



UNDERSTANDING TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

The M&SG Program is designed to support projects with “transformational impact”. Because of the breadth of sectors we serve, 'transformational' looks different for different sectors. We encourage applicants to share how their work aligns with the program guidelines according to their perspective and experience.

The intention of this document is not to define transformation. Rather, it is to serve as a conversation guide, to surface questions that will support applicants to assess their own fit and support the committee in our decision making. The Major & Signature Grants committee is most interested in supporting projects that are transformative to Calgary and area (including Treaty 7 Nations) and to a sector or community. There may also be circumstances where transformation within a single organization is significant enough to warrant support, particularly if there will be a positive impact on a great number of people.

LAYERS OF TRANSFORMATION

(may address one or more of the points in the righthand column)



TRANSFORMATIVE IN CALGARY AND AREA (INCLUDING TREATY 7)

- Serves community in a way that doesn't currently exist in Calgary
- Changes the conditions that keep a problem in place
- Builds relationships or resource flows across sectors or traditional boundaries
- Has intergenerational impact(s)
- Will impact multiple sectors in the areas below

TRANSFORMATIVE TO A SECTOR OR COMMUNITY

- Creates a model for other organizations in the sector
- Addresses an issue from a new angle or broader system lens
- Serves people that are systemically underserved or addresses a power imbalance
- Significantly scales up something that has proven successful on a smaller scale or in another region
- Will impact multiple organizations in the areas below

TRANSFORMATIVE TO AN ORGANIZATION AND CLIENTS

- Will make the organization more effective and/or more sustainable over the long term
- Addresses their own work in a new way or from a different or more inclusive perspective
- Significantly improves longterm outcomes for clients/target audience beyond a single program or initiative
- May have ripple effects in the sector or community

QUESTION TO DISCUSS WITH APPLICANTS AND/OR THAT APPLICATIONS MAY WISH TO ADDRESS:

- What is the pressing issue/system you're trying to address or the challenge are you aiming to overcome?
- What is the transformation (the fundamental shift) you are hoping to achieve through this project?
- Through this work will you change a commonly held narrative, a way of working, relationships or policies that keep a pernicious problem in place?
- Will the work include perspectives and/or impact people that have previously been overlooked or systemically excluded?
- What are the direct and indirect impacts on the wider sector(s) and or community?

Additional criteria, as outlined in the guidelines, remain important. Similar to transformation, how we interpret and apply the criteria will depend on the context and may be fluid over time. Successful organizations generally have strong alignment across criteria. However, there may be cases where some criteria are weighted more heavily within the context of the application and grant cycle.

Additional criteria include: addresses a major Issue, impacts a great number of people, aligns with Vital Priorities, collaboration, readiness, leadership, sustainability, incorporates principles of equity.

