



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Community Services Recovery Fund?

The Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF) is a unique funding opportunity that aims to respond to the adaptation and modernization needs of charities and non-profits facing immediate and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as they continue to support communities across Canada.

Who are the National Funders and what is their role?

The Community Services Recovery Fund will be delivered through three National Funders – Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and United Way Centraide Canada. These National Funders will be responsible for establishing open application processes to distribute funding to eligible charities and non-profits across Canada.

What is the timeline for the Community Services Recovery Fund?

Application period opens
January 6, 2023

Application Deadline
February 21, 2023, 5:00 PM PT

Funded projects begin
May 1, 2023

Funded projects end
June 30, 2024



Where do I apply?

Visit www.communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca to learn more about the Fund and explore the Project Focus Area best suited for your project. We encourage you to complete the [Where to Apply Questionnaire](#) on the website or walk through the [Where to Apply Infographic](#). These resources will lead you to the correct application portal, depending on your stream, Project Focus Area, and funding amount requested.

Who is considered a Community Service Organization?

Community Service Organizations, which means non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies or Registered Charities/Some Qualified Donees located in Canada who provide services to communities in Canada.

- **Non-profit Organizations:** means non-incorporated as well as incorporated associations, clubs, or societies that are not registered charities or individuals, but are organized and operated exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation, or any other purpose except profit.
- **Indigenous Governing Bodies:** this includes Indigenous governing bodies that are not registered as charities or non-profits, such as First Nations bands, Métis settlements, and Inuit governments or associations.
- **Registered Charities/Some Qualified Donees:** charities and other qualified donees registered with the Canada Revenue Agency.





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What organizations are eligible for funding?

The CSRF will accept applications from Community Service Organizations, which means non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies or Registered Charities/Other Qualified Donees located in Canada that provide services to communities in Canada.

To be considered eligible for funding from the CSRF, organizations must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a CSO, as defined above
- Be incorporated or established in Canada or have a principal registered office address in Canada
- Provide services to communities in Canada
- Be in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency, a provincial registry, or applicable regulatory body
- Have a governance structure in place with at least three people on the board, management committee, or other types of governing body
- Have internal accountability measures such as practices and procedures for internal controls and accountability
- Have a bank account in the name of the organization and a financial management system to track the organization's income and expense transactions effectively.
- Be working in one or more of the community services areas listed below from the International Classification of Non-Profits:
 - Arts and culture
 - Development and housing
 - Education and research (provincial/territorial entities are excluded)
 - Environment
 - Health (provincial/territorial entities are excluded)
 - Law, advocacy and politics
 - Philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion
 - Social services
 - Sports and recreation
 - Faith-based

How much funding can organizations apply for?

Funding amounts available will depend on your funding stream. Organizations applying to the local stream can apply for funding from \$10,000 to \$200,000 and organizations applying to the National/Provincial/Territorial can apply for funding from \$20,000 to \$500,000. There are two tiers of funding available in both the Local Stream and the National/Provincial/Territorial Stream.



What are Project Focus Areas?

Projects funded by the CSRF will work within one of the three Project Focus Areas. These projects should be designed to strengthen the internal capacity of CSOs. Although some projects may touch on more than one Project Focus Area, eligible organizations are asked to select one primary focus area that best reflects the main intention of the project.

- **Investing in People:** Funding will support one-time projects that focus on how organizations recruit, retain, engage and support their personnel, including staff, volunteers and boards of directors.
- **Investing in Systems and Processes:** Funding will support one-time projects that invest in the systems and processes involved in creating the internal workings of an organization's overall structure.
- **Investing in Program and Service Innovation and Redesign:** Funding will support one-time projects primarily focused on program and service innovation and redesign using information gained during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What happens if I submit an application to the wrong Project Focus Area?

Please carefully consider the information available at www.communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca to ensure applications are submitted correctly. The [Applicant Guide](#) is a great resource to learn more about the fund.

If applications are submitted incorrectly, there is no guarantee they will be redirected.





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Where do local organizations apply?

If you are a local or regional CSO serving a portion of a province/territory, you should apply to the Local Stream.

There are two tiers of funding available in this stream. Tier 1 project funding is from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Most projects will fall under Tier 1. Tier 2 provides higher funding amounts for larger-scale projects that meet specific criteria. Available Tier 2 project funding is from \$100,001 to \$200,000.

To be eligible to apply for Tier 2, applicants must meet the following specific criteria:

- The project is in the implementation or stabilization phase. In other words, the work has progressed past planning, and is already underway; AND
- The project is being carried out by two or more CSOs partnering or collaborating, whereby all the CSOs involved will benefit directly from the results.



Can Quebec organizations apply?

Yes. The CSRF will be delivered across Canada to ensure that eligible organizations in all provinces and territories and regions can benefit from the funding and carry out their modernization and adaptation projects. Details on who is eligible to apply for funding is available on the [CSRF website](#) and organizations are encouraged to check back frequently for updates on the rollout of the program.

We recognize Quebec's unique expertise and significant investments in community action and the social economy, and that the Quebec ecosystem is the result of many years of concerted effort by a broad range of stakeholders.

We are committed to implementing the Community Services Recovery Fund in a way that respects this unique ecosystem. To this end, an M-30 exemption has been approved by the Government of Québec.

Where do National/Provincial/Territorial organizations apply?

CSOs serving the entire country, an entire province/territory, or multiple provinces/territories must apply to the National/Provincial/Territorial Stream. There are two tiers of funding available in this stream.

Provincial/territorial organizations in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut can choose to apply through the National/Provincial/Territorial Stream or the Local Stream.

Tier 1 funding is from \$20,000 to \$200,000. Most projects will fall under Tier 1. Tier 2 provides higher funding amounts for larger-scale projects that meet specific criteria. Available Tier 2 project funding is from \$200,001 to \$500,000.

To be eligible to apply for Tier 2, applicants must meet the following specific criteria:

- The project is in the implementation or stabilization phase. In other words, the work has progressed past planning and is already underway; AND
- The project is being carried out by either:
 - A national, provincial, or territorial CSO with regional and local service branches or divisions where the service branches will benefit directly from the results; OR
 - A CSO structured as a national community service federation or representative association whereby the member organizations will benefit directly from the results.

My organization is a provincial/territorial organization in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Where can I apply?

Provincial/territorial organizations in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut can choose to apply through the National/Provincial/Territorial Stream or the Local Stream.





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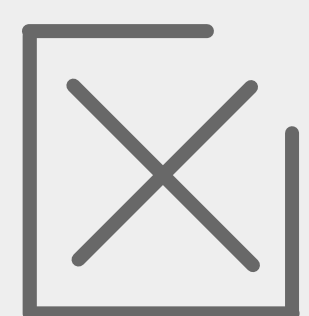


What are some examples of organizations that should apply to the National/Provincial/Territorial Stream?

Example A: Our head office is located in Montreal, Quebec. We deliver programming across Canada, but primarily in Quebec and Manitoba. We offer a mix of tailored programming specific to the general community and classroom.

Example B: Our head office is located in Regina, Saskatchewan. We have a national mandate to serve any Canadian living with mental health issues. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we had a chapter-based model. In a COVID-19 pandemic context, we are expanding our traditional programming to locally-led, virtual programming.

Example C: Our head office is located in Whitehorse, Yukon. We have territorial ambassadors in several communities who are providing a mix of in-person and online support services.



What organizations are ineligible for funding?

The following organizations are ineligible for funding from the CSRF:

- For-profit organizations
- Business non-profit institutions, including business associations, chambers of commerce, and condominium associations
- Provincial/territorial entities, including hospitals, medical centres, schools, private schools, universities, colleges, health authorities, public health authorities, educational institutions, and health/social services institutions
- Municipalities and entities controlled by a municipality including municipal governments, regional governments, and regional districts
- Individuals
- United Way Centraides, Community Foundations, The Canadian Red Cross and collaboratives in which these organizations are a member

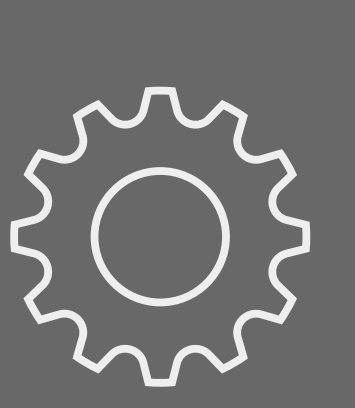
Do you have examples of projects in the Investing in People Project Focus Area?



Examples of projects primarily focused on people may include:

- Human and volunteer resource structures and policies
- Recruitment and retention strategies for staff, volunteers, and/or board members
- Mental health supports for staff, volunteers, and/or board members
- Supports and training for staff, volunteers, and/or board members
- Diversity equity and inclusion initiatives
- Other activities to help your staff, volunteers, and/or boards modernize or adapt

Do you have examples of projects in the Investing in Systems and Processes Project Focus Area?



Examples of projects primarily focused on Systems and Processes may include:

- Investment in contact management systems
- Implementation of a new communications plan
- Enhancement of a new accounting system
- Development, implementation, or adaptation of a new fundraising strategy
- A governance review through the lens of organizational resilience
- Exploring a merger or amalgamation amongst one or more CSO
- Development or adaptation of a data/privacy strategy or plan
- Other activities to help your organization and systems modernize or adapt

Do you have examples of projects in the Investing in Program and Service Innovation and Redesign Project Focus Area?



Examples of projects primarily focused on Program and Service Innovation and Redesign may include:

- Exploring the adaptation of a program, service, or service delivery system using information gained during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Testing or piloting a program, service or service delivery system that was redesigned or adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Purchasing equipment or other program materials to facilitate the adaptation of a program and/or service using information gained during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Evaluating or analyzing the adaptation or redesign of a program, service, or service delivery system that was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Other activities to help your organization modernize or adapt its programs and services



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What expenses are eligible for funding?

Eligible expenses include reasonable expenses directly related to the project, in furtherance of the project's purpose and activities, and that have been actually and properly incurred. Eligible expenses include:

- Personnel – wages and employment-related costs
- Contractors – fees for professional services
- Materials and supplies
- Project equipment
- Travel expenses
- Training and events
- Administration



What expenses are ineligible for funding?

Ineligible expenses include but may not be limited to:

- Expenses incurred prior to May 1, 2023
- Expenses incurred after June 30, 2024
- Expenses covered by another funding source including other COVID-19 pandemic recovery funds and restricted organizational revenue
- Gift cards, gifts, prizes, and/or incentives for participation
- Costs or expenses for entertainment
- Purchasing land and/or buildings, real estate fees and related costs
- General professional memberships and professional development fees
- Training for personnel not dedicated to the project
- Provision for losses or potential future liabilities
- Contingencies
- Exchange losses
- Interest expenses
- Legal penalties
- Taxes for which an organization is eligible for a tax rebate
- Alcohol or cannabis
- Individual membership fees for private clubs (e.g., golf clubs, gyms)
- Costs associated with profit-making activities

What activities are ineligible for funding?

Ineligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Direct service delivery
- Major capital projects
- Purchase of land and buildings
- Partisan, political or election-related activities
- Publication of books or research
- Projects and activities that generate a profit
- Direct fundraising activities or events
- Projects that benefit only private interests
- Projects that promote a for-profit entity or its products and services
- Activities that undermine, restrict, or infringe on human rights legally protected in Canada
- Sub-granting projects/activities
- Sponsorship, endowment funds, and donations



How will my application be evaluated?

All applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed, and all applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application. Unfortunately, not all organizations or projects can be funded, and some may not be funded at the level requested.

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced, affected, or shaped the operations of the CSO.
- The proposed project is viable, meaning it can be implemented in the available time and with the available funding, and the organization has the capacity to provide oversight of the project.
- The proposed project will help the CSO adapt, modernize, or build resilience following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The applicant uses an equity lens in its work.

Additional consideration will be given to distribute the available funding equitably, for example, across types of organizations, populations served, sub-sectors, project focus area, and geographic areas.





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What does using an equity lens mean?

Using an equity lens means recognizing diversity in experience and needs and creating frameworks that respond to diversity. An equity lens requires a set of informed policies and practices intentionally designed to promote opportunity and rectify disparities, as well as informed people positioned to implement them effectively.

What does “nothing about us without us” mean?

This principle recognizes that individuals with lived experience know what is best for themselves and their community and that their participation is integral to the success of the program. When the principle is used, the organization’s work is guided by the needs and aspirations of the people being served. Those people served are provided meaningful opportunities for participation in project planning, leadership, evaluation, and promotion.



What are “equity deserving communities”?

Individuals or groups who face barriers to participating fully within their community, including equal access to opportunities and resources. Equity-deserving groups include but are not limited to: women, Indigenous Peoples, Black Canadians, other racialized communities, official language minority communities, people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+.

What are “organizations led by equity-deserving groups”?

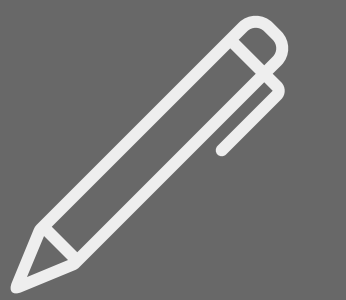
The applicant organization may consider itself to be an organization led by one or more equity-deserving groups if members of these groups influence the organization’s mission, strategic direction, investment decisions, key activities, and project decisions. Typically, this would include influential positions on the board of directors or management committee.

What are “activities that undermine, restrict or infringe on human rights legally protected in Canada”?

Activities that weaken or limit the ability to exercise rights legally protected in Canada. These include restricting access to programs or services, or employment, or otherwise discriminatory, contrary to applicable laws, on the basis of prohibited grounds, including gender, race, colour, national or ethnic origin, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression; advocating for intolerance, discrimination and/or prejudice; and/or actively working to undermine or restrict a woman’s access to sexual and reproductive health services.

How many applications can I submit?

Organizations may submit one application for funding under this program. If an organization applies on behalf of a collaborative, that counts as its one application.



Can local or regional branches of a national/provincial/territorial organization or provincial/territorial branches of a national organization apply for funding even if their head office is also applying?

Yes, local or regional branches of a national/provincial/territorial organization or provincial/territorial branches of a national organization can apply for funding even if their head office is also applying, as long as the projects are not the same and each organization applying is structured and registered as a separate entity.