



COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS 2021 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

**Deadline to Apply:
August 6, 2021 at 4:00PM EDT**

ABOUT THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

The Canadian Women's Foundation is a national leader in the movement for gender equality in Canada. Through funding, research, advocacy, and knowledge sharing, the Foundation works to achieve systemic change that includes all women. By supporting community programs, the Foundation empowers women and girls to move themselves out of violence, out of poverty, and into confidence and leadership.

Launched in 1991 to address a critical need for philanthropy focused on women, the Canadian Women's Foundation is one of the largest women's foundations in the world. With the support of donors, the Foundation has raised more than \$100 million and funded over 2,000 programs across the country. These programs focus on addressing the root causes of the most critical issues and supporting women and girls who face the greatest barriers.

The Canadian Women's Foundation aims to be inclusive of diverse people across gender and sexuality spectrums. We focus our efforts on supporting those who face the most barriers and have least access to relevant services. This includes people who identify as women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, genderqueer, and non-binary, and 2SLGBTQI+.

OUR APPROACH TO FUNDING

The Canadian Women's Foundation prioritizes inclusion and addressing barriers to access. Our vision of gender equality for all in our grant-making is expressed in our prioritization of women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples who face multiple challenges.

"Until all of us have made it, none of us have made it"

Rosemary Brown
Founding Mother, Canadian Women's Foundation

In recognition of the long histories and ongoing effects of colonization, racism, violence and exclusion, the Canadian Women's Foundation has increased our focus on the following communities:



- ✓ First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples
- ✓ Black women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples
- ✓ Women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples living with disabilities
- ✓ Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, androgynous, and asexual (2SLGBTQI+) peoples

ABOUT COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

The Canadian Women's Foundation funds organizations throughout Canada, prioritizing communities where the need is greatest. These organizations are working in various capacities to address four urgent issues: gender-based violence, economic security, girls' empowerment, and inclusive leadership.

Historically, the Foundation's *Annual Grants* were project-tied, supporting initiatives with concrete outcomes in line with the Foundation's funding priorities. In response to pressure the COVID-19 pandemic has been putting on gender justice and women's organizations, the Foundation is broadening its approach for the annual grants. Applicants may apply for funds to cover **program costs and/or operational expenses**.

The Foundation's 2021 grants have been renamed "Community Needs Grants", and are designed to provide **flexible funding to organizations** to meet a range of needs, such as covering staff salaries or relief staff, adapting services for an online environment, purchasing PPE, etc. Applicants will be asked to describe how the funds will be used and how that spending will contribute to their efforts to serve women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people in their communities.

Approximately 24 grants of up to \$20,000 each will be allocated.

ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

CHARITABLE STATUS OR QUALIFIED DONEES

Applicants must be **incorporated non-profit organizations** and have a **valid charitable number** from Canada Revenue Agency or be a **First Nations Band** designated as a [qualified donee](#) by Canada Revenue Agency.

If your organization does not have charitable status or is not a qualified donee, we can consider an application in partnership with another organization that is a registered charity with a mandate relevant to your proposal. The other organization's volunteer Board of Directors will have fiscal responsibility for the grant and be legally responsible for ensuring



that the funds are spent for the charitable purposes intended. They will be required to sign a letter of agreement and work in partnership with the organization delivering the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATE

We will consider applications from organizations with the following characteristics:

- ✓ Significant experience offering programs and/or services or leading advocacy initiatives with/for women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people **who face multiple barriers and are underserved**, including:
 - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples
 - Black peoples
 - Racialized peoples
 - People living in rural, remote, or northern communities
 - 2SLGBTQI+ peoples
 - People living on low incomes
 - Older peoples
 - Refugee, immigrant, or non-status peoples
 - People with disabilities
 - Young people

- ✓ Provide programs and/or services or lead advocacy initiatives that **align with one or more of the Foundation's funding pillars**:
 - **Gender-Based Violence:** Organizations that support women, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people, and their children, who have experienced violence, been coerced into sexual and/or labour exploitation, or that work towards violence prevention with teens.

 - **Economic Security:** Organizations that aim to improve employability and economic possibilities for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people living with low incomes, or who are unemployed or underemployed.

 - **Girls' Empowerment:** Organizations that support girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth aged 9-13 years through group activities, in girls-only settings, that empower and build a sense of belonging among participants.

 - **Inclusive Leadership:** Organizations that support women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people in developing their leadership skills and provide practical opportunities to hone these skills.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

STRONG PROPOSALS WILL...

- ✓ Demonstrate that the organization **meets the above eligibility criteria**
- ✓ Show that the organization:
 - Applies a **feminist, intersectional analysis** to its organizational structure and activities
 - Understands the **intersection of inequity and barriers to participation** such as race, class, gender, and sexual identity, (dis)ability, immigration status, language, and/or geography
 - Uses an **asset-based, positive approach** that centres clients' knowledge and experiences
 - **Considers the realities of participants' lives**, e.g., by providing childcare, transportation assistance, or advocacy to enable access to services/programs
 - Has established **partnerships** with other local organizations or community-based organizations that have experience working with women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people
- ✓ Clearly communicate **how the funds will be used** to support the organization's capacity to serve women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people in their community
- ✓ Present a **clear and balanced budget**

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO...

- ✓ Organizations **led by women, Two-Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people** from populations that face multiple barriers and are underserved
- ✓ Organizations **serving:**
 - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples
 - Black women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples
 - Women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples living with disabilities
 - Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, androgynous, and asexual (2SLGBTQI+) peoples



- ✓ **Grassroots organizations** with small budgets (defined as organizations with an operating budget of less than \$1 million per year or shelters/transitional housing with an operating budget of less than \$2 million per year)

CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION DOES NOT FUND...

- ✗ Individuals
- ✗ Federal, provincial, or municipal government agencies and school boards (they can be involved but the grant will be made directly to the community organization)
- ✗ For-profit organizations
- ✗ Fundraising events
- ✗ Conferences, seminars, and symposiums
- ✗ Projects outside of Canada
- ✗ Projects not solely or primarily focused on women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples
- ✗ Deficit funding
- ✗ Films or videos (unless this is part of a larger project)
- ✗ Capital expenditures

PROCESS & TIMING

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to submit applications is August 6, 2021 at **4:00pm EDT**.

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Canadian Women's Foundation staff and a committee of community volunteers and donor partners from across the country reviews the proposals. The committee makes recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Directors about which organizations to fund. The Board of Directors gives final approval to all grants awarded.

Committee recommendations are informed by the strength of the application, i.e., the extent to which the application aligns with the criteria outlined above, and regional distribution.



APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Full Proposals Due	August 6
Application Review & Shortlisting	August-September
Committee meeting for final selections	October
Board Approval	November
Applicants notified (acceptance/declines)	December
Grants Awarded	January 2022

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

SUPPORT DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

Before starting your application, please read the instructions for applicants, the sample budget, and the FAQ section on our website: <https://canadianwomen.org/grants-community2021/>

REGISTER FOR OUR WEBINARS

- *Subventions d'appui communautaire: Ce que vous devez savoir* - June 21, 11:00am EDT
- *Community Needs Grants: What You Need to Know* - June 21, 1:00pm EDT

CONTACT US

Our team is pleased to answer your questions.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada

Canada

THE
HOUSSIAN
FOUNDATION

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