
For Immediate Release

Choices for Youth Provides More Information on Federal Funding Timeline

August 22, 2024 (St. John's, NL) – Following the news release shared by Choices for Youth (CFY) on August 20, CFY is following up to provide further details related to YESS funding history and timelines. CFY extends their gratitude to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the community, and the media for their extensive ongoing support and coverage of this issue.

In 2023, CFY applied for \$20 million under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) for four years of funding (2024–2028). This followed several years of funding through the YESS, including:

- 2017-2020: \$6.5 million
- 2020-2023: \$12.3 million
 - \$1.5M carried over to fiscal 23-24 due to covid-19 pandemic
- 2023-2024: \$2.7 million extension (total of \$4.2 including carry over)

After months of engagement with the federal government, CFY anticipated receiving positive notification of four-year funding by March 31, 2024, which is also the end of CFY's fiscal year. Despite CFY's proactive efforts to emphasize the need for timely approval, the federal government was delayed in making final decisions. In April 2024, federal officials informed CFY that they would be receiving YESS funding and advised them to hold off on making operational changes while they awaited final funding amounts.

On June 20, 2024, CFY was notified that they would receive only \$4 million total (\$1 million per year over four years), just 20% of the requested amount.

As a workable solution to ensure that critical services were not interrupted, CFY requested access to the full \$4 million in the current fiscal year to maintain services while securing alternative long-term support. While waiting for a response, CFY continued working hard with the Minister's office and local Members of Parliament to get answers. When Service Canada responded, they explained that they would only be able to back-date funding to June 11, leaving CFY without any funding from April 1 - June 11, 2024. This ran contrary to the advice of federal officials in April to hold off on making any operational changes/layoffs based on the funding that was to come.

For the federal government to even consider a shorter funding window (e.g. one year), CFY would need to submit an updated revised work scope, updated detailed budget, job descriptions, project objectives, activities, timelines, and results, and it would still take weeks to consider a one-year allocation. Even in this scenario, the request could be denied. While the CFY team is working hard to provide these documents, financially, CFY does not have the ability to maintain programming in the absence of a finalized federal funding agreement.

Associated Links:

- Hundreds of Vulnerable Choices for Youth Program Participants Impacted by Lack of Approved Federal Funding Agreement > [here](#) <

Choices for Youth is a non-profit, charitable organization that supports youth secure stable housing and employment while working toward family stability and better health, all through innovative programming and social enterprises.

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