

Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

Grant request deadlines are at the end of each month at 4pm

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ABOUT STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Strategic Opportunity Grants support **small to mid-sized** (up to \$8M annual operating budget) Calgary and areaⁱ qualified doneesⁱⁱ with small, time-sensitive, short-term (6-8 mos.), strategic initiatives that fall into one of two categories:

- **Organisation Development** – When charities identify an opportunity to bring outside expertise into the organization to build capacity, strengthen board governance, conduct HR assessments, or support professional development.
- **Program Development** – When charities identify an opportunity to strategically advance their work by prototyping a new program idea, testing an innovative enhancement to current program offerings, or improving outcomes for program participants.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Qualified donees with eligible initiatives are invited to submit a grant request through our online grant portal [on our website](#).

Applicants must complete any Strategic Opportunity Grant reports or overdue reports from other Calgary Foundation grant programs prior to submitting a grant request.

Grant funds can only support activities that take place after the grant decision has been made.

HOW TO APPLY

- Contact the Grants Associate prior to the deadline to discuss eligibility. (403-802-7310) or [email](#).
- Complete the grant request through the online portal found on the Strategic Opportunity Grants page. Applicants may save a draft and request that the Grants Associate provide feedback before submitting (if time permits). Be sure to complete and attach the Initiative Budget using the template provided. The maximum grant request amount is **\$10,000**.

- If the project is to engage a consultant, the consultant's workplan must be submitted with the application.

WHO ASSESSES GRANT REQUESTS?

Volunteers and members of the Calgary Foundation's Grants Team assess Strategic Opportunity Grant requests, so that the decision-making process is as quick as possible.

THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES ARE INELIGIBLE

- Ongoing core operating expenses
- Hosting events/conferences
- Strategic Planning or Retreats
- Academic research
- Equipment purchases
- Travel, accommodation & meal expenses
- Start-up costs
- Branding, Marketing & Communications Strategies
- Fund development plans, fundraising activities, or fundraising salaries
- Debt retirement
- Emergency funding
- Exclusively religious activities (defined as religious worship or instruction), those that include proselytizing (defined as converting or recruiting people to a specific set of religious beliefs), or programs/services that require participation in religious activities

ⁱ 'Calgary and area' includes: Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, Kainai First Nation, Piikani First Nation, Siksika Nation, Iyârhe Nakoda Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and the Municipal Districts (including towns and hamlets) of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland.

ⁱⁱ Go to Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings website to determine whether your organization is a qualified donee: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/list-charities/list-charities-other-qualified-donees.html>