



# COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS 2023

## GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

*1-YEAR GRANTS STARTING JUNE 2023*

**Deadline to apply:  
Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 5:00pm ET**

Community Needs Grants are made possible by the following generous donors to the Canadian Women's Foundation:



Women and Gender  
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité  
des genres Canada

Canada



and our many other corporate partners, individual donors, and private family foundations throughout the country.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS 2023

To be considered for a grant, please complete the application ONLINE here:

Use this link to **register** for this application in the online application portal, [https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\\_5647?SA=SNA&FID=35568](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5647?SA=SNA&FID=35568)

Use this link to access **my account** and your application in progress, [https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\\_5647?SA=AM](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5647?SA=AM)

Please be ready to provide the following information:

- ✓ **Organizational Information**, including organization name, charitable number or indication that you are a [qualified donee](#), contact information, mission, and annual operating budget.
- ✓ **Proposal Information**, including the need for the proposed work, description and purpose of the activities and supports, key partnerships, and the geographic area(s) and communities/demographics served.
- ✓ **Budget**, with revenues that balance with detailed expenses.
- ✓ **Supporting documents**, including audited financial statements (or equivalent), letter(s) of support, diversity/anti-racism policy, and any other relevant materials.

If you have questions, contact:

Jacqueline Hall

Senior Manager, Community Initiatives

[jhall@canadianwomen.org](mailto:jhall@canadianwomen.org) | 416-365-1444 or 1-866-293-4483 x231

For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Instructions visit:

<https://canadianwomen.org/grants-community2022/>

*Ces documents sont disponibles en français :*

<https://canadianwomen.org/fr/subventions-communautaire-2022/>



## 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 \$185 million and funded over 3,000 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 people who face multiple challenges.

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

*Rosemary Brown*

*Founding Mother, Canadian Women's Foundation*

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



## 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 three urgent priority issues: gender-based violence, economic security, and girls' empowerment.

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 has broadened its approach for annual grantmaking.

The aim of the Community Needs Grants is to provide short-term support for organizations doing gender justice work, with a focus on smaller grassroots organizations, to meet a range of immediate needs. Applicants may apply for funds to cover existing program costs, to pilot new initiatives, to undertake timely policy or advocacy initiatives, to support organizational capacity-building or professional development, to build networks, *and/or* to cover operational and administrative expenses.

Approximately 25 grants of up to \$20,000 each will be allocated in 2023.

### NEW IN 2023

In 2022, the Foundation established a partnership with the Slight Family Foundation to offer dedicated financial support to address gender-based violence in urban areas through the *Slight Family Foundation Ending Gender-Based Violence in Critical Communities Grants (SLF)*. This year, the Foundation will consider grants for both the SLF and Community Needs Grants through a joint application. Organizations may only submit one application under this call for proposals.

Additionally, the Foundation will no longer accept applications under the Inclusive Leadership pillar, previously available for Community Needs Grants funding. Going forward, these grants will focus on supporting three funding pillars: gender-based violence, economic security, and girls' empowerment. The Foundation remains committed to providing capacity-building and knowledge exchange opportunities in support of leadership development in the gender-justice and women's non-profit sector.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

To be deemed eligible for a Community Needs Grant, you must demonstrate that your proposal meets the following criteria.



## CHARITABLE STATUS OR QUALIFIED DONEES

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

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 or qualified donee with a mandate relevant to your proposal. The other organization's 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 the funding agreement and work in partnership with the organization delivering the project.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATE

- ✓ Gender-based programming, services, and/or advocacy are core or central to your organization's mission AND you have significant experience working with/for women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary people who face multiple barriers and are underserved, including:
  - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
  - Black
  - 2SLGBTQI+
  - With disabilities
  - Living in rural, remote, or northern communities
  - Racialized
  - Refugee, immigrant, or non-status
  - Living on low incomes
  - Older/Seniors
  - Youth
- ✓ Your organization is grassroots with a small budget (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).  
NOTE: Larger organizations (ex. Band Councils, shared platforms, or hamlets, etc.) may present an application on behalf of a non-profit organization without charitable or qualified donee status.

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE FOUNDATION'S FUNDING PILLARS

The proposed funding will support your organization's ability to provide programs, services and/or advocacy initiatives, either directly through funding program or service costs, or indirectly through funding core operational costs, 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 or that work towards violence prevention with teens of all genders.
- ✓ **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. Proposals for programs or services solely aimed at poverty alleviation or providing direct financial support will not be considered.
- ✓ **Girls' Empowerment:** Organizations that support girls, Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth aged 9-13 years through regular group activities, in girls-only settings, that empower and build a sense of belonging among participants.

See below under *What We Fund* for eligible activities and costs with examples for each of these funding pillars.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The Community Needs Grants are highly competitive, and priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate the following:

- ✓ Organizations led by and/or serving populations that face multiple barriers and are underserved, including:
  - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people;
  - Black women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people;
  - Women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people with disabilities;
  - Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, androgynous, and asexual (2SLGBTQI+) people.
- ✓ Applies a feminist, intersectional, trans inclusive, and sex-work positive analysis to its organizational structure and activities.
- ✓ Understands the intersection of inequity and barriers to participation such as race, class, gender and sexual identity or orientation, (dis)ability, immigration/Indigenous status, language, occupation (sex work), 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 free services, childcare, transportation assistance, mental health or counselling supports, accessibility measures, or advocacy to enable access to services/programs



- ✓ Has established partnerships with other local or community-based organizations that have experience working with women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary people.
- ✓ Communicates clearly how funding will be used to support the organization's capacity to serve women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people in their community.
- ✓ Presents a clear and balanced budget.

## WHAT WE FUND

The Community Needs Grants can fund a range of costs from supporting direct program and service delivery costs, to undertaking timely policy or advocacy initiatives, to supporting organizational capacity-building or professional development, to building networks, *and/or* for operational and administrative expenses.

The following list of examples of eligible activities by funding pillar is not exhaustive. If you do not see your proposed work listed, please contact the Foundation to discuss your proposal:

### *Gender-based violence*

- ✓ Housing or shelter and wraparound supports provided to women who have experienced violence, and their children.
- ✓ Crisis counselling, support and information services or lines, systems navigation, and case management for survivors of gender-based violence, including physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, financial, spiritual, and harassment or stalking.
- ✓ Outreach services, participant-led support groups, and other programs or supports to survivors of sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and on campus.
- ✓ Legal information, court support, or other navigation programs for those involved in family, criminal, other justice systems resulting from gender-based violence.
- ✓ Healthy relationships programs for teens of all genders that work to prevent gender-based violence.
- ✓ Support to children who have experienced or witnessed gender-based violence or for parenting children who have witnessed gender-based violence/abuse.
- ✓ Organizations providing supports by and for sex workers who have faced or are at high risk of experiencing gender-based violence.
- ✓ Projects using other approaches to support survivors of gender-based violence or aimed at violence prevention.
- ✓ Sectoral resource sharing, capacity building or training opportunities, and knowledge mobilization by regional, provincial, or national groups.
- ✓ Policy work/leadership on gender-based violence that actively involves survivors.



- ✓ Advocacy that aims to address systemic barriers for survivors of violence.
- ✓ Education and action on gender-based violence involving First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, Black, 2SLGBTQI+ and survivors living with disabilities.
- ✓ Additional staff or other operational and/or administrative support for organizations working to address gender-based violence.

### *Economic development*

NOTE: The Foundation will not consider programs or services solely aimed poverty alleviation measures or direct financial support.

- ✓ Workplace navigation and inclusion programs providing workplace readiness support, including within a social enterprise setting.
- ✓ Trades and technology programs that develop opportunities for participants to enter work in the areas of skilled trades and technology, including job-readiness, placements, and apprenticeship programs.
- ✓ Self-employment training and business accelerator programs that provide one-on-one coaching, financial management training, business goal setting, and/or customized marketing and sales training.
- ✓ Sectoral resource sharing, capacity building or training opportunities, and knowledge mobilization by regional, provincial, or national groups.
- ✓ Policy work/leadership on feminist economic development or economic recovery.
- ✓ Advocacy that aims to address systemic barriers to employment for low-income First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, Black, 2SLGBTQI+ and women, girls, Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people living with disabilities.
- ✓ Additional staff or other operational and/or administrative support for organizations working to address feminist economic development or economic recovery.

### *Girls' empowerment*

NOTE: Programs or services applying for funding under this pillar must be aimed at participants aged 9-13 years.

- ✓ Regular programming in schools or community settings that enhance protective factors for girls, such as connectedness, confidence, and critical thinking skills using one of the following approaches:
  - Science, technology, arts, engineering, and math (STEAM);
  - Social and/or environmental justice;





- Indigenous culture and teaching;
- Physical literacy and sports;
- Leadership and empowerment;
- Media literacy.
- ✓ Group mentorship programs or services that engage older students/youth, adults, and/or Elders.
- ✓ Capacity-building with girl-serving organizations through formal networks that focus on one of the following populations or issue areas:
  - Northern, rural, or remote communities;
  - Girls with disabilities;
  - Gender diversity;
  - Mental health;
  - One of the approaches or topics named above.
- ✓ Additional staff or other operational and/or administrative support for organizations working to address girls' empowerment.

#### **CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION DOES NOT FUND...**

- ✗ Individuals
- ✗ Federal, provincial, or municipal government agencies and school boards
- ✗ For-profit organizations or businesses
- ✗ Fundraising events
- ✗ Conferences, festivals, seminars, and symposiums
- ✗ Activities outside of Canada
- ✗ Activities not solely or primarily focused on women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary people
- ✗ Deficit funding
- ✗ Films or videos (unless this is part of a larger project)
- ✗ Capital campaigns or expenditures
- ✗ Academic or university research
- ✗ Self-defense training (if it the only component of a project)

## PROCESS & TIMING

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to submit applications is **Thursday, January 26 at 5:00pm ET.**

### 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	January 26, 2023 (5:00pm ET)
Application Review & Shortlisting	February-March 2023
Committee meeting for final selections	April 2023
Board Approval	May 2023
Applicants notified (acceptance/declines)	June 2023
Grants Awarded	June 2023

## 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-community2022/>

*Ces documents sont disponibles en français*  
<https://canadianwomen.org/fr/subventions-communautaire-2022/>



## REGISTER FOR OUR WEBINARS

[Community Needs Grants: What You Need to Know](#) - Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm ET

[Subventions d'appui communautaire : Ce qu'il faut savoir](#) - Le mardi 13 décembre à 11h00 HE

## CONTACT US

Our team is pleased to answer your questions.

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