

Neighbour Grants Guidelines

Neighbour Grants is a small grant of up to \$10,000 for belonging-building projects that are led by people in their own communities.

Neighbour Grants is a source of support for projects that local volunteers design and deliver in the communities they are part of, in collaboration with local charities and nonprofits.

WHAT DOES NEIGHBOUR GRANTS SUPPORT?

As of June 2025, Calgary Foundation has invested \$4.5 million in 784 projects run by community volunteers and their supporters in our region. Through these projects, people have strengthened their belonging by:

- **Building** gathering spaces, such as community gardens and naturalized areas.
- Engaging their peers in **creative ways to address shared concerns**, such as participatory street mural projects, 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 their peers the **chance to get involved in community life**, such as book- or tool-sharing libraries, skill-sharing events, and traffic calming projects.
- **Planning and guiding community change efforts**, such Reconciliation-advancing learning initiatives.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Registered charities and other qualified donees¹ can apply for suitable projects that take place in our region.

Our region is Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland (including towns and hamlets), and the surrounding First Nations of Treaty 7 territory.

If your group is working in our area and has a suitable project **but is a non-profit without charity status or is an informal volunteer group**, contact Neighbour Grants staff to discuss grant options. We often consider partnership projects.

WHAT CAN NEIGHBOUR GRANTS BE USED FOR?

Typical costs are for community involvement because we believe that **meaningful participation builds belonging**. Examples: Event space rental, refreshments, supplies people will use to build something for the community, hiring an artist to help community members participate and create something great, or 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, projects that are primarily fundraisers, ongoing operating expenses, or for projects with costly ticket prices. It is primarily a grant about community volunteerism.

WHO EVALUATES NEIGHBOUR GRANTS APPLICATIONS?

A Calgary Foundation volunteer team drawn together by their commitment to community life.

ARE NEIGHBOUR GRANTS A ONE-TIME ONLY GRANT?

While groups can only have one Neighbour Grant at a time, it's not a one-time-only grant. We're happy to hear from past grantees about new projects or next steps in a project we supported. However, we ask groups to apply no more often than once a year.

CAN NEIGHBOUR GRANTS HELP WITH MORE THAN GRANTS?

We can help connect you with local networks of like-minded people who are also running community projects. We can talk about ways to strengthen community work too, such as rooting in principles of [Reconciliation, Racial Equity, and diverse forms of equity and inclusion](#).

IF YOU ARE AWARDED A NEIGHBOUR GRANT, THEN WHAT?

- Acknowledge the support of Calgary Foundation in project materials.
- Invite us to key project events. We would 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 will do our best to help you respond to changing circumstances.
- Tell us your project story by filling out our final report form when your project is done.

HOW DO I APPLY?

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

You'll find the Neighbour Grants application on the online grant portal on Calgary Foundation's website. If you're applying in partnership, make sure to consult with us first on how partnership projects use the portal.

PLUS if you contact us early enough, we can review a draft of your application.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Neighbour Grants applications are reviewed ten times a year. [Watch our website](#) for exact deadlines. Please give us at least 8 weeks between our deadline and your project.

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

No. For smaller projects, you might want to apply to our [Stepping Stones program](#) instead.

To follow up, please contact:

Julie Black, Senior Grants Associate
Ngp@calgaryfoundation.org
403.802.7720

ⁱ If you aren't sure if your organization is a registered charity, you can check the public database here: [Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings](#)