

Applying for a Community Grant

ECF's Community Grants program provides funding to help with a variety of organizational needs.

ECF uses a two-stage application process for all Community Grant applications. Applicants are asked to submit a Stage 1 application during the month it is open. For 2023, Stage 1 applications open in April and August.

Visit the [ECF website](#) for information on the upcoming application cycle. For more information about our grant programs, contact grants staff at grants@ecfoundation.org or by phone at 780-426-0015.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for a Community Grant your organization must be both:

- A [registered charity](#) with Canada Revenue Agency or other [qualified donee](#) AND
- Serve the Greater Edmonton Area (includes the four surrounding counties).
- Each organization can have one current Community Grant for their own work AND one to support a partnership or collaborative.
 - When applying to support their own work, must have completed, and reported on any previous Community Grant.
 - When applying in partnership with a non-profit society or grassroots group, must have completed and reported on any previous Community Grants for a partnership or collaborative.

Check out the [Better Together](#) guide for more information about working in partnership.

How applications are assessed:

Applications are assessed by staff and volunteer committees consisting of community leaders and sector experts. Applications are assessed individually and in relation to the pool of applicants.

The Community Grants program receives a variety of requests. Assessment criteria include the following, which vary slightly depending on the type of initiative:

- **Rationale for the grant (Why?):** Did the applicant sufficiently explain the need for this work and why it's important to receive this grant to do so? Does the review committee have a clear picture of the challenge this work will address or the strength the applicant aims to build? If applying for existing programming, did they sufficiently explain why this grant is important at this time from a financial perspective?
- **Timeframe and Activities (When? / How?):** Is the plan (including activities and timeframe) clearly described, ready to execute and important to accomplish within the timeframe of the grant?

- **Impact (Desired Outcomes):** Are the outcomes in direct relation to the proposed activities? Is the review committee able to understand the desired impact over the course of the proposed timeline?
- **Fit within community (Who?):** Are there partnerships in place to ensure success of the work? Does the work complement existing efforts well or bring to light a new perspective to enhance the community?
- **Inclusive design:** Are there connections to the intended population? How will relationships contribute to the proposed work? Did the intended population contribute to the program design? Will the intended population continue to be part of its ongoing success?
- **Budget:** Is the budget appropriately resourced and does it have a strong alignment with the activities?

What activities are eligible? One or more of these:

- **Existing Programming Costs:** (Only for organizations with an operating budget less than 8M) Costs associated with the delivery of current or ongoing programming. Includes: salaries, program materials and equipment, promotion, administration, accessibility considerations, etc.
- **New and Expanded Programming Costs:** Costs associated with the development, delivery, piloting, or evaluation of new or expanded programs. Includes: salaries, program materials and equipment, promotion, spaces associated with programming, accessibility considerations, etc.
- **Capacity Building:** Costs associated with strengthening the organization's ability to deliver on its charitable mission. Includes: consultant fees, professional development, organizational assessments, technology, specialized equipment, costs associated with organizational mergers, etc. Capacity Building may also be to strengthen a sector or collective group. Includes: costs to collaborate, community engagement and organizing, identifying issues, and framing shared actions.
- **Equipment purchases or renovations:** Costs associated with buying specific items or renovating a space or location.

What activities will not be supported?

- Any expenses incurred prior to the Foundation's decision date
- Deficit funding
- Funding to replace government cuts
- Funding drives
- Contributions to endowments
- Capital campaigns and purchase of land and/or buildings
- Support for operations, fundraising initiatives, or granting programs of other funders and/or entities whose primary purpose is to raise money for a third party
- Grants primarily benefitting individuals (such as scholarships or bursaries)
- Private or charter schools

- Post-secondary institutions
- Faith-based programs (religious worship, instruction, or proselytization)
- Conferences and/or annual events
- Research
- Medical equipment
- Travel outside the Greater Edmonton Area
- National or provincial initiatives without specific benefit to Edmonton; national or provincial initiatives that have specific benefit to Edmonton will be considered for a proportional cost

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What is the Community Grant maximum and time period?

- If the organization **has not** received a Community Grant in the last five years, the organization is eligible to apply for up to \$50,000.
- If the organization has received a community grant in the last five years, and reported on it, the organization is eligible to apply for up to \$80,000.
- For requests less than \$20,000 applicants are encouraged to apply to ECF's [Small Grants Program](#).
- Community Grants are not limited to a specific calendar or fiscal year. Your grant request should cover the amount of time needed to achieve your desired impact. Grant timelines are assessed on an individual basis. The average length is around 15 to 16 months.