1. **What is the goal of the Emergency Community Support Fund?**

   The ECSF aims to reinforce the capacity of community service agencies to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals and families that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. These resources will support community services in all regions of Canada.

   The ECSF must support activities that:
   
   - Respond to an urgent need related to social inclusion or well-being caused by COVID-19.
   - Serve one or more vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
   - Can be carried out in a short period (from the contract signing date until March 31, 2021) and with a reasonable budget, etc.
   - Have not received funding for its related expenses from another intermediary, another federal support program related to COVID-19, or a different source.

2. **How can these funds be used?**

   See section 6, page 5 of the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*.

3. **How much money did Centraide of Greater Montreal receive from the announced $350 million?**

   Centraide of Greater Montreal received an allocations envelope totalling $7 million. We have planned to adapt this funding to the unique reality of Greater Montreal, Canada’s epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic. See section 1, pages 1 and 2 of the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*.

4. **Who can access ECSF funding through Centraide of Greater Montreal?**

   See section 3, page 3 of the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*. 
5. **Can we submit a funding request to Centraide, the Foundation of Greater Montreal, and the Canadian Red Cross?**

   Yes. A legitimate concern of Employment and Social Development Canada and Centraide is to ensure that duplicate funding is not issued for the same expenditures.

   The Excel file we created and included with the form makes it easier for you to reflect the financial breakdown for your project (at least, that is our intention!).

   See section 4 (particularly points c, d and e) on page 4 of the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*.

6. **If we received funding related to COVID-19 from other sources (government or philanthropic), can we still submit a request?**

   Yes, ECSF resources can be used to improve and expand community services currently provided in response to COVID-19 as long as the same expenses are not counted twice.

7. **Will you provide funding for activities already underway that meet the criteria?**

   If your activities or services are already being delivered, you may submit a request for additional funding to expand and/or extend these services for a longer period and up to March 31, 2021.

8. **The front-line services that we provide risk closing without new funding. Can we submit a request for funding under this program?**

   See answer to question 7.

9. **If my agency is receiving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, can we submit a request for funding?**

   Yes. ECSF resources cannot be used to fund expenses (including salaries) already covered by another source, but it can complement existing sources, including the wage subsidy.

10. **How many requests for funding can a single agency submit?**

    There is no limit. However, a single form covers only the services requested in only one of the three areas described in response to question 2.

    Therefore, an agency applying for funding in each of the three components must submit a minimum of three requests.
11. When can we expect a decision?

See section 2, page 2 of the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*.

12. What are the reporting requirements?

The reporting requirements for this funding primarily cover the **number of services and number of clients served**.

Agencies must provide **financial statements** that have been audited by a chartered accountant or, if their annual revenues are under $100,000, that have undergone a financial review.

13. How will the Centraides ensure that this funding gets to vulnerable communities? Is there a commitment to fair access to these resources?

Centraide of Greater Montreal will continue its practice of promoting funding opportunities throughout our community and, to the extent that we can, of supporting agencies that want to submit a funding request.

Centraide of Greater Montreal accounts for a number of equity considerations when allocating resources. These may include the populations served; geographic balance; access to urban, semi-urban and rural areas; variable population densities; or other systemic issues, including the number of people with COVID-19.

14. We are part of a national network of agencies but are governed locally. Should we consider submitting a request to Centraide of Greater Montreal for the ECSF, or should our national office coordinate our requests?

ECSF resources are distributed throughout the country through local offices. Local branches of national agencies should contact their local Centraide or United Way directly.

15. Where can we find more information? Will assistance be provided throughout the request process?

Agencies can find more information by consulting the *Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Community Support Fund*.

If you were unable to attend the webinar held on May 22 by Employment and Social Development Canada, the session was recorded. You can watch it [here](#).

You may also send any questions you have to: [fonds_urgence2020@centraide-mtl.org](mailto:fonds_urgence2020@centraide-mtl.org)