



Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

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

Contact grants staff with questions about Strategic Opportunity Grants:

Brigitte von Rothemburg, Grants and Volunteer Program Associate

Phone: 403-802-7724

Email: grants@calgaryfoundation.org

About Strategic Opportunity Grants

Strategic Opportunity Grants support small to mid-sized (up to \$8MM annual operating budget) Calgary and areaⁱ qualified donees with small, 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 in order to build capacity, strengthen board governance; or support professional development.
- **Program Development**– When charities identify an opportunity to strategically advance their work by piloting a new program idea, testing an innovative enhancement to current program offerings, or improving outcomes for program participants.

Who can apply

Qualified doneesⁱⁱ with eligible initiatives are invited to submit a grant request through our online grant portal found at: <https://calgaryfoundation.org/grantsawards-loans/types-of-grants/strategic-opportunity/>

Eligible initiatives:

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

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

- Reducing poverty
- Encouraging mental health
- Living a creative life
- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities
- Pursuing an environmentally sustainable future

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. (403-802-7724)

- 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). Be sure to complete and attach the Initiative Budget using the template provided.
- Do not provide supporting documentation, unless requested.

Who assesses grant requests

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 annual events/conferences
- Academic research
- Equipment purchases
- Travel, accommodation & meal expenses
- Fundraising activities or salaries
- Debt retirement
- Emergency funding
- Proselytizing, or religious activities that focus on a single spiritual tradition

ⁱ *Calgary and area includes: Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, and the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland and the surrounding First Nations.*

ⁱⁱ *Go to Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings website to determine whether your organization is a qualified donee if you are not sure: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charitylists/>*