

First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Project – Phase 2 Monthly Update

February 2020

IFSD is pleased to provide the sixth monthly update to its stakeholders on the progress of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Project – Phase 2.

Principal updates

- IFSD hosted a roundtable on measurement for thriving First Nations children, families and communities. We are grateful to agency leadership from all regions and experts for their engagement and invaluable insights that have helped to refine the proposed approach to measurement. **IFSD looks forward to sharing the updated measurement approach with stakeholders in the next update.**
- IFSD is pleased to share its interim research on funding approaches. This preliminary research is an overview of the case-focused analysis being pursued on the cost-benefit analysis of funding approaches.
- Overall participation in the questionnaire has increased to 48%. To get to at least a 50% participation from all provinces, we need **four more agencies from Alberta, and one more agency from Ontario**. We're almost there. Please help us achieve **at least 50% participation** from each province/region to ensure agencies are represented. IFSD wishes to thank all those agencies that have participated and is asking that all agencies who have not yet participated to [download](#) and return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible.
- IFSD is continuing to working with an Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) team tasked with delivery of the data consistent with the project's requirements.
- **IFSD welcomes your feedback throughout this work.**

Are you an agency that hasn't yet participated in the questionnaire?

[Connect with IFSD](#) or [download the questionnaire](#)

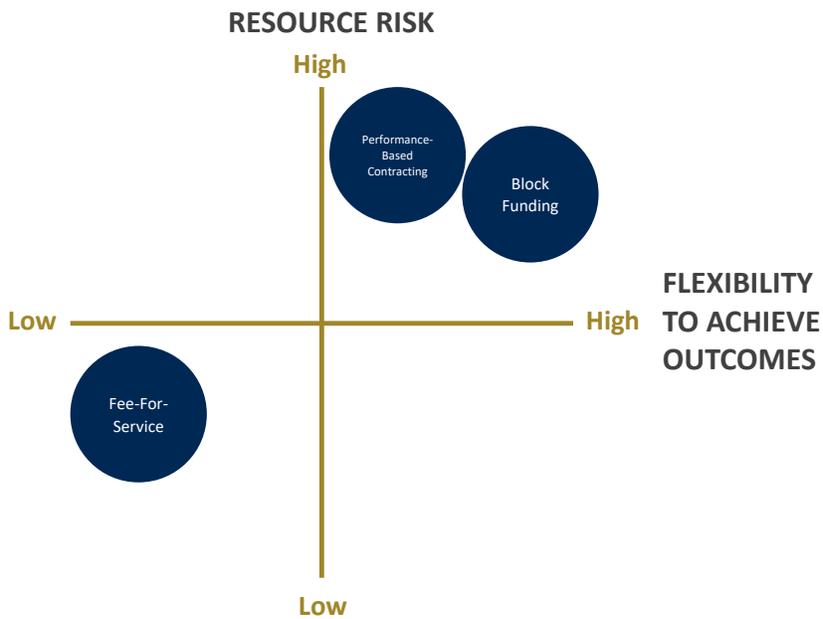
Resources and flexibility in service delivery

IFSD is researching approaches to funding social policy and service delivery. There are two main types of funding:

- 1) Prospective: service delivery agencies receive fixed payments to deliver services;
- 2) Retrospective: service delivery agencies are reimbursed for specific activities.

Within these two main funding types, various mechanisms exist to deliver resources to agencies. For child and family services, commonly identified mechanisms include: **fee-for-service; block funding; and performance-based contracts.**

As with any policy question, there are tradeoffs in funding mechanisms. Resource guarantees and flexibility in delivery vary among the two funding types (and their associated mechanisms) (see figure below).



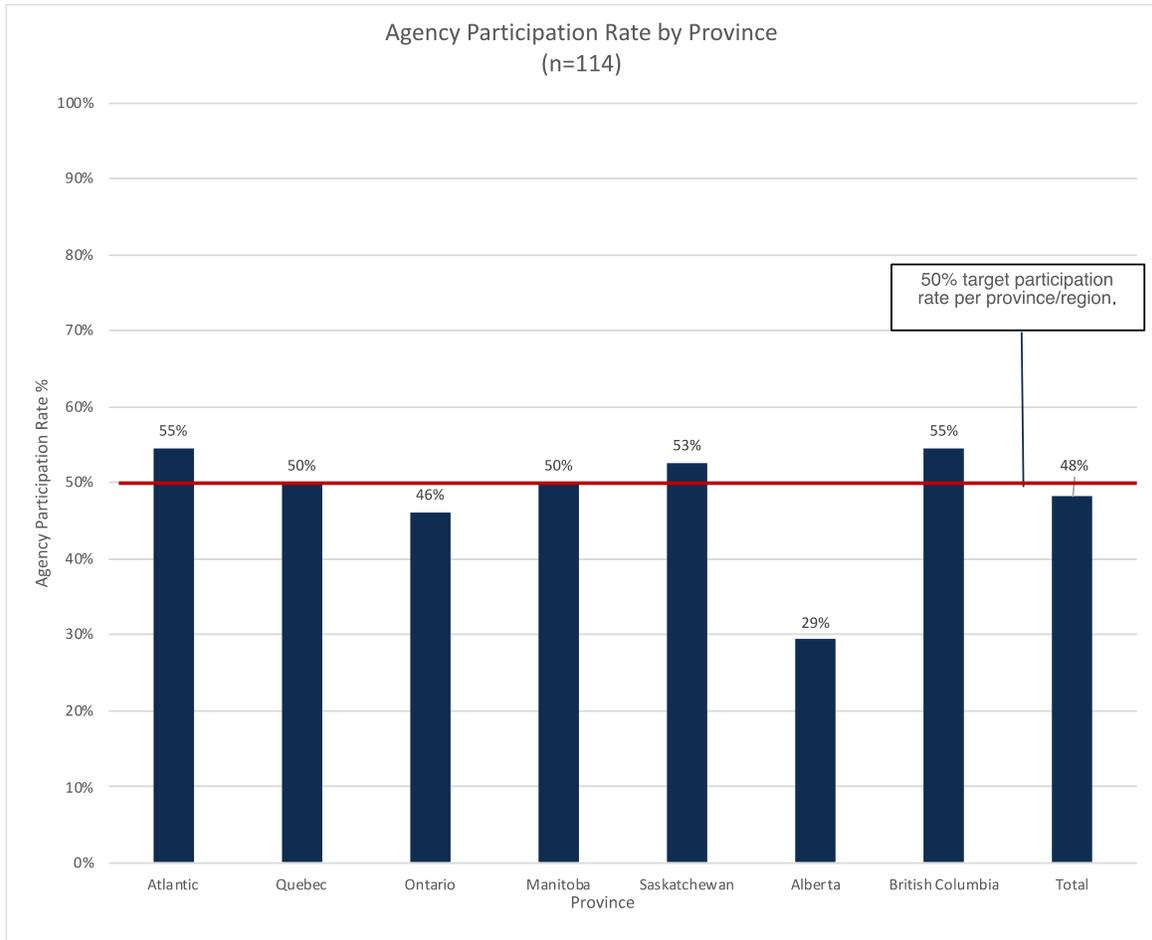
Retrospective funding approaches (e.g. fee-for-service), tend to offer better resource guarantees (as funded activities are clearly defined), but tend to limit flexibility in delivery (since fundable activities can be restricted). Prospective approaches (e.g. block funding, performance-based contracting) by contrast, tend to offer greater flexibility in delivery (as service providers can allocate resources as needed), but service providers are required to work within established resource parameters (supplementary resources may not be guaranteed).

Funding Mechanism	Case Study	Description
Fee-for-Service	Current funding mechanism for FNCFS	Required resources are provided by payment for specific activities by unit cost or by population served. Funding may be consistent but there is limited flexibility in delivery as reimbursement is defined for specific allowable activities.
Block Funding	West Region’s Child and Family Services Center block pilot funding program	Resources are allocated based on a combination of previous financial data and need. A set funding amount is allocated, leaving the service provider to determine its best uses. While flexibility in approach is promoted, the service provider bears the risk of operating within the set funding amount.
Performance-based contracting	State of Tennessee child welfare program	Resources are disbursed by achieving pre-established goals. Goals are defined through a service provider’s past performance. This approach promotes flexibility in delivery but requires the service provider to meet expectations to receive funding.

There is no perfect approach to funding social policy, but there are acceptable tradeoffs that support FNCFS agencies in best serving their children, families and communities. Identifying the critical mix of resources required and leveraging lessons from other cases and jurisdictions will be instrumental in developing an approach that is reliable and focused on a common vision of thriving First Nations children, families and communities that you helped to define.

Participation gaps – questionnaire

We are close to achieving our goal of at least 50% participation in each province/region. To reach the targeted threshold, we require four more agencies from Alberta, and one from Ontario to complete the survey. Several provinces have made very good progress in the last month, most especially, Saskatchewan which surpassed the 53% threshold. Thank you!



The information from the questionnaire will help IFSD to ensure alignment to need as a funding approach is developed and more accurately cluster agencies to model the effects of transition.

By sharing your experience, you're making this work more representative and reflective of your agency's reality.

Next steps

1. Continue to build comparative assessments of results-focused funding approaches.
2. Finalize the revised measurement framework and data collection strategies.
3. Encourage FNCFS agency participation to complete the questionnaire and analyze data provided through the questionnaire.
4. Continue to work with ISC to complete the data request.
5. Prepare for FNCFS agency leadership and expert roundtable on funding approaches in April 2020.



Contact information

IFSD is pleased to respond to requests for further information or to provide individual briefings on the project and its project. For questions about the project or to participate, please contact:

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