

Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

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

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403-802-7310

About Strategic Opportunity Grants

Strategic Opportunity Grants provide support to small charities, with emerging needs, for the exploration and development of solution-based initiatives. This granting stream funds the planning and design work needed before implementation, not the implementation itself.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have an operating budget of up to \$2,000,000.
- Be a registered charity or qualified donee, in good standing with CRA.
- Be operating in Calgary and Area
- Complete any outstanding or overdue reports

Eligible activities must:

- Fall into one of two categories: Organizational Development, or Program Development.
- Occur after the grant approval date.

Organizational Development – When charities identify an opportunity to bring outside expertise into the organization to build internal capacity, support staff learning, or improve outcomes for internal clients.

Program Development – When charities identify an opportunity to improve outcomes for external clients by exploring and designing new approaches to program delivery.

Examples of potential activities include:

- Volunteer program development
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Learning and Professional Development
- Community engagement & outreach strategies
- Digital Transformation-(Enhancing technological resilience and upgrading digital infrastructure to improve service delivery, data collection, and outreach)
- Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing programs

Examples of ineligible activities include:

- Ongoing core operating expenses
- Program delivery
- Hosting events/conferences
- Strategic planning or retreats
- Travel, accommodation, and meal expenses
- Start-up costs
- Fund development plans, fundraising activities, or fundraising salaries
- Debt retirement
- Emergency funding
- Branding, Marketing & Communications Strategies

Implementation (Not Eligible)

Activities focused on delivering or operating an established program or service.

Examples:

- Hiring staff to run programs
- Direct service delivery
- Ongoing operational costs
- Program expansion or scaling
- Purchasing equipment for service delivery
- Marketing or promotion of an existing program

How to Apply

- Contact Daudi prior to the deadline to discuss eligibility at (403-802-7310) or [email](#).
- Complete the grant request through the online portal.
 - You may save a draft and request the Grants Associate provide feedback before submitting (time permitting).
- A consultant's workplan must be submitted with the application if you plan to work with one.
- The maximum grant request amount is **\$15,000**

Who Assesses Grant Applications?

Community 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.