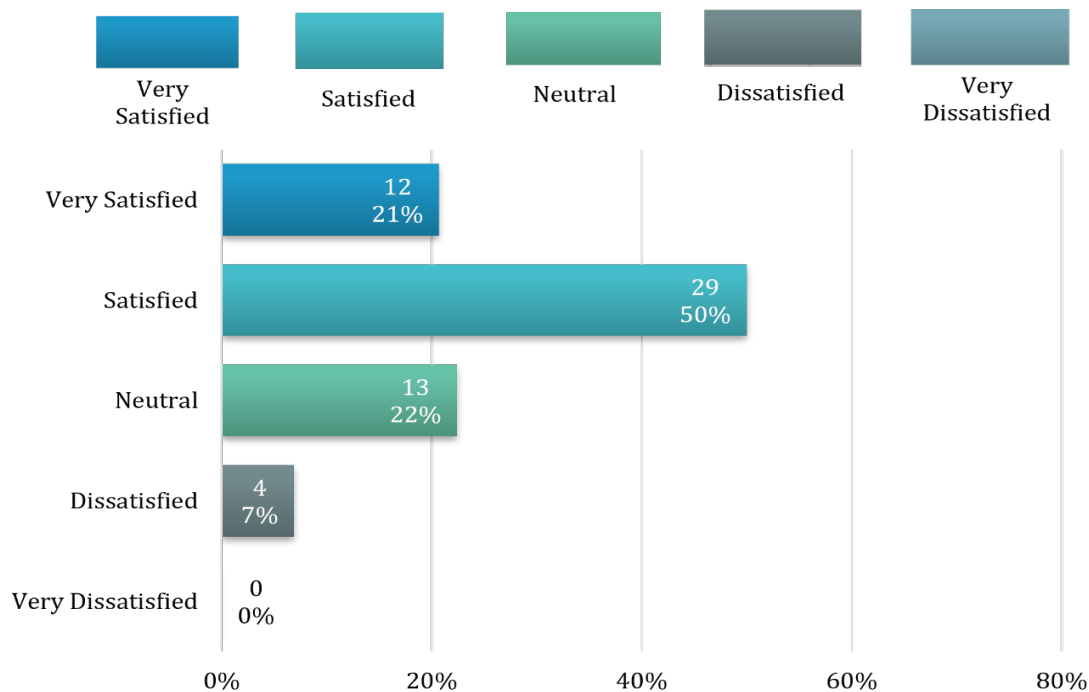
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with eligibility exceptions, some respondents questioned the exclusion of research as a fundable activity since research is key to properly understanding existing issues and identifying new problems. On other hand, some felt that given the limited funds, the focus should be on supporting those at risk and that funds for research could be drawn from a different source.

Please rate your satisfaction with the Anti-Poverty Fund prioritization of competing projects.

Prioritization:

- If there are multiple competing projects, and there is insufficient funding to provide support for each project, priority will be given to projects that:
    - Demonstrate partnerships;
    - Support integrated case management; and
    - Demonstrate sustainability (i.e. can be carried over for several years and will benefit from multi-year funding).

Figure 10 reveals that respondents satisfaction with prioritization of competing projects varied, with 57% (n=33) being very satisfied and satisfied and 21% (n=12) being very dissatisfied and dissatisfied.

Figure 10: Satisfaction with the prioritization of competing projects for the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).
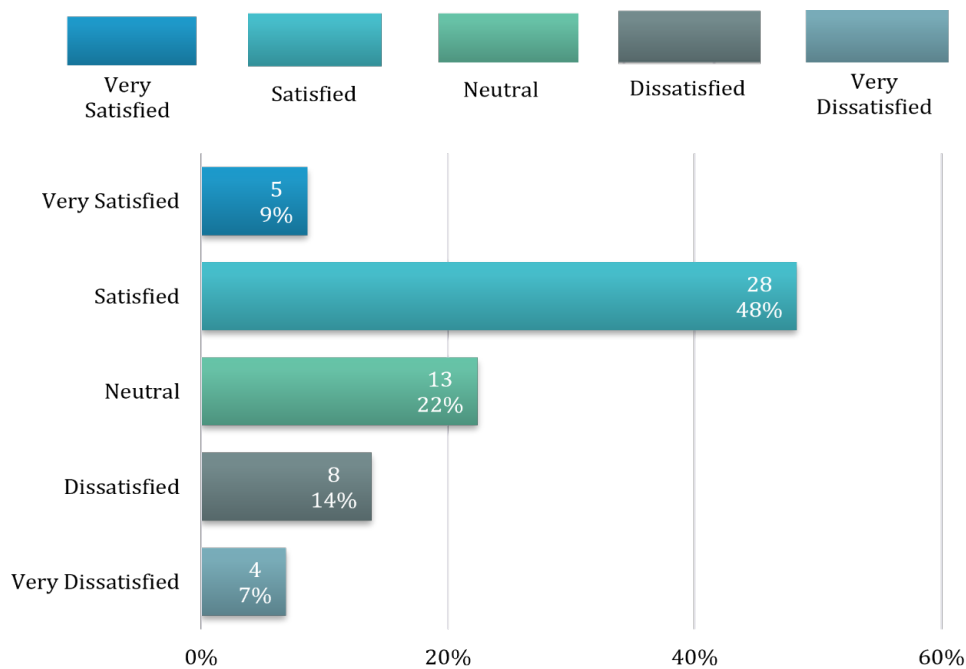
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with prioritization of competing projects, respondents provided feedback on each of the three criteria:

1. **Partnerships:** While respondents recognize that partnerships are valuable and reflect goodwill, they also commented that they are difficult to establish in a small community with limited partnership options and they take considerable time and effort, and even money in some cases, to foster and maintain.

2. **Integrated Case Management:** Respondents felt that it was a very specific skill requirement that was not always available in communities and that it represented a colonial approach at a time when the focus should be on developing and supporting Indigenous community-led approaches. There was a question about the actual meaning of integrated case management as well as a comment about whether it could be broadened to mean collaboration across all sectors which would link it to the need for partnerships

3. **Sustainability:** Respondents felt that sustainability was an unrealistic criterion for most NGOs that are struggling with the "piecemeal approach to funding projects". Many organizations rely heavily on grants and government funds which are generally unreliable from year to year. It was suggested that this criteria favoured more established and larger organizations. A working definition of project sustainability was requested.

Some respondents expressed frustration and disappointment at never receiving money through the Anti-Poverty Fund although they felt they met all three parameters. There was concern that favouritism and/or racism played a role in project selection. There was also a question about whether the prioritization criteria may result in overlooking "high-impact outlier organizations" that tend to work more independently to address poverty.
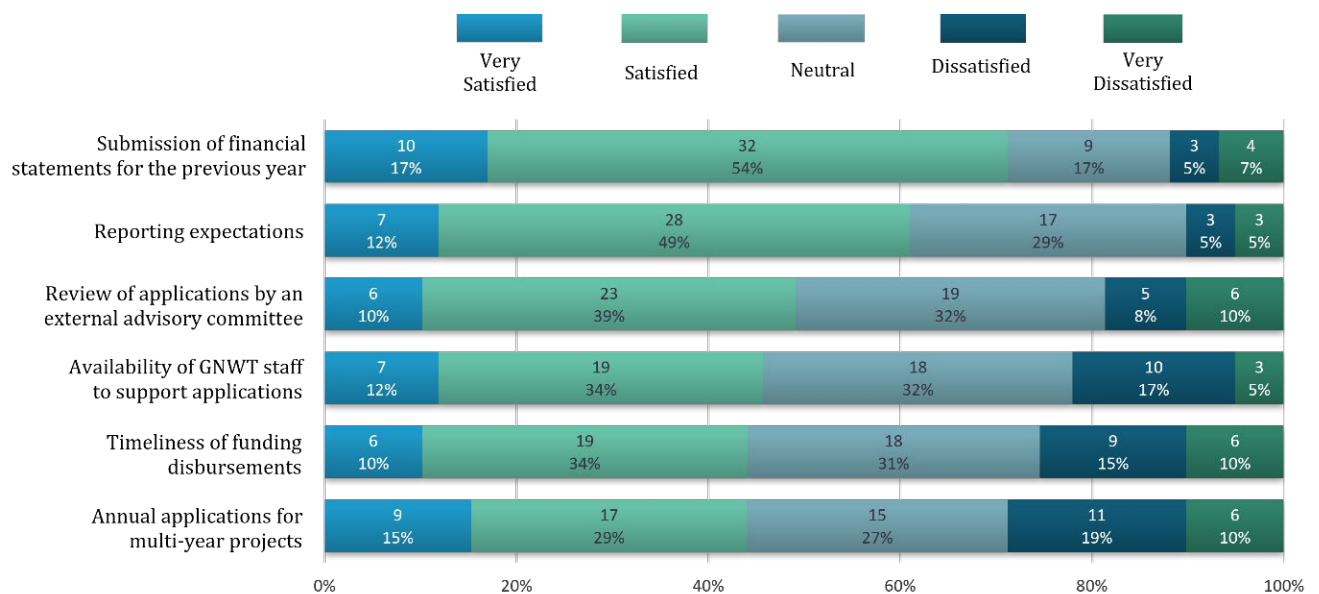
Please rate your satisfaction with the Anti-Poverty Fund's administrative processes and requirements.

Figure 11 reveals varying satisfaction levels that respondents have with the Anti-Poverty Fund administrative processes and requirements. A considerable number of respondents were neutral on the subject.

- The majority of respondents (71%; n=42) are very satisfied or satisfied with the financial statement submissions while 12% (n=7) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 61% (n=35) are very satisfied or satisfied with the reporting requirements while 10% (n=6) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 49% (n=29) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the application review by an external advisory committee while 18% (n=11) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 46% (n=26) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the availability of GNWT staff support while 22% (n=13) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 44% (n=25) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the timeliness of funding disbursements while one-quarter (25%; n=15) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 43% (n=26) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the annual applications for multi-year projects while 29% (n=17) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

Figure 11: Satisfaction with the administrative processes and requirements of the Anti-Poverty Fund (Total number of responses = 58).

When asked to explain their satisfaction level with the Anti-Poverty Fund's administrative processes and requirements, respondents shared the following:

- **Application review by advisory committee**: Respondents commented that there was a lack of transparency surrounding the external advisory committee responsible for reviewing applications (e.g., composition, decision-making criteria). They felt the selection process was arbitrary and/or dependent on the interests of the reviewers that year. Some respondents, who had previously received funding, stated that it seemed as though the current (2025/26) selection criteria (i.e., funding priorities) had changed without any communication. Some said they had not been notified they were unsuccessful until a long time after the funding was allocated and others mentioned they received no feedback as to why

> "Greater transparency is needed. Completing funding applications without clear guidelines places an unnecessary administrative burden on organizations doing vital community work."

they were not awarded funds expect for the "process was very competitive". Respondents spoke to the importance of application feedback for improving future applications and/or determining if it was prudent to submit in the future.

- **GNWT staff support**: Respondents experiences with GNWT staff during the application process ranged from generally supportive to a lack of staff willing and available to support the application. Not all respondents were aware that GNWT staff were available to help with the process. It was also noted that prior to the current year, staff were available to provide support and answer questions. There was concern that current staff were not comfortable providing feedback as it may show favouritism.

  > "The Anti-Poverty Fund has been a great fund with responsive staff support."

- **Funding disbursement timelines**: Respondents experiences with funding disbursement varied from funding being received in a timely manner to funding being received a few months before an organization's year end. Receiving funding late is problematic as it means organizations have to borrow money from elsewhere to cover costs in the meantime.

- **Multi-year projects**: A number of respondents indicated that they would prefer to see a multi-year agreement process for projects as it would make things easier and more efficient.

Please rate your satisfaction with the amount of funds that your organization received.

Figure 12 reveals that 41% (n=23) of respondents are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the funding amounts while 37% (n=22) are very satisfied or satisfied.

Figure 12 Breakdown of satisfaction with the amount of funds received from the Anti-Poverty Fund (number of responses = 58).
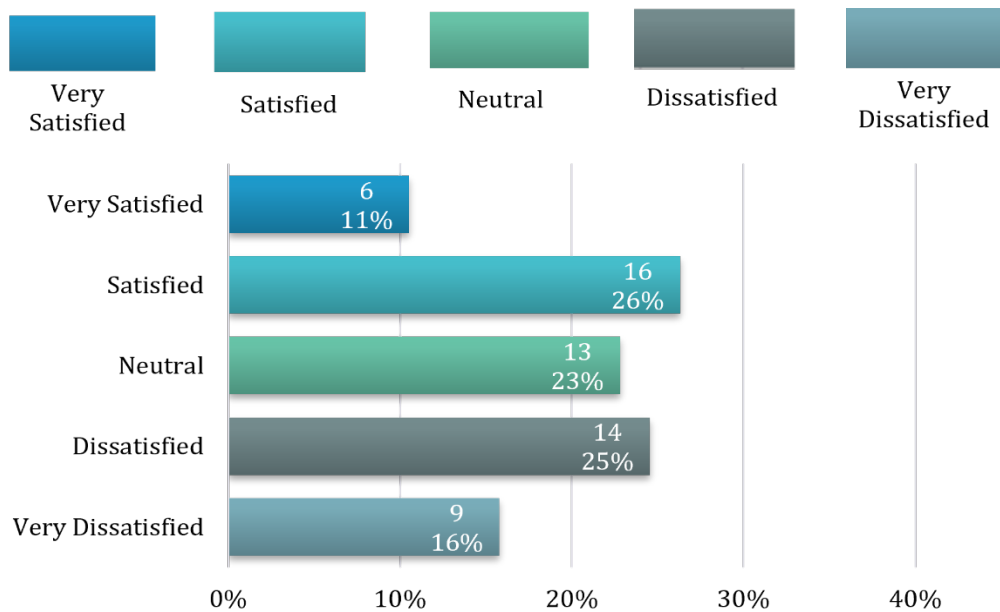
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with funding their organization received, a number of respondents commented that this year (2025/26) was the first time they had not received funds in a number of years. They expressed dissatisfaction at receiving no explanation or rationale for why they were not selected this year and commented on the negative impact this would have on the individuals and families they serve. Of those who had received funding, some indicated the amount was aligned with their requests while others, although appreciative of receiving the money, stated that they required more funding to meet the needs of their clients.

"While we recognize that funding is limited, it is deeply concerning that organizations meeting all eligibility requirements and funding priorities appear to have been overlooked without transparency or feedback. Greater clarity is urgently needed around the decision-making process, criteria used for selection, and reasoning for rejections. This would not only support accountability but also help organizations improve future applications and continue serving communities in need."

NGO STABILIZATION FUND

Program Overview

Currently the NGO Stabilization Fund helps stabilize or develop the capacity of NGOs who deliver essential GNWT funded programs or services to NWT residents. The funds cover items including general management, governance, organizational development, and extraordinary operations costs.

In your organization's application for the NGO Stabilization Fund, please indicate the areas where you sought funding. (Select all that apply)

Funding Areas:

- Management costs (costs attributed to general management of the NGO that cannot be directly attributed to specific programs or services that the NGO delivers, such as general administration and management, finances and bookkeeping)

- Governance costs (board costs related to the governance of the NGO (including board training)

- Organizational development costs (costs related to organizational development of the NGO (including communications, structure, roles, and processes)

- Extraordinary general operations costs related to general operations and maintenance of the NGO that cannot be directly attributed to specific programs or services (such as one-time general office costs, or one-time maintenance costs)

Figure 13 shows applications that were submitted by area.

Figure 13: Areas organizations sought support from the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of responses = 43).
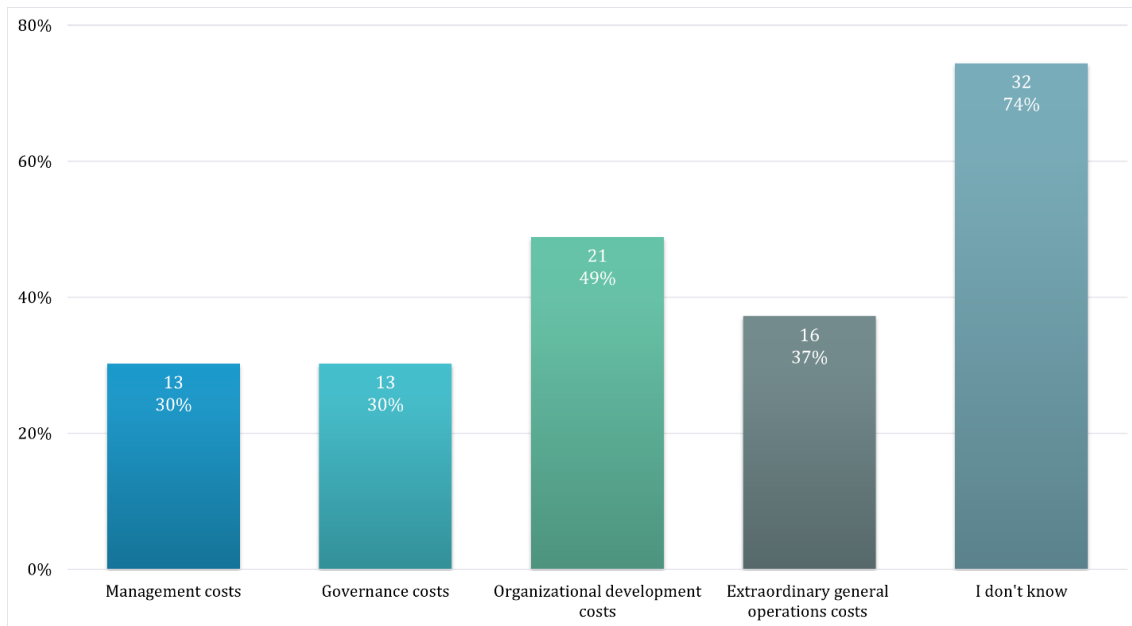
Did your organization receive funding through the NGO Stabilization Fund?

Figure 14 shows that just less that two-thirds of all survey respondents (63%; n=27) have received funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund.

Figure 14: Organizations funded through the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of responses = 43).
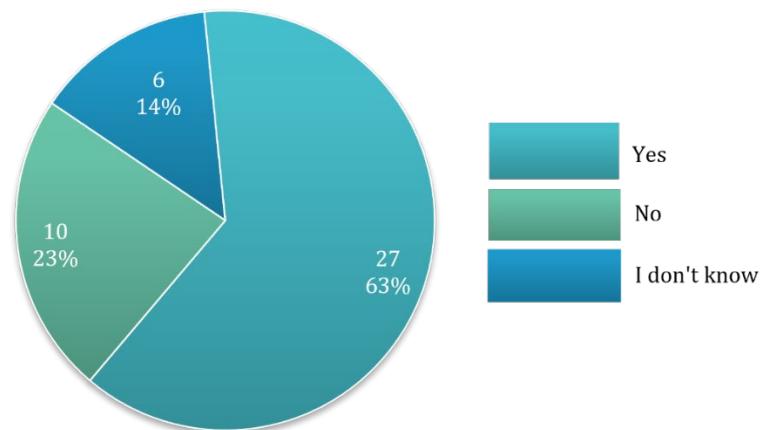
In which year(s) did your organization receive funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund? (Select all applicable years)

Table 4 shows an increasing trend in the number of organizations receiving funding from the program's early years to current day. It is important to note that all funds allocated to the NGO Stabilization Fund are disbursed each fiscal year.

Table 4: Years in which organizations received funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of respondents = 27).

| Fiscal Year	Percent	Number
2025-26	52%	14
2024-25	56%	15
2023-24	41%	11
2022-23	44%	12
2021-22	30%	8
2020-21	37%	10
2019-20	22%	6
2018-19	19%	5
2017-18	15%	4
2016-17	15%	4
2015-16	11%	3
2014-15	0%	0
2013-14	0%	0
2012-13	0%	0
2011-12	7%	2
2010-11	4%	1
2009-10	0%	0
I don't know	4%	1

How satisfied are you with the eligibility screening criteria?

Eligibility Screening Criteria:
- Must deliver critical GNWT-funded services
- Must receive funding from GNWT
- Must be registered and in good standing in NWT as a society or association or as created under NWT or federal statute

Figure 15 shows that the two-thirds of respondents (66.0%; n=29) are either very satisfied or satisfied with the NGO Stabilization Fund screening criteria.

Figure 15: Satisfaction with eligibility screening for the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of respondents = 43)
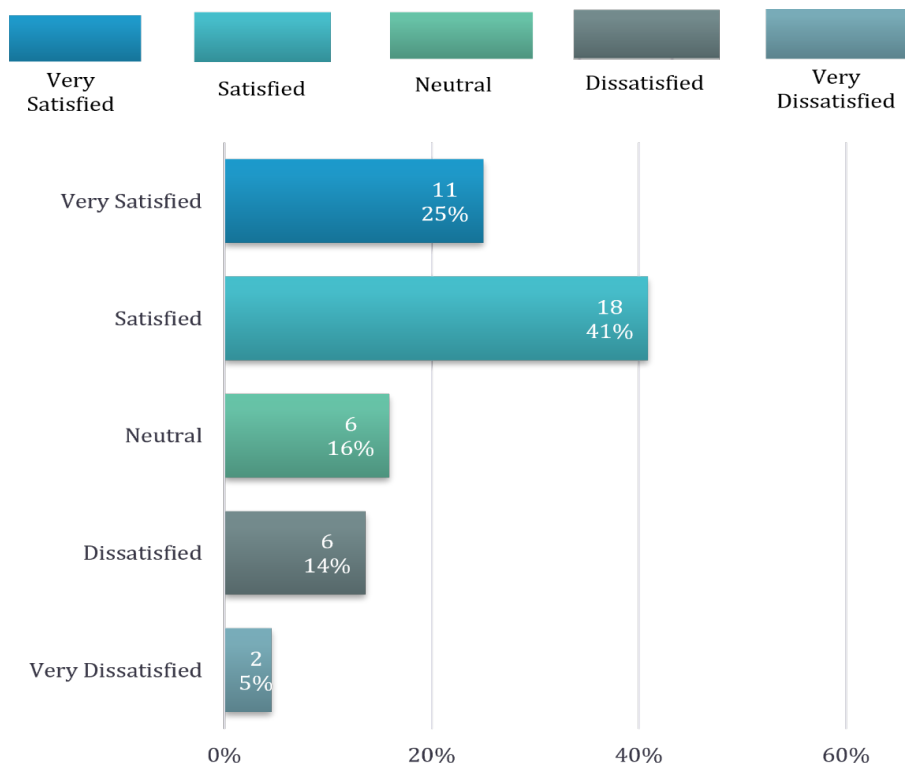
When asked to explain their level of satisfaction, a number of respondents questioned the criteria requiring NGOs to be delivering critical GNWT funded services and to be receiving funds from the GNWT. They commented that there are many organizations delivering essential services to NWT residents that do not meet one or both of those criteria. Respondents also noted that the term 'critical services' needed to be clarified.

"Eligibility criteria should reflect the realities faced by northern non-profits and offer more accessible pathways for funding.

Please rate your satisfaction with the prioritization criteria of the NGO Stabilization Fund.
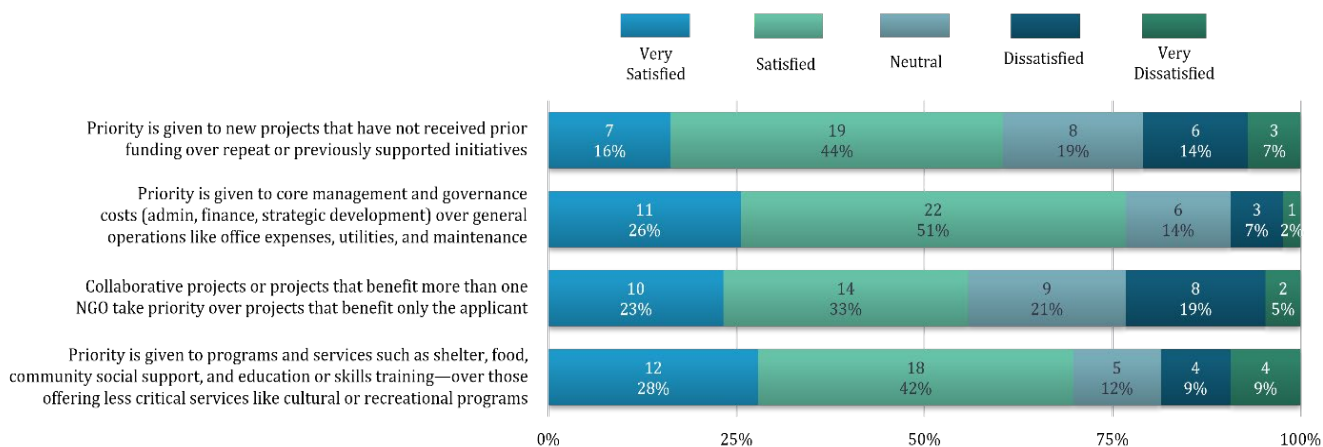
Prioritization Criteria:

- Applications from NGOs who deliver the following programs and services take priority over applications from NGOs who deliver less critical services such as cultural or recreational program delivery. These priority programs include those that: Help ensure people's basic needs for shelter and food are met; provide social support within their community or communities; build capacity through education, training, and skill development.

- Collaborative projects or projects that benefit more than one NGO take priority over projects that benefit only the applicant NGO.

- Management costs (general administration, management, finances, and bookkeeping), governance and organizational development (strategic or expansion) take priority over extra- ordinary general operations costs (office costs, utilities, maintenance, and renovations).

- Projects that have not received support (new projects) take priority over projects that are similar to those supported in previous years for the same NGO.

Figure 16 reveals varying satisfaction levels that respondents have with the NGO Stabilization Fund prioritization criteria areas:

- The majority of respondents (70%; n=30) are very satisfied or satisfied with the criteria that focuses on critical programs and services

- Just over half of respondents (56%; n=24) are very satisfied or satisfied with collaborative projects being prioritized while 24% (n=10) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- The majority of respondents (77%; 29) are very satisfied and satisfied with the prioritization of management and governance and development costs

> "Don't think there should be priority. This is a fund to help support the NGO sector as a whole and it's great for that."

- 60% (n=26) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the prioritization of new projects while 21% (n=9) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

Figure 16: Satisfaction with the prioritization criteria for the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of respondents = 43)

When asked to explain their satisfaction level with the NGO Stabilization Fund's prioritization criteria, respondents shared the following:

- **Critical programs and services**: While most respondents agree that services focused on basic human needs should be prioritized, some also felt that programs and services – for example, those that provide professional services to communities and those that offer cultural, educational, and recreational programming – were essential for communities. It was suggested that the NGO Stabilization Fund be divided so programming not focused on basic needs, but still important to NWT residents, have a chance at being funded. It was also suggested that funding be provided to a wider variety of programs and services not just those that service a similar clientele (e.g., food security focused).

- **Collaborative projects**: Respondents commented that collaboration requires additional time and effort, and ends up costing money, all of which smaller organizations often do not have. It was also noted that collaboration does not always make sense. It was suggested that if the GNWT sees opportunities for connections, they help foster those partnerships.

- **Management and governance and development costs**: It was suggested that the criteria be revised to prioritize general operations costs such as insurance, rent and bookkeeping since these are areas in which funding would help stabilize organizations. It was also suggested that for the management cost funding area that a list of fundable costs be made available to help NGOs better tailor their applications. Additionally, there was a request for administrative salaries to be covered by the Fund since organizations often have to hire contractors to carry out this work.

- **New projects**: Some respondents felt that rather than giving money to new projects, and stretching the available funds even further, that existing projects take precedence. It was noted that NGOs need considerable time to implement changes and make improvements so multi-year funding is needed.

More generally, respondents commented that although they met the stipulated prioritization criteria, they were not selected for funding. Some requested that GNWT staff be available to support the application process by clarifying what aspects are eligible and how they can modify their application to better meet the selection criteria. It was also suggested that applicants be provided with feedback if they are not awarded funding so they can make changes in future submissions.

> "Greater transparency is needed. Completing funding applications without clear guidelines places an unnecessary administrative burden on organizations doing vital community work."

Please rate your satisfaction with the following NGO Stabilization Fund's administrative processes and requirements.

Figure 17 reveals varying satisfaction levels that respondents have with the NGO Stabilization Fund administrative processes and requirements:

- Two-thirds of respondents (66%; n=28) are very satisfied or satisfied with the reporting expectations

- 60% (n=26) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the timeliness of funding disbursements

- Just less that two-thirds of respondents (65%; n=28) are very satisfied or satisfied with the submission of financial statements

- 54% (n=23) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the availability of GNWT staff support while 12% (n=5) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

- 51% (22) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with review of applications and 12% (n=5) are dissatisfied

- 39% (n=17) of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the annual applications for multi-year projects while 21% (n=9) are very dissatisfied or dissatisfied

Figure 17: Satisfaction with the administrative processes and requirements of the NGO Stabilization Fund (Total number of responses = 43).
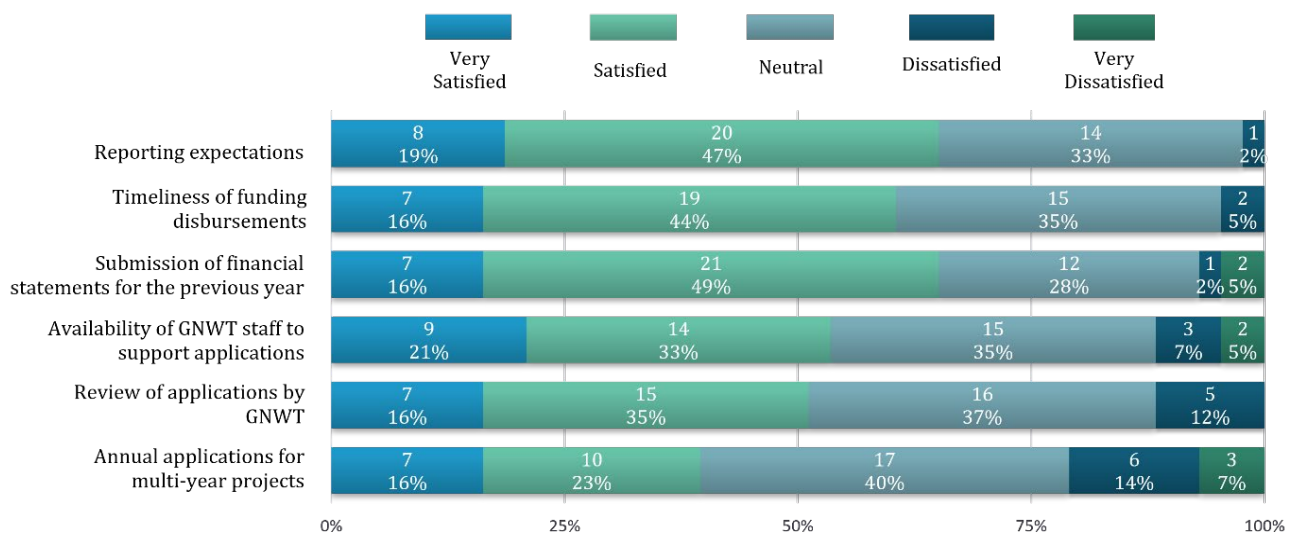
When asked to explain their satisfaction level with the NGO Stabilization Fund's administrative processes and requirements, respondents shared the following:

- **Application review**: Respondents commented that the application review process requires more transparency. NGOs would like feedback on why their application was only partially funded or not funded at all. This information along with suggested improvements would increase their chances for future funding. It was suggested that GNWT staff host an information session for interested applicants.

- **GNWT staff support**: Respondents experiences with GNWT staff during the application process were mixed. Some were quite satisfied with the support, remarking that staff were always available to answer questions. Some, however, were unhappy with the extent of support received, noting that when clarification and direction was sought, NGOs were pointed to the NGO Stabilization Fund Policy which they found not was not clear and was open to interpretation. GNWT staff were said to be unavailable to support applicants and their responses were inconsistent or delayed, all of which made it difficult to navigate the process confidently.

> "This is the best managed fund I have seen at the GNWT. Staff are on top of it, application is low barrier, application response is fairly quick, reporting is simple and not burdensome. I wish all GNWT funds were like the NGO Stabilization Fund."

- **Funding disbursement timelines**: It was mentioned that timeliness of funding allocation was

a problem, with delays affecting NGO ability to plan and deliver programs effectively.

- **Multi-year projects**: Some respondents commented on the administrative burden associated with the annual application process especially for organizations with limited staff capacity. It was suggested that bi-annual or multi-year applications would be best for this fund.

Overall, communications regarding the NGO Stabilization Fund was said to be problematic. Respondents mentioned not receiving the detailed NGO Stabilization Fund package and it not being available on the website. As a result, applications were prepared and submitted, only to find out the projects were ineligible.

MOVING FORWARD

Please select the populations you believe should be considered a priority for future funding program. (Select all that apply)

Table 5 reveals that all listed populations were considered a priority by respondents. 'Other' priority populations identified included: all of the populations listed; women, children and youth who are victims of violence; Elders/seniors; youth not regularly attending school; people who have experienced trauma; individuals before they fall into houselessness or poverty; and animals (welfare). Some people expressed concern at having to prioritize one population over another as they were all important.

Table 5: Populations identified as a priority future funding (Total number of respondents = 75)

Priority Population	Percent	Number
Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Inuit and Inuvialuit, Métis	75%	56
People living with low or no income	64%	48
People experiencing food insecurity	64%	48
People experiencing precarious housing and people experiencing homelessness	56%	42
People living with mental health conditions	55%	41
People living with disabilities	51%	38
Youth and people who have transitioned out of foster care systems	49%	37
Single parent/caretaker households	47%	35
People living with chronic health conditions	45%	34
People living with substance use disorders	44%	33
People living in overcrowded households	43%	32
Women	40%	30
Two-spirit	40%	30
People with lived experience in the criminal justice system	37%	28
People who have contact with justice systems	32%	24
Non-binary	29%	22
Newcomers and new to Canada	28%	21
People of Colour	25%	19
Black People	24%	18
Men	21%	16
Other	23%	17

Please select what you believe to be the five (5) most important services that are delivered by Indigenous Governments and Organizations, NGOs, and Community Governing Authorities in the NWT.

Table 6 reveals that all listed service area were considered important to respondents. 'Other' services identified included: all service areas listed; family violence prevention and intervention; advocacy for all of the service areas; and animal welfare.

Table 6: Most important services delivered by partners (Total number of respondents = 75)

| Service	Percent	Number
Mental health and wellbeing (e.g., healing, counselling and support, crisis intervention)	77%	58
Housing and homelessness (e.g., low-cost housing, supportive housing, transitional housing, shelters)	73%	55
Food security (e.g., food banks, meal programs, food subsidies, harvesting)	71%	53
Child and family health and wellness (e.g., parenting, child development, family relationships)	52%	39
Substance use (e.g., recovery, treatment, harm reduction)	43%	32
Education and literacy	36%	27
Arts and culture (e.g., Indigenous cultural programming, education workshops)	36%	27
Employment and skill development (e.g., job search, career planning, employment skills training)	32%	24
Early learning and childcare (e.g., preschool, childcare)	23%	17
Recreation, sports, and active living	21%	16
Environment and/or climate (e.g., ecology, conservation, climate change)	19%	14
Justice and legal services (e.g., advice, representation)	12%	9
Other (please specify)	5%	4

To what extent would the following changes reduce the administrative burden on your organization?

Figure 18 reveals the varying extent to which changes to the following administrative processes and requirements reduce the burden on NGOs:

- More than two-thirds of respondents (68%; n=51) feel that multi-year funding would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 22% (n=16) think it would moderately reduce it

- 59% (n=44) of respondents indicated that access to lists of available funding would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 29% (n=22) think it would moderately reduce it

- 57% (n=43) of respondents feel that simplified application forms would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 28% (n=21) think it would moderately reduce it

- Slightly more than half of respondents (51%; n=38) feel that one standard application form would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 27% (n=20) think it would moderately reduce it

- 40% (n=30) of respondents feel that more timely allocation of funds would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 33% (n=25) think it would moderately reduce it

- 39% (n=29) of respondents indicated that reduced reporting would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 35% (n=26) think it would moderately reduce it

- 36% (n=27) of respondents feel that more flexible application timelines would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 35% (n=26) think it would moderately reduce it

- One-third of respondents (33%; n=25) believe that a single funding program would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 39% (n=29) think it would moderately reduce it

- One-quarter of respondents (24%; n=18) indicated that more targeted reporting requirements would greatly reduce their administrative burden, while 35% (n=26) think it would moderately reduce it, 17% (n=13) think it was slightly reduce it and 24% (n=18) feel it would have no impact

Figure 18: Extent to which changes to administrative processes and requirements reduce burden (Total number of respondents =75)
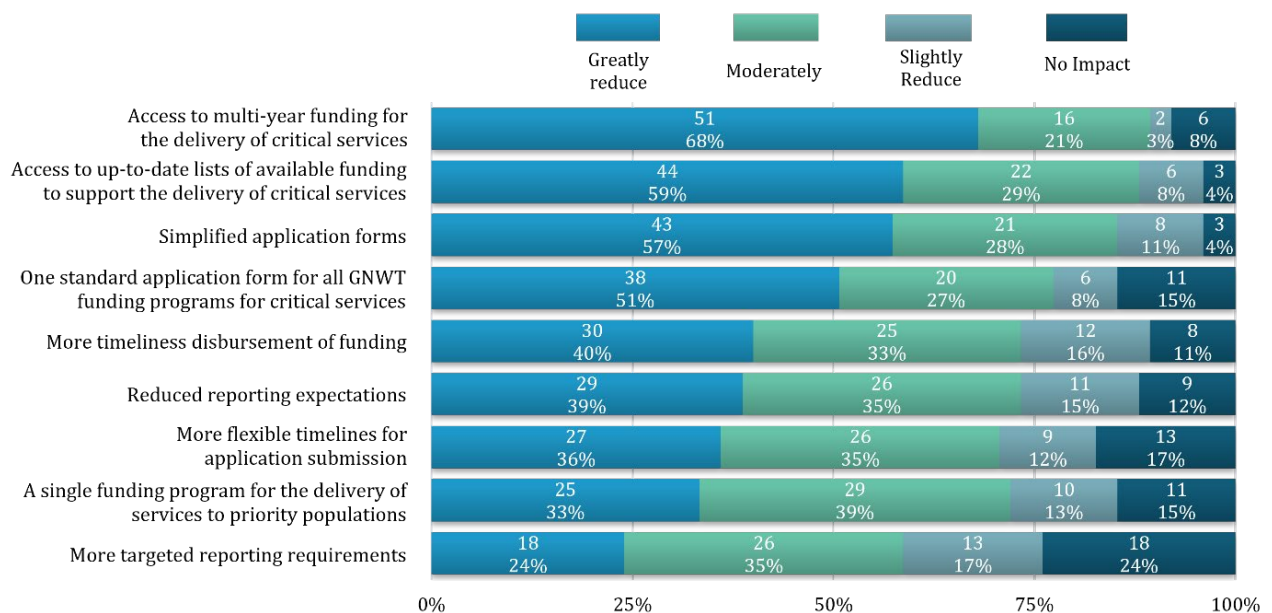
When asked to explain their answers, respondents shared information on the following changes:

Access to multi-year funding: Respondents are supportive of introducing multi-year funding, stating that it would provide predictability, improve staff retention and enable better planning to meet community needs. It was stated that this approach would reduce the ongoing need for obtaining letters of support for organizations which is time consuming.

"NGOs are the backbone of providing services to vulnerable NWT residents, and having more security and certainty when it comes to funding would be very helpful."

Access to up-to-date lists of available funding: It was noted that access to a list of available funding would help support organizational sustainability and ensure community-based organizations can continue to provide much needed services and supports.

Simplified application forms / More flexible timelines for application submission: It was stated that simplifying forms and introducing some flexibility with respect to submission dates would be beneficial as in the past, short and rigid timelines have prevented some organizations from applying or has resulted in major programming disruptions as staff turn their attention away from service provision and towards application preparation.

More timely disbursement of funding: Respondents would like to see more timely allocation of funding, stating that when it is delayed, organizations are forced to make use of lines of credit or other loans.

Single funding program / One standard application form for all GNWT funding programs: Some respondents felt that merging the funding programs and using one standard form would streamline and reduce duplication of effort thereby allowing organizations more time to focus on program delivery. On the other hand, some respondents indicated that creating a single funding program for the delivery of services to priority populations would be problematic because of the variability in types of projects and the amounts of funding requested. Specifically, they did not think combining the Anti-Poverty and NGO Stabilization Funds would be beneficial given the different priorities and mandates of the two funding pots. There were concerns that organizations that do not provide services directly to priority populations would no longer be able to access any funds. Additionally, it was noted that if funding programs were combined and if an organization was not awarded money, there would be fewer opportunities to apply elsewhere. It was suggested that the

"My concern with one standard application form for all GNWT funding programs is that if you aren't approved for one, you aren't approved for any - which runs the risk of an organization having no GNWT funding at all. At least with the way it is currently structured, funding is available from different departments/areas."

list of eligible projects be expanded to include currently excluded programs (e.g., culture, recreation).

More targeted reporting / Reduced reporting requirements: Respondents expressed concern that more targeted or reduced reporting might limit the ability of the GNWT to assess project effectiveness and impact and to demonstrate accountability to taxpayers. While it was suggested that targeted reporting might actually increase administrative burden, some thought that it would decrease the workload and support organizational sustainability.

Do you have any other suggestions for how these programs can be improved?

When respondents were asked to provide additional suggestions for how the Anti-Poverty Fund and the NGO Stabilization Fund could be improved, many highlighted comments they had made in response to other sections of the survey. The key themes identified include:

- Government-wide collaboration
    - It would be beneficial for GNWT departments to pool similar funds to make it easier for organizations to access larger pots of funding without the additional work of several proposals.
    - Institute 'one stop shop' for GNWT funding – one application, one online platform and one funding pot.
- Fairness
    - Funding allocations should prioritize organizations/projects that are most likely to show effective and measurable results as opposed to selecting legacy organizations.
    - Demonstrate increased equity, diversity, and inclusion in allocation of Anti-Poverty Funds.
    - Involve organization representatives in the design and review of funding programs to ensure that the criteria and expectations reflect the realities of working in the North.
- Improve application process
    - Provide more detailed and up-to-date descriptions about the funding programs and identify which type of NGOs should apply for funds.
    - Shift towards a 'mission-based' funding model in which organizations are free to use the funding in whatever way they deem appropriate to further their mission, rather than focusing on specific projects. This supports a more progressive and trust-based approach to allocating funds.

- o   Ensure GNWT staff provide more timely support and offer opportunities to meet with GNWT staff to seek support and clarification.

- Improve application feedback process

  - o   Provide constructive feedback of why projects were not funded or why they did not receive full funding. Comments such as - "We didn't have enough money this year." - are not helpful. If projects were funded in previous years, and demonstrated successful outcomes, a clear explanation of why funds were not provided would be helpful.

- Expand / Revise eligibility

  - o   Reserve some funding in the both the Anti-Poverty Fund and NGO Stabilization Fund for organizations that while not focused on "priority" or "critical" populations/services still serve underrepresented communities or operate as smaller organizations.

  - o   Make eligibility open to organizations that do not already receive GNWT funding.

- Multi-year funding

  - o   While it means the GNWT supports less organizations, the organizations it does support will be able to provide more consistent programs and services.

  - o   Consider offering two funding intake periods per year.

NEXT STEPS

The feedback gathered from partners and presented in this report, along with an analysis of historical data related to applications and administration and oversight of the programs will used to identify a more responsive approach to implementing these programs.

"Non-profit organizations in the NWT are stretched thin and often filling critical gaps in services that should be supported through stable and accessible government funding. Without greater investment, collaboration, and trust in the work of community-led organizations, we risk burnout, program loss, and unmet needs in already underserved populations. These programs have the potential to be impactful, but only if they are administered with greater transparency, equity, and responsiveness to the realities on the ground."