

Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

Grant requests are due by 4 p.m. on the last day of each month

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403-802-7310

About Strategic Opportunity Grants

Strategic Opportunity Grants help small charities respond to emerging needs by supporting the investigation, development, and testing of solutions. As a pre-implementation funding program, the grant enables organizations to move from an idea, challenge, or opportunity to a well-developed, implementation-ready plan that is positioned for future funding and long-term impact. The grant does not fund project implementation.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

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

Eligible activities must:

- Fall into one of three categories: Investigate, Develop, or Test.
- Occur after the grant approval date.

Stream 1: Investigate (Up to \$5,000)

For organizations seeking to understand a challenge, opportunity, or emerging community need.

Examples:

- Community consultations
- Needs assessments
- Environmental scans
- Data gathering
- Governance reviews

Stream 2: Develop (Up to \$10,000)

For organizations that have identified an opportunity and want to explore potential solutions.

Examples:

- Program design
- Feasibility studies
- Service model development
- Evaluation Framework Design
- Change management planning

Stream 3: Test (Up to \$15,000)

For organizations requiring support to create a detailed roadmap for future implementation.

Examples:

- Prototyping new approaches
- Program design workshops
- Proof of Concept

Implementation (Not Eligible)

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

Examples:

- Ongoing operational costs
- Program expansion or scaling
- Purchasing equipment for service delivery
- Marketing or promotion of an existing program
- Travel, accommodation & meal expenses
- Fund development plans
- Fundraising activities or salaries
- Regular Strategic Planning
- Hosting events/conferences

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.
- Available funding varies by grant stream and ranges from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$15,000.

Who Assesses Grant Applications?

Community volunteers and members of Calgary Foundation's Grants Team assess Strategic Opportunity Grant requests to support a timely decision-making process.

