

# Neighbour Grants Guidelines

**We have 10 deadlines a year. Please give us at least 8 weeks between the application deadline and the start of your project.**

## CONTACT

Julie Black, Senior Grants Associate  
[ngp@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:ngp@calgaryfoundation.org)  
403-802-7720

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBOUR GRANT?

People of a place or community have great ideas for how to make things better. [Neighbour Grants](#) helps people implement their own small acts of community right in the neighbourhoods and communities where they live by offering up to \$10,000 for project expenses.

Supported projects usually are about community people doing one of the following:

- **Building** gathering spaces, such as community gardens and naturalized areas.
- Engaging their peers in **creative ways to address shared concerns**, such as community-created street murals, anti-racism arts festivals, and non-partisan discussions on the importance of voting.
- Fostering a sense of **pride and presence**, such as cultural sharing events and achievement celebrations of local youth and seniors.
- Giving people the **chance to get involved in community life**, such as book- or tool-sharing libraries, new kinds of neighbourhood festivals, and skills-sharing events.
- **Planning and guiding** neighbourhood and community development, such as resident-driven design or sustainability workshops and Reconciliation-themed learning initiatives.

## WHAT PROJECTS QUALIFY FOR A NEIGHBOUR GRANT?

To qualify, the project will aim to accomplish these things:

- Help people be leaders within the everyday life of their own communities.
- Form new or stronger connections between local people, groups, and organizations.
- Strengthen people's sense of belonging within the diversity of neighbourhood or community.

## WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS QUALIFY FOR A NEIGHBOUR GRANT?

Registered Canadian charities and other qualified donees<sup>1</sup> are eligible to apply.

If your group is not a registered Canadian charity, you can partner with one and apply together. You can contact Calgary Foundation staff to discuss how this works.

Please note: All projects must take place in Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland (including towns and hamlets), or the surrounding First Nations of Treaty 7 territory.

### **IS NEIGHBOUR GRANTS A ONE-TIME ONLY GRANT?**

No. While groups can only have one grant at a time, it's not a one-time-only grant. We're happy to hear from past grantees about new projects or about next steps in a project we supported that make it more meaningful, more welcoming to isolated or diverse parts of their community, or more economically or environmentally sustainable.

### **IS NEIGHBOUR GRANTS ONLY ABOUT GRANTS?**

No. We can help you think through your project ideas, connect with peers who've done similar projects, develop strategies to involve a wider diversity of your neighbourhood and community, consider project sustainability, and learn how to better tell your project story.

### **WHAT CAN NEIGHBOUR GRANTS BE USED FOR?**

Typical costs are for community involvement. Examples: Event space rental, refreshments, supplies people will use to build or offer something for the community, fees for artists who will help people participate and create something great, and honoraria to Indigenous Elders who teach and guide a project in a good way.

**Neighbour Grants cannot be used for:** Debt retirement, expenses that have already been spent, facility improvements, fundraising projects, ongoing operating expenses, or for projects with costly ticket prices. The grant also doesn't support 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 program/services that require participation in religious activities.

### **WHO EVALUATES NEIGHBOUR GRANTS APPLICATIONS?**

Applications are reviewed by a Calgary Foundation volunteer committee of local leaders who believe in active citizenship and inclusive welcoming community life.

### **IF YOU ARE AWARDED A NEIGHBOUR GRANT, THEN WHAT?**

- Acknowledge the support of the Calgary Foundation Neighbour Grants in project materials.
- Use our logo on your flyers and websites and borrow our banner to display at your events.
- Invite us to key project events. We like to attend and see your project in action.
- Consult us first if you think of changing the project or how you spend the grant. We do our best to help you respond to changing circumstances.
- Tell us your project story through the report format we will provide for you.

## HOW TO APPLY

Contact us to discuss your initiative, eligibility, and upcoming deadlines before working on an application.

When you're ready, use our online application portal to apply. You can find it on the Calgary Foundation's website. Please note: The application portal requires you to set up an account first. Accounts are only available to registered Canadian charities. In the cases of a charity/noncharity partnership, the partners can work on the application together. Contact us to discuss how this works.

**Neighbour Grants applications are reviewed approximately ten times a year.** Watch our website for exact deadlines. Please give us at least 8 weeks between our deadline and your project. And give us even more time if you want us to review a draft application.

## IS NEIGHBOUR GRANTS THE CALGARY FOUNDATION'S ONLY GRANT FOR PROJECTS LIKE THESE?

No. For smaller projects, you might want to apply to our Stepping Stones program instead for support of up to \$1,000.

*Please note: If we give your project a Neighbour Grant, we will list that information on website and in our other public records.*

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<sup>1</sup> Go to [Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings](#) website to see if your organization is a qualified donee.