

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS MULTI-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

1. My organization does not have a charitable number. Can I still apply?

If another group with a charitable number is working in partnership and can take on the responsibility of the grant, they make the application using their number working in partnership with you, but they are responsible for the funds and the outcomes.

2. We have applied for a grant in the past and not been successful. Can we still apply?

Yes, try to gain insight as why you were not successful by speaking to staff from the Foundation or to someone with experience, and adjust your approach accordingly.

3. Our financial statement / annual report is not yet ready. What should I do?

Send in the most recent report or statement and follow up with updated versions as soon as they are available.

4. Can I send the support letters after the application deadline?

No. Please make sure that all required documents are submitted on time.

5. We do not have any letters of support from women's organizations. Will that affect how my proposal is assessed?

It is preferable to have letters of support from groups with experience working mainly with women in a context of empowerment. Not having this could adversely affect your application.

6. We currently have a Canadian Women's Foundation grant that is not finished. Can we still apply for a grant?

You can still apply as long as the grant application is for new work and not to finish parts of the project or program that were supposed to be completed during the timeline of the first grant.

7. We have received an Economic Development grant previously. Can we still apply in this funding cycle?

Yes you can apply. However, if you have been funded for the same project or program in two previous grant cycles, we encourage you to consider applying for a different project or program.

8. Do you fund operations or provide core funding?

No. We fund projects or programs only. Some of the grant funds can be used for administrative or overhead costs related to the project/program.

9. Can I apply for funds for a men's program or programs involving men?

No. Canadian Women's Foundation supports economic development work aimed at moving women out of poverty.

10. Do you fund furniture and office equipment?

Yes, when it is part of the programmatic expenses.

11. We do not currently have a curriculum we are sure about. Can you suggest one?

There are many interesting curricula, but we cannot suggest one over another. At a minimum you must present an outline of what you expect to cover in the education sessions with your proposal.

12. Can you explain the Sustainable Livelihoods model in greater detail? And what do you mean by women need to be at 'stage two' of the model.

The Sustainable Livelihoods model was originally developed at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. The model has been adapted for economic development work with women in Canada and is based on program using an approach that builds the assets (social, financial, physical, human, and personal) required to develop a sustainable livelihood for women.

As per the Sustainable Livelihoods framework, Stage 2 'Enhancing Employability' refers to women who have just enough to meet their basic needs, allowing them to focus on employment readiness and identifying viable livelihood choices, through hands-on learning and training. Your program should engage women at this stage and help them move to Stage 3 'Exploring Possibilities', thus improving their employability and economic possibilities.

For more information, please read "*Women in Transition Out of Poverty: An Asset-Based Approach to Building Sustainable Livelihoods*" found on the website:
www.canadianwomen.org

13. I am not sure what to say about how we use evaluation in our program.

Consider in what ways you gather feedback on the program and what you might do with this information. This feedback needs to be analysed, and from that analysis you can make recommendations about the work you are doing.

For example, you might find out that your organization has to improve access for certain women who are experiencing barriers. You might find certain workshops too academic or theoretical and change your approach to allow for more active participation from the participants in these sessions, adding more role play or discussion. You might find that you need to adapt the language you use to be more in line with what your participants say and understand. All of these are examples on how you use evaluation.

14. Can I submit two applications for the same granting cycle?

No. We only accept one proposal per organization per granting cycle.

15. When will the grants be made?

Decisions are made by the board mid-June and the funds are released August.

16. How will I be informed of the different stages in the process?

You are not informed of where you are in any part of the process until all the grants are selected. If you wish for an update, you can call and discuss your file.

17. Can I call for updates about my grant?

Yes, but please remember that you are one of many, so getting an answer may take time. Generally, email requests receive faster responses.

18. We already receive funds from Canadian Women's Foundation for another program. Are we still eligible to apply?

You can apply for another program within another grant area at the Foundation and it will not affect your application.

19. I have read these FAQs and I would still like to contact staff from the Foundation.

We are always happy to hear from prospective grantees!

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