



Strategic Opportunity Grants Guidelines

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

Contact grants staff with questions about Strategic Opportunity Grants:
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About Strategic Opportunity Grants

Strategic Opportunity Grants support small to mid-sized (up to \$8MM annual operating budget) Calgary and area¹ 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, conduct HR assessments, 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, vision and values;
- Are small, short-term (approx. 6-8 mos.) 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 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

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.

- 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. 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 annual events/conferences
- Regular Strategic Planning
- Academic research
- Equipment purchases (e.g. computers)
- 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, Kainai First Nation, Piikani First Nation, Siksika Nation, Iyathe 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>