

# Community Grants Guidelines

Application due date: 4:00 pm, February 24, 2026

## CONTACTS

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The Community Grants program covers a broad scope of projects aimed at strengthening the charitable sector and engaging citizens. Over the past years, we have made some adaptations that reflect our commitment to Reconciliation and advancing equity and systemic change. We expect that the need for funding will remain significantly higher than our available resources.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

### Who can apply?

Applicants must meet **ALL THREE** of these criteria to have their application considered for the Community Grants program.

1. They must be a registered Canadian charity or other qualified donee <sup>1</sup>
2. Their work must be based in and serve one or more of the following regions:
  - Banff National Park
  - Calgary
  - Canmore
  - Municipal District of Bighorn (including towns and hamlets)
  - Foothills County (including towns and hamlets)
  - Wheatland County (including towns and hamlets)
  - Municipal District of Kananaskis
  - Rocky View County (including towns and hamlets)
  - Kainai Nation
  - Piikani Nation
  - Siksika Nation
  - Iyarde Nakoda Nations
  - Tsuut'ina Nation

<sup>1</sup> Go to Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings website to determine whether your organization is a registered charity/qualified donee if you are not sure: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charitylists/>. If your organization is a non-profit society in Alberta without registered charity status you may be able to apply in partnership with a registered charity/qualified donee (see Eligibility point 3).

3. Each organization can have one current Community Grant for their own work AND one to support a partnership or collaborative.
  - When applying to support your organization's own work, any previous Community Grant **must be completed and the final report submitted** according to the specified timeline in the grant agreement.
  - When applying in partnership with a non-qualified donee OR as the backbone agency in a collaborative of at least three (3) organizations<sup>2</sup>, any previous Community Grant for a partnership or collaborative **must be completed and the final report submitted** according to the specified timeline in the grant agreement.

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

*Note:* Organizations can have a concurrent grant or application with Calgary Foundation's other grant programs; however, the work must not be related.

**We encourage applications from organizations with programs led by and for equity-deserving communities.** We recognize that organizations serving equity-deserving communities may experience barriers in accessing charitable status.<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this document, we use the term "equity-deserving" to include groups who are marginalized by social structures. Equity-deserving communities often experience social and financial disadvantages as a result of systems of oppression. Oppression takes many forms, including but not limited to racism, homophobia, and ableism. Therefore, examples of equity-deserving communities include Indigenous, Black, and racialized people; members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and those with mental, intellectual, or physical disabilities. This list is not exhaustive and is always evolving. People who belong to multiple equity-deserving communities often experience overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the Community Grant maximum and timeframe?

- The average grant request is around \$75,000. The amount requested from each applicant will depend on the project. Grant awards range from \$5,000 - \$200,000, and the program does not support requests beyond this range. If considering applying for an amount within the higher range, we recommend speaking to a member of the team first. The Community Grants program has a budget of approximately \$5 million. The program receives about 180 applications per cycle, and we anticipate advancing approximately 35% of applications to the next stage.
- 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 outcome. Grant timelines are assessed on an individual basis. The average length is between 12-18 months.

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<sup>2</sup> We define a collaborative as multiple organizations (at least three) working together on a project that focuses on work that is larger or different than one organization can do on its own. You are encouraged to contact grant staff to confirm eligibility.

<sup>3</sup> If your organization is a non-profit society in Alberta without registered charity status, you may be able to apply in partnership with a registered charity/qualified donee (see Eligibility point 3)

## What activities are eligible?

Your proposal must fall under one of these categories:

- **Existing Programming:** *(For organizations with an annual operating budget less than \$4M)* Costs associated with the delivery, continuation, stabilization or incremental growth of programs, where the core program, target population and service delivery model remain the same. Incremental growth may include serving more participants, extending program duration, or increasing program features. Examples of eligible costs include salaries, program materials and equipment, space, promotion, administration, accessibility considerations, etc.
- **New Initiative:** Costs associated with activities that introduce a new program, service, or approach. The activities must represent a change in service delivery and/or target population. Examples of eligible costs include salaries, program materials and equipment, space, promotion, accessibility considerations, as well as public policy dialogue and development activities.
- **Organizational Development:** Costs associated with internally focused work that invests in the effectiveness of an organization to advance its charitable mission (capacity building). Includes: staff wellness strategies, consultancy fees, professional/leader development, organizational assessments, technology, specialized equipment, renovations, capital costs, costs associated with organizational mergers. Capacity Building may also be to strengthen a sector or collective group and may include costs to collaborate, community engagement and organizing, identifying issues and framing shared actions. (Note: adding more staff to deliver programs is captured in the programming categories above).

## When must these activities occur?

Expenses covered by the grant must be incurred no earlier than July 1, 2026, (after grant decisions are made).

## What activities will not be supported?

- Activities that do not align with [Calgary Foundation's stated values](#)
- Annual events or event series, e.g., symposiums, gatherings and conferences
- Research other than Participatory Action Research
- Fundraising activities or fundraiser's salaries
- Debt retirement and endowment building
- Direct financial support to individuals
- Requests from private schools except Designated Special Education Schools (DSERPS) that serve students who are identified with a mild, moderate or severe disability
- Local neighbourhood or school playgrounds and parks
- Travel outside of Calgary and area or the surrounding First Nations of Treaty 7 Territory
- 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.

## APPLYING FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT

### How to apply

1. Make sure your organization is eligible to apply.

Review these guidelines carefully. If you need clarification about the eligibility criteria, please click [here](#) to schedule a conversation with a member of the team. It is important to book a meeting with us to discuss your initiative, and we strongly advise you to do so as early as possible.

2. If eligible, complete the first stage of the application through the **Grant Portal** found on the Calgary Foundation website [here](#). Before creating a new account, ensure your organization does not already have an existing account in the portal.

**Non-profit Society applying in partnership with a charity:** Please note that the application must be made under the charity/qualified donee's account and not the non-profit's.

The application consists of:

- a) basic questions about your organization to answer in writing.
- b) questions about your initiative, which you may choose to answer using ONE of the following methods:
  - i. a written application
  - ii. a short video application
  - iii. an oral application. This is open to Indigenous and other equity-deserving communities; please contact Bessie or Cait by **February 17, 2026**, to set up a time for this discussion.
- c) a budget form to complete.

**(See Appendix A of these Guidelines for Question List)**

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Applicants can save the draft application as they work and print or save using the “Application Packet” button in the Online Grant Portal. Calgary Foundation staff do not review draft applications unless you contact us and ask us to do so.

If you want your draft application reviewed before submitting, you must contact the team when the draft is ready in the portal, not before. Due to the number of requests that we receive, please send your request as early as possible by emailing us at [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org). The last day to request a draft review is **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. Reviews are done on a first-come-first served basis and subject to staff availability. Please do not email your draft application or book a meeting to review the draft application. Leave your application Saved (do not click submit). After we receive your email request, we will review the draft application in the portal and enter the feedback comments under each applicable section in the portal. You will receive an email notification when the draft review has been completed.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS SPRING 2026 TIMELINE

- **January 13 – February 24, 2026:** Application intake opens. Submit application by 4:00 pm MST on February 24, using the [Grant Portal](#) found on the Calgary Foundation's website.
- **Late April 2026:** Applicants will be notified whether their application has been shortlisted to the second and final stage of the application process or if it has been declined.
- **Late-May – Mid-June 2026:** Shortlisted applicants will meet with a Grant Advisory Committee to discuss their proposal in more detail and respond to committee questions. Shortlisted applicants may also be asked to answer additional questions by email following their meeting.
- **Early July 2026:** Shortlisted applicants will be notified whether they have been awarded a grant. Applicants who are awarded a grant will be guided through the next steps, such as signing the grant agreement and understanding reporting requirements.

## HOW APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED

The Community Grants program receives a variety of requests. Applications are assessed by staff and volunteer committees consisting of community members and sector experts. Applications are assessed based on the following four main areas, on their own merit and in relation to the pool of applicants. A strong application is one where the review teams are satisfied that the application demonstrates the following:

### 1. Rationale and Response

**The specific issue you are trying to address, or the strength you are building, that will be supported by the grant.** The proposed work must logically connect to your organization's overall charitable mandate and organizational goals. Specific and relevant details are provided that support why you want to do this work now and why your organization is the one to deliver it. Your organization's capacity to do this work now, with enough groundwork to be successful and with input from the target population (internal or external) should be clearly demonstrated. For example, if this grant request is for hiring new staff or buying program materials, tell us how your organization has fared so far in its current state and how the response/approach was determined.

### 2. Delivery

**Details of the planned activities and timeline.** Specific details provide a clear picture of the activities, and those activities reflect the intended outcomes of this grant. The work is timely and with a work plan that demonstrates thoughtful consideration of the time required to complete the proposed work (including preparations, building relationships and trust). The budget is balanced, provides enough detail to understand how the grant will be allocated, and the budget line items clearly reflect the proposed activities.

### 3. Evaluation and Impact

**What you hope to achieve with this grant and within the specified timeline.** There is a clear demonstration of the organization's position before the grant and the specific, measurable outcomes that are aimed for are clear. This helps us compare your starting point with the progress expected as a result of the grant. Anticipated outcomes of what success looks like and how these outcomes will be

measured must be clearly explained. The outcomes should follow logically from the rationale and activities. How the intended population will continue to be part of the project's ongoing success is clear. There is a clear outline of how learnings will be captured, with a reasonable demonstration of how the impact of the work will be maintained beyond the grant end date. It is important to quantify/qualify the expected outcomes of this grant and to demonstrate what the expected outcomes are based on.

#### 4. Relationships

**Who you have developed (or are developing) relationships with that have informed the work of the proposal to help ensure its likelihood of success.** Who is your organization collaborating with for the work described in this proposal? Tell us how the proposed work complements the work of others within Calgary and area, or how it provides a unique perspective. Demonstrate that you have established relationships with specific and named relevant partners (formal or informal) that will inform, augment, or benefit from this work. Demonstrating knowledge of services within your sector strengthens the application.

**Alignment with Community Priorities and Calgary Foundation Values:** We will also assess how closely the initiative aligns with community priorities as identified in the [Quality of Life Report 2025](#) and values of the Foundation. Please note that this alignment is not mandatory to be awarded a Calgary Foundation grant.

## REPORTING

Organizations that receive a Community Grant are required to complete a final report through the online grant portal or other means (video, oral, interview). Reports will address: the initiative's outcomes, organization's lessons and learning, and a financial summary similar to the original application. Completion of the report **is a requirement** to apply for future grants.

## FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES

### **If your application is declined:**

You can set up a conversation with the team to receive feedback on your application if it was declined during the shortlisting stage or at the final decision stage. You will receive instructions on how to set up a meeting via email, if your application is declined.

# Appendix A – Question List

## Community Grants Spring 2026

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*Calgary Foundation*

### *Instructions*

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The review team will use the information that you provide to shortlist the eligible applications that most strongly address the assessment criteria. The Grant Advisory Committees will use it to form the basis of their follow-up questions prior to a face-to-face meeting. Contact us prior to submission to discuss eligibility requirements or the details of your proposal.

- Refer to the [Program Guidelines](#) for further instructions.
- Avoid jargon; the best proposals use plain language.
- Avoid general or absolute statements (e.g. 'we are the only one that does this work' - unless you are 100% certain).
- We do not expect perfection.
- If using AI to hone the text, remember it is still important to include context specific to your work and that speaks about the population you serve.
- Character limits for each section *include spaces*.
- We do not require any additional documents for the first stage of the application process other than what is requested in the application form. If we need more information, we will contact you.

In addition, we will work one-on-one with applicants who experience barriers to access to develop accommodations that suit their abilities or cultural traditions. Please contact us by February 17 to discuss alternate application arrangements.

NOTE: While Calgary Foundation staff can see the content of applications in process, staff do not actively read or offer feedback unless requested by applicants. This offer to review is subject to staff availability.

If you want your draft application reviewed before submitting, you must contact the team when the draft is ready in the portal, not before. Due to the number of requests that we receive, please send your request as early as possible by emailing us at [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org). The last day to request a draft review is **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**, and reviews are done on a first-come-first served basis. Please do not email your draft application or book a meeting to review the draft application. Leave your application Saved (do not click submit). After we receive your email request, we will review the draft application in the portal and enter the feedback comments under each applicable section in the portal. You will receive an email notification when the draft review has been completed.

NOTE: Calgary Foundation uses a third-party database provider. Information is stored on servers in Canada.

## Section 1: Organization Information

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### ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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*We use the following information to get a sense of your organization's size, mandate and role in the community. This helps us to put the application details into context.*

#### Confirm Organization Information\*

Please check the organization information found on your Dashboard (address, phone, contacts, etc.) and let us know if it needs to be updated.

In particular, click on your organization name (blue letters) and check if the person marked as "Primary Contact" under the Contacts has the authority to sign a grant agreement - usually the CEO, ED or similar. If this application is approved, **we will email a grant agreement to that person, so it is important this information is correct.**

#### Choices

Our organization information is correct

Our organization information needs to be updated

#### Changes to Organization Information

Enter changes to your organization's information here (including address, contacts and signing authority). You can also send changes to [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org) as a back-up.

*Character Limit: 400*

#### Annual Operating Budget\*

This amount should reflect how much your organization is planning on spending this year (not the amount for the program, regional or local offices).

*Character Limit: 20*

#### Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) Staff\*

For example: 2 full-time employees and 1 half-time employee equates to 2.5 FTEs. This number should reflect the total number of paid employees for your organization.

*Character Limit: 6*

#### Number of Volunteers\*

*Character Limit: 6*

#### Board List\*

**Type or upload a list of your current Board Members.**

*Character Limit: 2000 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*



**Partnership or Collaborative\***

Are you applying in partnership with a registered non-profit society or as part of a collaborative of 3 or more organizations working together on a project that is larger or different for one organization to do on its own?

You will need a formal relationship with any non-qualified donees.

**Choices**

No

Partnership with a non-profit that is not a charity

Collaborative project of 3 or more organizations

**Section 1a: Non-profit Society Information**

ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF THIS APPLICATION IS TO SUPPORT A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A QUALIFIED DONEE AND A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY that is not a qualified donee. If you are not sure, please contact [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org) to discuss.

**NON-PROFIT PARTNER ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

*We use the following information to get a sense of your partner organization's size, mandate and role in the community. This helps us to put the application details into context.*

**Name of Non-Profit Society Responsible for Initiative Implementation\***

Character Limit: 100

**Relationship between organizations**

Please explain the relationship between the two organizations applying.

*Charity/Non-charity Partnerships: Charities and non-charities will often partner to increase their impact in community. It is important to note that the partnership between charities and non-charities is a legal relationship. Under CRA guidelines, the charity must monitor, regulate and control the funds. The charity must retain direction and control of the charitable funds, and the activities of the non-charity must align with the charity's mandate and contribute to the achievement of that mandate. For further information please consult [Better Together: A Guide for Charity/Non-Charity Partnerships](#).*

Character Limit: 1500

## Partnership Agreement

If this application is a partnership with a non-profit society, complete and sign the Partnership Agreement [found here](#). Once signed upload in this section.

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## Contact Name for Non-Profit Society

*Character Limit: 30*

## Contact Email for Non-Profit Society

*Character Limit: 254*

## Annual Operating Budget for Non-Profit Society

This amount should reflect how much your organization is planning on spending this year (not the amount for regional or local offices).

*Character Limit: 20*

## Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) Staff for Non-Profit Society

For example: 2 full-time employees and 1 half-time employee equates to 2.5 FTEs. This number should reflect the total number of employees for your organization.

*Character Limit: 20*

## Number of Volunteers for Non-Profit Society

*Character Limit: 20*

## Mission or Statement of Purpose for Non-Profit Society

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Non-Profit Society Registration

If the non-profit is not listed as a Non-Profit Society in this [Alberta Non-Profit Listing](#), please upload a copy of the non-profit's registration record.

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## Section 1b: Collaborative applications

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ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF THIS APPLICATION IS TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE as defined above. If you are not sure, please contact [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org) to discuss.

### Collaborative Organizations

**List the organizations of the collaborative and contact people with at least two different ones. Note any specific roles some people or organizations might hold in the collaborative.**

*Character Limit: 300*

## Purpose

**What is the collaborative's overall mandate or statement of purpose?**

Character Limit: 500

## If approved, will any funds flow to any non-profit that are not charities within the Collaborative?

If yes, please upload a partnership agreement [found here](#). Once signed upload in this section. *Charity/Non-charity Partnerships: Charities and non-charities will often partner to increase their impact in community. It is important to note that the partnership between charities and non-charities is a legal relationship. Under CRA guidelines, the charity must monitor, regulate and control the funds. The charity must retain direction and control of the charitable funds and the activities of the non-charity must align with the charity's mandate and contribute to the achievement of that mandate. For further information please consult [Better Together: A Guide for Charity/Non-Charity Partnerships](#).*

File Size Limit: 5 MB

## Section 2: Grant Overview

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### OVERVIEW

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#### Title\*

**The project title should be short (maximum of 5 words). Select a title that describes the work of the initiative, using plain text and without any special characters (do not use &, !, ,, etc. - this affects our payment software). Only capitalize the first word of the title and any proper nouns.**

Example 1: Internet for family violence survivors

Example 2: Music therapy for Cochrane seniors

Character Limit: 40

#### Concise Description\*

**Give a summary of what the project/proposal is and specify what the Community Grant will pay for.**

**Use plain language to describe your request in two or three sentences. This concise description may be shared with interested donors, funders and on our website. In this section, please refer to your organization in the 3rd person, rather than using "I, we, our" statements.**

Example: XYZ is looking to build a creative hub, where residents of its lodge and seniors from community can create and find companionship. The initiative's goal will create an inclusive place where seniors can share their creativity and talents, as well as to allow a safe place where seniors can find companionship and improve their mental health. This grant will pay for building materials and labour costs.

Character Limit: 500

### This grant will be used primarily to support:\*

- **Existing Programming:** *(For organizations with an annual operating budget less than \$4M. If you are unsure how this limit applies to your organization's operating budget, contact us to clarify)* Costs associated with the delivery, continuation, stabilization or incremental growth of the program, where the core program, target population and service delivery model remain the same. Incremental growth may include serving more participants, extending program duration, or increasing program features. Examples of eligible costs include salaries, program materials and equipment, space, promotion, administration, and accessibility considerations.
- **New Initiative:** Costs associated with the introduction of a new program, service or approach. The activities must represent a change in service delivery and/or target population. Examples of eligible costs include salaries, program materials and equipment, space, promotion, accessibility considerations, as well as public policy dialogue and development activities.
- **Organizational Development:** Costs associated with internally focused work that invests in the effectiveness of an organization to advance its charitable mission (capacity building). Includes: staff wellness strategies, consultant fees, professional/leadership development, organizational assessments, technology, specialized equipment, renovations, capital costs, costs associated with organizational mergers, etc. Capacity Building may also be to strengthen a sector or collective group and may include costs to collaborate, community engagement and organizing, identifying issues and framing shared actions. (Note: adding more staff to deliver programs is captured in the programming categories above).

**Note:** Ensure you select the right category. We recommend focusing your application on one project or projects that are directly related to each other (in other words, do not apply for multiple initiatives unless you can draw clear connections and create a cohesive application).

#### Choices

Existing Programming

New Initiative

Organizational Development

### Where will these services be delivered?\*

**Please choose the most appropriate from the list below. If you do not see your region in this list, it is likely that you fall outside Calgary Foundation's catchment area. Please consult the program guidelines [here](#).**

#### Choices

Calgary NE

Calgary NW

Calgary SE

Calgary SW

Calgary ALL

Banff National Park

Canmore  
 Rocky View County  
 Municipal District of Big Horn  
 Municipal District of Foothills  
 Municipal District of Kananaskis  
 Municipal District of Wheatland  
 Piikani Nation  
 Siksika Nation  
 Tsuut'ina Nation  
 Kainai Nation  
 Iyarde Nakoda Nations  
 Multiple regions from the list above

**Please Choose the Populations Served through this initiative.**

***If this application is for internal capacity building (staff/board/volunteers/tech), please choose the populations your organization serves.***

**First Choice (required)\***

**Choices**

Children and youth  
 Seniors and Elders  
 Essential Workers  
 Temporary Foreign Workers  
 Students (Postsecondary)  
 People experiencing homelessness  
 People experiencing low income or living in poverty  
 People living with mental illness  
 People struggling with addiction  
 People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence  
 People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)  
 Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)  
 Veterans  
 Newcomers  
 Women and girls  
 Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)  
 General Population  
 Other

**Second Choice (optional)**

**Choices**

Children and youth  
 Seniors and Elders  
 Essential Workers  
 Temporary Foreign Workers  
 Students (Postsecondary)  
 People experiencing homelessness  
 People experiencing low income or living in poverty  
 People living with mental illness

People struggling with addiction  
People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence  
People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)  
Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)  
Veterans  
Newcomers  
Women and girls  
Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)  
General Population  
Other

### Third Choice (optional)

#### Choices

Children and youth  
Seniors and Elders  
Essential Workers  
Temporary Foreign Workers  
Students (Postsecondary)  
People experiencing homelessness  
People experiencing low income or living in poverty  
People living with mental illness  
People struggling with addiction  
People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence  
People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)  
Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)  
Veterans  
Newcomers  
Women and girls  
Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)  
General Population  
Other

**If you chose 'Other' in the populations served above, please specify:**

*Character Limit: 75*

## Section 3: Application Details - Written / Video / Audio

**Choose a written response or a video recording or an audio recording to provide details on your grant request.**

*An oral application option is available for Indigenous and other equity-deserving communities; please contact us at [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org) by **February 17, 2026**, to discuss this option (the application deadline remains in effect).*

**Note:**

Oral, Video and Audio options are available to offer choice and improve accessibility. If there

are other access considerations that would support your organization in the application process, please contact us.  
Regardless of the format, we will focus on the content rather than the production quality or writing style.

### Charity/Qualified Donee's Mission or Statement of Purpose\*

**As it appears on your website or official documentation**

NOTE: Character limits for each section include spaces.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## WRITTEN / VIDEO / AUDIO SUBMISSION

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### Application\*

**Are you submitting a written response or video recording or audio recording?** (Please choose only one format)

- If you choose a written submission, enter grant request details in the text boxes.
- If you choose video, insert a link below and enter N/A in the text boxes. Be sure to answer all the questions in your video submission.
- If you choose audio, insert a link below and enter N/A in the text boxes. Be sure to answer all the questions in your audio submission.

### Choices

Written

Video

Audio Recording

**Character limits for each section *include* spaces.**

### Rationale and Response\*

**What is the specific issue you are trying to address or the strength you are building that will be supported by the grant? How did you determine the approach you intend to take and who will be impacted by this work? Why is your organization best suited to do this work? Please keep your response specific to what you intend to achieve with this grant.**

Explain why a grant is important at this time from a community or organizational perspective and your organization's capacity to deliver it. Be specific when referring to the issue or strength you are building and the population served through this proposal. For example, if this grant request is for hiring new staff or buying program materials, tell us how your organization has fared so far in its current state and how the response/approach was determined.

*We will assess how you identified the issue or strength you are building, your organization's capacity to deliver the work, how the target population (internal or external) are involved in determining the strategies behind the work, how closely it aligns with community priorities as identified in the [2025 Quality of Life Report](#) and values of the Foundation.*

*Character Limit: 3000*

### **Grant Start Date\***

The grant can cover expenses starting from **July 1, 2026**.

*Character Limit: 10*

### **Grant End Date\***

***Please indicate when the grant money will be spent and the work it covers concluded.***

*Calgary Foundation grants are not limited by a fiscal or calendar year. We are constrained by our budget (see program guidelines for detail). While we do support applications for multi-year work, large, multi-year projects may be reduced during our review process.*

*Character Limit: 10*

### **Delivery\***

**Provide details about the planned activities and timeline. *Be as specific and detailed as possible.***

We want to know what you are actually going to do (when and where) during the grant start and end dates you indicated above, as well as any preparation work already done.

#### ***For example:***

Pre-grant decision: Revise position mandate and consult with Board and lead volunteer to finalize.

Post-grant decision: July - August: Job posting, interviews, hiring and onboarding one full-time and one part-time program coordinator. Obtain quotes for program materials and finalize participant handbook.

Sept-Nov: Recruit 15 program volunteers, host 3 training sessions (1 per week) for new and existing volunteers with daytime and evening options, childcare included.

December: Host 2 community engagement sessions at XYZ Centre in partnership with ABC organization. Participants will be recruited from X partner and Z partner, through our existing database of 200 members, posted on social media and word of mouth. Each session will include a panel and small group discussions.

*We will assess the details of your plan, how the activities respond to the issue identified above, how it connects to the budget line items, and how the activities will logically lead to the outcomes you identify below. Staff positions should indicate whether they relate to hiring new staff or are for existing staff, and in what capacity – full or part time.*

*Character Limit: 2000*



## Evaluation and Impact\*

**What do you hope to achieve with this grant and within the specified timeline? Tell us where you are now and where this grant will help you get to. What impact will this project have on the intended population? The impact must resolve the issue and/or build on the existing strengths that you identified in the rationale. Tell us about your organization's position before the grant and outline the specific, measurable outcomes that you aim to achieve.**

*We want to see how the group you are working with is being positively affected by this work, even if you are working with a small group of people. We will assess your evaluation strategy to understand what success looks like and how you will be learning from this work and sharing it with others, including relevant groups, when appropriate. For example, if applying to fund a staff position, provide context on the mandate of the position and the anticipated impact of the role. It is important to quantify/qualify the expected outcomes of this grant and to demonstrate what the expected outcomes are based on. Avoid broad statements that do not specifically speak about your project or program participants.*

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Relationships\*

**Who have you developed (or are developing) relationships with that have informed the work of this proposal and help ensure its likelihood of success?**

Describe how your organization is collaborating with similar or complementary organizations in Calgary and area to inform this work. Tell us how the proposed work complements their work, or how it provides a unique perspective. The relationships described (formal or informal) must relate to the specific and named partners that will inform, augment or benefit from this work.

*We will assess your knowledge of the sector and how much the work is informed by the people who will be most impacted.*

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Relationship Reference\*

***Insert name(s) and email(s) of key relationships outside of your organization that help inform this initiative. Please note that we may contact them for more information about their involvement in the work of this proposal.***

*Character Limit: 250*

## Additional Information

***If there is important relevant information that is not captured in the space above, please use this space to expand.***

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Link to Video Submission (if applicable)

***If you choose a video submission, copy the link to your video uploaded on YouTube. For further***

information, click on the [Video Guidelines](#) link to read the instructions. Please keep the video to 5 minutes maximum. This time limit is equivalent to the length of space available for written applications. To be fair to all applicants, our review team will only watch the first 5 minutes of the video.

Enter N/A in the text boxes above. If you are not submitting video, leave this field blank. DO NOT upload a video in this section if you are submitting a written application as it will not be reviewed.

Character Limit: 2000

### Audio Submission (if applicable)

If you choose to submit an audio recording, upload the file here. Please keep the audio to 5 minutes maximum. This time limit is equivalent to the length of space available for written applications. To be fair to all applicants, our review team will only listen to the first 5 minutes of the audio.

If submitting audio, enter N/A in the text boxes above. If you are not submitting audio, leave this field blank.

DO NOT upload any other files or supplemental documents in this section as they will not be reviewed.

File Size Limit: 10 MB

### Only for renovation or building projects - Video upload

For renovation or building projects only, please provide a short video that shows the space in question. The video should be no longer than 1 minute. Copy the link to your video uploaded on YouTube. For further instructions, read the "Uploading your video" section of the Video Guidelines found above.

DO NOT upload any other videos or supplemental documents in this section as they will not be reviewed.

Character Limit: 2000

## Section 3a: Existing Programming or Operational Expenses

### Additional Financial Context for Existing Programming Requests (i.e. why now?)

In addition to your answer above describing the rationale for the work, please provide some additional details to help us understand the need for funding from a financial perspective.

Calgary Foundation is not a 'core funder' or ongoing funder for any organization. However, we know that organizations need support with operational expenses from time to time. Calgary Foundation will consider operational or existing programming costs when there is a clear reason why Calgary Foundation support, for a limited time, will support your mid/long term sustainability. **Note that only organizations with under \$4M in annual operating budget are eligible.**

Explain why a grant is important at this time from a financial perspective. Calgary Foundation will consider reasons such as (but not limited to): a loss of other revenue sources or in-kind support; a significant increase in demand that is not met with current revenue sources; changes to your revenue/fundraising model; barriers to accessing funding, etc.

Explain the impact to your organization, people and programs if funding is not secured (e.g., reduced or closed programs, shift in funding away from another area, etc.) **It is important to provide specific context in your response.**

*Character Limit: 1500*

### Sustainability Plan

In addition to maintaining or increasing fundraising efforts, are there any other ways you are thinking strategically about financial sustainability after the grant period concludes? (Share things like other potential revenue sources, changes to your operations, HR, partnerships, etc.) **It is important to provide specific context in your response.**

*Character Limit: 1500*

## Section 4: Budget

---

### Amount Requested from Calgary Foundation\*

*Please make sure this number is exactly the same as the number in the budget table for the Calgary Foundation allocation for both Revenue and Project Expenses.*

*Character Limit: 20*

### Total Cash Expenses\*

The total expenses associated with your initiative, including other sources of funding (do not include In-Kind contributions).

*Please make sure this number is exactly the same as the number in the budget table for both Revenue and Project Expenses totals.*

*Character Limit: 20*

### Project Funding Length\*

#### Choices

[Click here for single-year funding](#)

[Click here for multi-year funding](#)

## Section 4a: Single-year Budget

### BUDGET

**Budget line items must reflect the work proposed in the written/video content and activities.**

#### Revenue Sources - Single year

Complete all fields. You must complete all rows and columns, or you will not be able to submit the application. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0.

Do not include in-kind contributions to the Revenue and Expenses Tables. In-kind contributions should only be reflected in the In-Kind Sources Table below.

(Requested amount cannot be increased after submission)

**Note: We want to know how much money it will take to do this work, and what that money will pay for.**

*We will assess if your budget is balanced and if the activities you describe above are sufficiently supported by these resources. We will also assess if your budget includes expenses not mentioned elsewhere in the application. If requesting operating expenses, ensure that this is reflected in relation to your organization's overall annual operating budget. All expenses must be applied to activities defined as charitable by the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency).*

Anticipated CASH Revenue Sources	Name of Revenue Source	Amount Requested	Confirmed or Pending	Notification Date
Calgary Foundation				
Revenue Source 2				
Revenue Source 3				
Revenue Source 4				
Revenue Source 5				
Revenue Source 6				
<b>Total Revenue - MUST MATCH TOTAL EXPENSES</b>				

## Project Expenses – Single year

Complete all fields. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0. You must complete all rows and columns in order to submit.

We support staff costs that align with the [Alberta Living Wage Network](#).

Note: If you are using the Safari web browser (Mac) the descriptions may be hard to view. We recommend another browser.

Anticipated CASH Expenses	Description - include a brief description (150-character limit)	Cash Expenses	\$ allocated to Calgary Foundation
Program Materials and Equipment			
Evaluation			
Administration Support			
Human Resources			
Consultants and Honoraria			
Accessibility Considerations (e.g. interpretation services)			
Volunteer Recognition			
Travel			
Other Program-Related Expenses			
Other Program-Related Expenses			
Total Expenses - must match total revenue			

## In-Kind Support

Will any in-kind contributions be made to this initiative? In-kind contributions may include gifts of goods or services directly related to the delivery of the initiative, which you would otherwise need to purchase.

Complete all fields. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0

Source	Name of Source	Description of In-Kind Contribution	Approximate Cash Value
In-Kind Source 1			
In-Kind Source 2			
In-Kind Source 3			
In-Kind Source 4			
In-Kind Source 5			
Total In-Kind Estimate			

## Section 4b: Multi-year Budget

### Revenue Sources - Multiyear

Complete all fields. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0. You must complete all rows and columns in order to submit. (Requested amount cannot be increased after submission)

Do not include in-kind contributions to the Revenue and Expenses Tables. In-kind contributions should only be reflected in the In-Kind Sources Table below.

**Note: We want to know how much money it will take to do this work, and what that money will pay for.**

*We will assess if your budget is balanced and if the activities you describe above are sufficiently supported by these resources. We will also assess if your budget includes expenses not mentioned elsewhere in the application. If requesting operating expenses, ensure that this is reflected in relation to your organization's overall annual operating budget. All expenses must be applied to activities defined as charitable by the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency).*

Anticipated CASH Revenue Sources	Name of Revenue Source	Amount requested	Confirmed or pending	Notification Date
Calgary Foundation				
Revenue Source 2				
Revenue Source 3				
Revenue Source 4				
Revenue Source 5				
Revenue Source 6				
<b>Total Revenue - MUST MATCH TOTAL EXPENSES</b>				

### Project Expenses - Multiyear

Complete all fields. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0. You must complete all rows and columns in order to submit.

We support staff costs that align with the [Alberta Living Wage Network](#).

Note: if you are using Safari web browser the descriptions may be hard to view. We recommend another web browser.

Anticipated CASH Expenses	Description – include a brief description (150-character limit)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total \$ allocated to Calgary Foundation grant for all years
Program Materials and Equipment					
Evaluation					
Administrative Support					
Human Resources					
Consultants and Honoraria					
Accessibility Considerations (e.g. interpretation)					
Volunteer Recognition					
Travel					
Other Program-Related Expenses					
Other Program-Related Expenses					
<b>Total Expenses - MUST MATCH TOTAL REVENUE</b>					

### In-Kind Support

Will any in-kind contributions be made to this initiative? In-kind contributions may include gifts of goods or services directly related to the delivery of the initiative, which you would otherwise need to purchase.

**Complete all fields. If not applicable, enter NA and \$0**

Source	Name of Source	Description of In-Kind Contribution	Approximate Cash Value
In-Kind Source 1			
In-Kind Source 2			
In-Kind Source 3			
In-Kind Source 4			
In-Kind Source 5			
In-Kind Source 6			
<b>Total In-Kind Estimate</b>			

## Section 5: Reconciliation and Equity

### RECONCILIATION AND EQUITY JOURNEY

As part of Calgary Foundation's Reconciliation and Equity Journey, we are learning where organizations are in their own development. Calgary Foundation encourages applications from organizations with programs led by and for equity-deserving communities (EDC). Equity-deserving refers to groups who are marginalized by societal structures. For the purpose of our tracking and this application, we are referring to Indigenous, Black, Racialized, Disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

**NOTE:** Alignment with one of these equity-deserving communities is not mandatory to be awarded a Calgary Foundation grant.

We will use your answers below in three ways:

- 1) We will compile anonymously all the answers to create a snapshot overall.
- 2) We will consider your answers in deciding this grant because we believe in the power of community input in the design and delivery of the charitable and non-profit sector.
- 3) We are working on an internal data strategy to help assess our progress in serving equity-deserving communities through our grant programs.

#### Relationship to Equity-Deserving Community\*

The definitions below are guidelines for making your selection in this application. They provide a broad frame of our data and are not intended to be exhaustive.

- **Led by and for** refers to an organization whose mission is to primarily serve a specific equity-deserving community, their identity is at the centre of services/program delivery, and with strong leadership representation at all levels (i.e., staff, executive, board).
- **Focused** refers to an organization whose mission is to deliver programming/services for a specific equity-deserving community, including culturally responsive services; organizational leadership includes leaders from the equity-deserving community, and regularly collaborates with other organizations led by members of the equity-deserving community.
- **Serving** refers to an organization that has a strong representation of an equity-deserving community among its service users; has strong Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies and practices; intentionally supports causes of the equity-deserving community - but is not specifically focused on an equity-deserving community as part of its organizational mission (for example, Calgary Foundation falls into this category).
- **Not Specific** refers to an organization whose mandate or service is not specific to any one of the five equity-deserving groups listed above, e.g. serves general population.

Please select from one of the following groups to describe your organization's relationship to one of the equity-deserving communities listed above. If your organization's program delivery is designed for an intersection of more than one of these communities, you will be able to provide more details below.



**Note that we carefully review your selection here in line with your organization's mandate, population served, and details of the application, as such, your selection may be revised. We are interested in supporting organizations wherever they are on their equity journey.**

### Choices

Led by and for (mandate to serve an EDC, programs centre their identity, leadership at all levels)  
 Focused (mandate to serve an EDC, tailored programming for the EDC, the EDC is part of leadership)  
 Serving (established DEI practices, EDC largely among service users, intentional support for EDC)  
 Not Specific (mandate to serve general population, or not 1 of the 5 listed EDC)

### Additional context

We recognize there is nuance that cannot be captured above. If you would like to add context or if your organization primarily serves people with intersecting identities of two or more equity-deserving communities listed above (e.g. racialized people with disabilities), please provide details here.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Equity-Deserving Communities

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### Equity-Deserving Community\*

**Which of the following equity-deserving communities apply to your selection above?**

#### Choices

Indigenous Communities  
 Black Communities  
 Racialized Communities  
 Disabilities Communities  
 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

### Organizational Characteristics and Practices\*

**Select all that apply to your organization in relation to the equity-deserving community selected above:**

#### Choices

Over 70% of board, staff and volunteers are from this community  
 At least 40% of board, staff and volunteers are from this community  
 Our mandate is to serve this community and their identity is at the centre of programs  
 Our organization is directly responsible to this community  
 Programs are delivered by members of this community  
 Specific programs are designed in partnership with this community  
 Cultural practices are part of operations when appropriate  
 Staff receive cultural awareness training on how to engage with this community  
 Significant proportion of the service users are from this community  
 Our organization actively supports causes that positively impact this community  
 Collaborations and relationships with this community exist outside program delivery  
 We allocate specific resources to support DEI work  
 We collect and use data to better understand this community  
 We create opportunities for equity discussions and examine oppression in relation to our work  
 None of the above

## Section 5a: Non-Profit Partner Reconciliation and Equity

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### Non-Profit Partner's Relationship to Equity-Deserving Communities\*

**Which of the following would best describe the Non-profit partner's relationship to equity-deserving communities?**

**See Reconciliation and Equity Journey above for additional context.**

**Note that we carefully review your selection here in line with your organization's mandate, population served, and details of the application, as such, your selection may be revised. We are interested in supporting organizations wherever they are on their equity journey.**

#### Choices

Led by and for (mandate to serve an EDC, programs centre their identity, leadership at all levels)

Focused (mandate to serve an EDC, tailored programming for the EDC, the EDC is part of leadership)

Serving (established DEI practices, EDC largely among service users, intentional support for EDC)

Not Specific (mandate to serve general population, or not 1 of the 5 listed EDC)

#### Additional context (NFP)

We recognize there is nuance that cannot be captured above. If you would like to add nuance or if your organization primarily serves people with intersecting identities of two or more of the equity-deserving communities listed above (e.g. racialized people with disabilities), please provide details here.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Non-Profit Equity-Deserving Community

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### Equity-Deserving Community (NFP)\*

**Which one of the following equity-deserving communities apply to the Non-Profit Organization's selection above?**

#### Choices

Indigenous communities

Black communities

Racialized communities

Disabilities communities

2SLGBTQ+ communities

### Organizational Characteristics and Practices (NFP)\*

**Select all that apply to your organization in relation to the equity-deserving community selected above:**

#### Choices

Over 70% of board, staff and volunteers are from this community

At least 40% of board, staff and volunteers are from this community

Our mandate is to serve this community and their identity is at the centre of programs

Our organization is directly responsible to this community

Programs are delivered by members of this community  
 Specific programs are designed in partnership with this community  
 Cultural practices are part of operations when appropriate  
 Staff receive cultural awareness training on how to engage with this community  
 Significant proportion of the service users are from this community  
 Our organization actively supports causes that positively impact this community  
 Collaborations and relationships with this community exist outside program delivery  
 We allocate specific resources to support DEI work  
 We collect and use data to better understand this community  
 We create opportunities for equity discussions and examine oppression in relation to our work  
 None of the above

## Organizational Characteristics and Practices (for organizations not specific to an equity-deserving community)\*

Select all that apply to your organization:

### Choices

Board, staff and volunteers include members from equity-deserving communities  
 Programs are delivered by members of equity-deserving communities as appropriate  
 Specific programs are designed in partnership with an equity-deserving community  
 Cultural practices are part of operations when appropriate  
 Staff receive cultural awareness training on how to engage with equity-deserving communities  
 Significant proportion of the service users are from an equity-deserving community  
 Our organization actively supports causes that positively impact equity-deserving communities  
 Collaborations and relationships with an equity-deserving community exist outside program delivery  
 We allocate specific resources to support DEI work  
 We collect and use data to better understand our community  
 We create opportunities for equity discussions and examine oppression in relation to our work  
 None of the above

## Section 6: Additional Information

***You have now completed the primary content of the application. Please complete the following to certify the accuracy of the information provided and support our planning process.***

## CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY AND CONSENT TO SHARE

### Certification of Accuracy\*

Check 'Yes' to certify that:

1. Your organization is operating in compliance with its bylaws and with Canada Revenue Agency regulations.
2. The executive leader of your organization is aware of the information contained in this application and can attest to its accuracy

### Choices

Yes

### Consent to share application\*

From time to time, we may share applications with donors or other funding agencies when the application aligns with their interests. Do you consent to having your application shared with donors and funders?

#### Choices

Yes  
No

## SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS MEETING PREFERENCE

### Shortlisted for meeting preference\*

All applicants will be notified whether their application has been shortlisted to the next and final stage of the application process or if it has been declined. We expect to shortlist about one-third of applications. We request that shortlisted applicants meet with a Grant Advisory Committee to discuss the proposal in more detail.

Note: We will base our scheduling on your selection. Your meeting location selection does not influence the outcome of your application. The Grant Advisory Committee is happy to meet at your location but do consider the convenience for your staff and program participants, as well as what the value might be in meeting at your location. There is a small window after the shortlisting to change your initial preference. We will do our best to accommodate your preference but may change it as we build the meeting schedule.

**If your organization is shortlisted, do you prefer to:**

#### Choices

Meet in person at applicant's location (requires Wi-Fi and room for 6-10 people)  
Meet in person at Calgary Foundation office  
Meet virtually via Zoom

## COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

### Community Knowledge Centre (CKC)

Does your organization have a profile on the [Calgary Foundation's Community Knowledge Centre \(CKC\)](#)? CKC membership is free and now open to both registered charities and non-profits. Learn more about the benefits of signing up [here](#).

***You are not required to have a profile on CKC in order to apply for a Community Grant. However, CKC is a great opportunity to profile your organization for donor advised grants. If you are creating or updating a profile, we appreciate your patience. This is a very busy time of***

***year for our CKC team, and it will take some weeks to complete your profile. This will not impact your grant request.***

#### Choices

#### **Link to Community Knowledge Centre (CKC) profile.**

If you have a profile on the [Calgary Foundation's Community Knowledge Centre \(CKC\)](#), copy the link to your profile here. You are encouraged to ensure the information in your profile is up to date. If you don't have a profile, leave this blank.

Note: when you copy the address from CKC into this field, delete the ' / ' symbol from the end of the address.

*Character Limit: 2000*

#### **Have you completed the CKC Sign-up Form?\***

Click here to sign up: <https://ckc.calgaryfoundation.org/create-a-profile/>

#### Choices

Yes/In process

No

We prefer not to sign-up with CKC at this time.

We are already signed up

## **ANONYMOUS SURVEY**

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#### **OPTIONAL:**

Calgary Foundation strives to make our grant application and review processes inclusive and simple while ensuring we have enough information to make good granting decisions. We review our program guidelines and application process regularly to ensure it aligns with current community needs and the needs of our volunteer review committees. We can always do better and welcome your input. We invite you to complete this [anonymous survey](#).

## Appendix B

### Video Guidelines

You have the option of providing more detail about your work in writing or through a video. If you choose video, you will record a video, create a link, and link it through the Online Grant Portal. You will still complete the other sections (Organization Information, Overview and Budget) in writing.

#### DURATION

Please keep the video to **5 minutes** maximum. This time limit is chosen to be equivalent to the length of space available for written applications. Our review team will only watch the first 5 minutes of the video.


#### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Evaluation of your video/multimedia submission will focus on the content rather than the production quality. Make sure to address all the questions mentioned below as applicable.

#### UPLOADING YOUR VIDEO

To share your video with us, upload your video to YouTube, then paste the link to the video into **Section 3: Link to Video Submission** of the application.

To get started uploading your video on YouTube, follow the steps below:

1. Sign in to YouTube.
2. Click on the video icon  at the top right-hand side of the window, which can be found next to your user icon, messages, apps and notifications.
3. Click 'Upload a Video'.
4. Select the video you would like to upload from your computer. You can also import a video from Google Photos.
5. Before you start uploading the video, choose "**Unlisted**" [video privacy setting](#) from the drop-down menu.
6. As the video is uploading, you can edit both the basic information and the advanced settings of the video. You can have a title up to 100 characters and a brief description. Once the upload is complete, Click Next.
7. Set the video privacy setting to **Unlisted**, click **Save**.
8. Copy the link to the video provided. Paste the link into **Section 3: Link to Video Submission** of the application.

#### CONTENT

Your video should cover the same content as expected in writing.

Our staff are available to preview videos to ensure you have addressed all the relevant information. If you would like us to review your video, please contact [communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org](mailto:communitygrants@calgaryfoundation.org) by the review date indicated in the guidelines.