



# COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS 2022 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

**Deadline to Apply:**  
**Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5:00PM 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 \$130 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 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 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 has broadened its approach for the annual grants.

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

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

## ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

To be deemed eligible for a Community Needs Grant, you must demonstrate that your proposal meets the following criteria related to your organization's charitable or qualified donee status, organizational mandate and size, and the alignment of your funding proposal with the Foundation's funding pillar.

### 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 or municipality 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 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 of the funding agreement and work in partnership with the organization delivering the project.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATE

- ✓ Your organization has gender-based programming, services, and/or advocacy at its core or central to its mission, and you have significant experience offering gender-based programs, services, and/or 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
  - Black
  - 2SLGBTQI+
  - With disabilities
  - Living in rural, remote, or northern communities
  - Racialized
  - Refugee, immigrant, or non-status
  - Living on low incomes
  - Older/Seniors
  - Young women
- ✓ 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). **NOTE:** Applications may be accepted from larger organizations (ex. Band Councils, shared platforms, hamlets, or municipalities, etc.) applying on behalf of a grassroots nonprofit organization, coalition, network, or group 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, been coerced into sexual and/or labour exploitation, 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.

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

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

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

- ✓ Organizations led by and/or serving women, Two Spirit, trans, and/or non-binary people from populations that face multiple barriers and are underserved, including:
  - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
  - Black
  - With disabilities
  - Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, androgynous, and asexual (2SLGBTQI+)
- ✓ 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 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 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 examples of eligible activities by funding pillar are not exhaustive; if you do not see your proposed work listed, please contact the Foundation to discuss your proposal:

### Gender-based violence

- ✓ Counselling, legal or support services for those that have experienced violence, including physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, financial, spiritual, and/or criminal harassment or stalking
- ✓ Housing supports provided to those that have experienced violence, and their children
- ✓ Support to survivors of sexual assault and harassment, including in the workplace and on campus
- ✓ Healthy relationships programs for teens of all genders that work to prevent gender-based violence
- ✓ Support to children who have witnessed abuse or for parenting children who have witnessed abuse
- ✓ Projects using other approaches to assist women who have experienced violence, and their children, to rebuild their lives free from violence
- ✓ 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 women who have experienced violence
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Workplace navigation and inclusion programs providing workplace readiness supports, 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
- ✓ Projects using other approaches to assist women who have experienced violence, and their children, to rebuild their lives free from violence
- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Additional staff or other operational and/or administrative support for organizations working to address girls' empowerment

#### Inclusive leadership

- ✓ Leadership development programs providing practical training and mentorship opportunities across a variety of professional sectors
- ✓ Projects using other approaches to assist women in accessing formal leadership opportunities
- ✓ Policy work on feminist leadership in professional, political, or community-based settings



- ✓ Advocacy that aims to address systemic barriers 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 advance women's leadership

### **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 Monday, March 21, 2022 at **5:00pm 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.



CANADIAN  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION

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CANADIENNE  
DES FEMMES

## APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Full Proposals Due	March 21, 2022
Application Review & Shortlisting	April - May 2022
Committee meeting for final selections	June 2022
Board Approval	July 2022
Applicants notified (acceptance/declines)	August 2022
Grants Awarded	August 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-community2022/>

### REGISTER FOR OUR WEBINARS

[Community Needs Grants: What You Need to Know](#) - Wednesday, February 23 at 2pm ET

[Subventions d'appui communautaire: Ce qu'il faut savoir](#) - Le jeudi 24 février à 11h00 HE

### CONTACT US

Our team is pleased to answer your questions.

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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

THE  
**HOUSSIAN**  
FOUNDATION

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