

Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

Grant request deadlines are midnight on the 1st of each month

CONTACT

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Click to schedule a
conversation with Brigitte

ABOUT STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Strategic Opportunity Grants support **small to mid-sized** (up to \$8M annual operating budget) Calgary and areaⁱ qualified doneesⁱⁱ with small, time-sensitive, short term, strategic initiatives that fall into one of two categories:

- **Organisation Development** – When charities identify an opportunity to bring outside expertise into the organization to build capacity, strengthen board governance, conduct HR assessments, or support professional development.
- **Program Development** – When charities identify an opportunity to strategically advance their work by prototyping a new program idea, testing an innovative enhancement to current program offerings, or improving outcomes for program participants.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Qualified donees with eligible initiatives are invited to submit a grant request through our online grant portal [on our website](#).

Eligible initiatives:

- Align with the Calgary Foundation's mission, vision and values;
- Are small, short-term (approx. 6-8 mos.), time-sensitive and strategic;
- Are of direct benefit to Calgary and area communities;
- If applicable, demonstrate cooperation with other organisations and service providers with expertise in the initiative area; and
- Demonstrate readiness, preparedness, and good planning.

Calgary Foundation welcomes all eligible initiatives, particularly those that help further the Calgary Foundation's priority areas:

- Poverty reduction
- Encouraging mental health
- Living a creative life
- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities
- Pursuing an environmentally sustainable future
- Supporting equity-deserving communities

Applicants must complete any Strategic Opportunity Grant reports or overdue reports from other Calgary Foundation grant programs prior to submitting a grant request.

Grant funds can only support activities that take place after the grant decision has been made.

HOW TO APPLY

- Contact the Grants and Volunteer Program Associate prior to the deadline to discuss eligibility and the new grant request process (403-802-7724), [email](#), or [click here](#) to schedule a conversation. A passcode is required to submit an application which will be provided during this discussion.
- Complete the grant request through the online portal found on the Strategic Opportunity Grants page. Applicants may save a draft and request that the Grants Associate provide feedback before submitting (if time permits). The maximum grant request amount is **\$10,000**.
- If the project is to engage a consultant, the consultant's workplan must be submitted with the application.

WHO ASSESSES GRANT REQUESTS?

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.

THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES ARE INELIGIBLE

- Ongoing core operating expenses
- Ongoing program delivery
- Hosting events/conferences
- Regular Strategic Planning
- Academic research
- Equipment purchases (e.g. computers, hardware, software)
- Travel, accommodation & meal expenses
- Website projects
- Start-up costs
- Branding, Marketing & Communications Strategies/Plans
- Fund development plans
- Fundraising activities or salaries
- Debt retirement
- Emergency funding
- Proselytizing, or religious activities that promote one spiritual tradition

ⁱ 'Calgary and area' includes: Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, Kainai First Nation, Piikani First Nation, Siksika Nation, Iyârhe Nakoda Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and the Municipal Districts (including towns and hamlets) of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland.

ⁱⁱ Go to Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings website to determine whether your organization is a qualified donee: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/list-charities/list-charities-other-qualified-donees.html>