Stepping Stones Guidelines

Questions?
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What is Stepping Stones?
Stepping Stones encourages active citizenship by helping grassroots community groups undertake small creative projects that build a sense of inclusive belonging in local communities. We offer grant support of up to $1,000 for project expenses.

Stepping Stones supports projects that:
- Build connections between people and their local neighbourhoods and communities.
- Celebrate the importance of knowing and helping neighbours - in regular daily life and in times of community stress.
- Are driven by people in their own neighbourhoods and communities. The projects are slightly different than programs provided by organizations to communities because community members themselves must play a meaningful leadership role.

Projects we support tend to be projects where people:
- Engage people in creative ways to address concerns
- Foster a sense of pride and presence
- Give people the chance to get involved in community life
- Support our community’s vulnerable citizens

In response to the COVID-19 health crisis, Calgary Foundation has broadened the scope of the Stepping Stones program, sped up our response time, and increased the maximum grant amount to $1,000. In this time of COVID-19 physical isolation, we will accept costs associated with virtual community gatherings and local response activities that help neighbours help neighbours. All projects must abide by the latest public health regulations.

Examples:
- Grassroots outreach activities that get information and messages of care or food hampers to isolated community members about crisis supports available in the community.
- Virtual gatherings (concerts, conversations, culture sharing) that help people feel part of their neighbourhoods and communities without leaving their homes.
Who can apply?

Non-profit societies, charitable organizations (including the broader group Canada Revenue Agency describes as “qualified donees”), community associations, and informal grassroots groups in Calgary and area, defined as:

Calgary, Banff National Park, Rocky View County, the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland, and the surrounding First Nations of Treaty 7 territory.

Stepping Stones cannot cover:

- Projects that have occurred before the application decision is made.
- Salary, equipment that could be borrowed, or items that could be donated by other sources.
- Purchase of assets (computers, cameras, etc.) for individuals, informal groups, or non-profits, due to charitable tax law.
- Individual expenses such as rent or utility bills. Projects would provide people with information about community services instead.

How do you apply?

Please submit by email to ngp@calgaryfoundation.org

Questions? Contact us at 403-802-7720 or ngp@calgaryfoundation.org

Application Process

- Someone from Calgary Foundation will contact you shortly after receiving your application to find out more.
- We aim to let you know with four weeks of receiving your application if we will support your project with a Stepping Stones. (Please check our website for any changes to this timeframe plan.)
- Please know it may take at least three weeks for non-profits and charities to receive actual payment once a request has been approved. For informal groups, the process would take longer.
- At least one person leading the project must be 18 or older.