Community Grants

Before applying, please review how we assess applications and what to expect during the review process.

We assess applications based on relevance, community impact, sustainability, involvement, accountability, and organizational profile. Applicants will be notified of decisions by email, and the review and funding process may take up to four months. Please plan your project timeline accordingly. Only **one program per organization can be funded each year** and eligibility doesn't guarantee funding.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Your organization must meet the following requirements:

1. **Align with our focus areas**

   Your program must help strengthen community resilience by supporting one of the following:

   o   STEM workforce of tomorrow

   o   Safety education

   o   Sustainable future

2. **Deliver community impact**

   Your program should:

   o   Address a pressing or important issue

   o   Be ready to implement

   o   Create meaningful, measurable benefits

3. **Demonstrate organizational capacity**

   You'll need to show:

   o   Financial stability

   o   Strong leadership and governance

   o   Sufficient staff or volunteer resources

   o   A diversified funding model (not solely reliant on BC Hydro)

4. **Commit to storytelling**

   If funded, you must be willing to share stories, testimonials, and photos during or after the program to help showcase community impact.

5. **Meet the program timeline**

   Funded activities must take place within one year of receiving funding. We'll email a post-project outcomes survey to successful applicants in January 2027. The survey is due by December 31, 2027.

BC Hydro
Power smart

WHAT WE DON'T FUND

Ineligible organizations

- o Organizations without an operating base in B.C.

- o Political parties, candidates, advocacy or special-interest groups

- o Organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

- o Health related organizations

- o Individuals or individual pursuits

Ineligible requests or program types

- o Religious or sectarian programs

- o Sports teams, tournaments, or equipment

- o School equipment purchases not tied to eligible program delivery

- o Scholarships, bursaries, or endowments

- o Requests benefitting only an individual (e.g., individual training, personal equipment)

- o Research projects, academic studies or feasibility studies

- o Capital projects (e.g., construction, renovations, or infrastructure upgrades)

Ineligible expenses

- o Requests for full program funding (we don't cover 100% of program costs)

- o Salaries, wages, or stipends

- o Ongoing operating costs (e.g., rent, utilities, insurance)

- o Costs incurred before applying

- o Travel-related expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, accommodations)

- o Advertising or media underwriting (e.g., TV, film, or video production)

- o High value or infrastructure type equipment or buildings (e.g., sheds, solar panels, water bottle-filling stations, greenhouses, irrigation systems, HVAC systems)

Ineligible events and fundraising

- o Event sponsorships (e.g., galas, golf tournaments, festivals)

- o Fundraising events (e.g., school fundraisers, third-party campaigns, equipment drives)

Ineligible in-kind requests

We don't provide in-kind donations or services, including:

- o Prizing, giveaways, or gift baskets

- o Electrical connections or deferred or free electricity

- o Electric vehicle charging

- o Fleet vehicles

- o Used computers, poles, or scrap metal

HOW WE REVIEW APPLICATIONS

We assess applications using the six criteria below:

1. **Relevance**

   Does your program address a community need or create positive impact?

2. **Community impact**

   Does your program strengthen community wellbeing, resilience, or long-term growth?

3. **Sustainability**

   Can your organization demonstrate the financial and operational stability needed to deliver your program successfully?

4. **Involvement**

   Does your program encourage community participation or partnership opportunities (e.g., volunteerism)?

5. **Accountability**

   Are there clear goals, measurable outcomes, and a plan to track the impact?

6. **Organizational profile**

   Is your organization well known and actively engaged in your local or regional community?