

Applicant Guide: The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) is a \$350 million investment made by the Government of Canada to support vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of COVID-19.

The Government of Canada has partnered with national intermediaries, namely, Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and United Way Centraide Canada, to deliver the ECSF. While intermediaries are managing their respective funding streams separately, they are coordinating to ensure funding flows swiftly to organizations. See the [infographic](#) to learn more about what intermediary is funding and where you can apply.

This document intends to support qualified donee applicants interested in applying to Community Foundations of Canada's ECSF program.

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Which partner should I apply to?

- **Community Foundations of Canada** - Local community foundations across Canada will accept and assess applications from **qualified donees** through a centralized national portal.
- **United Way Centraide Canada** - Local United Way Centraide members will accept and assess grant applications from **charities** through local portals. In some cases, local United Way Centraide members may also support **non-profit organizations** through an appropriate trustee relationship with a qualified donee.
- **Canadian Red Cross** - National granting program for eligible **non-profit organizations** across Canada. As well, the Red Cross Preventing Disease Transmission Training and Equipment Program is open for all **eligible charities, qualified donees and non-profit organizations**.

See [this infographic](#) for further information.

This document outlines the eligibility criteria and steps to apply to the ECSF as hosted by Community Foundations of Canada and the community foundation network.

What is a community foundation?

Community foundations are philanthropic organizations that direct grants, leadership and other investments toward community initiatives. Across the country more than 85% of communities have access to a community foundation - from our largest cities to our smallest towns. The ECSF will be managed at the local community level by a network of community foundations, located coast to coast to coast.

Visit our website to find the community foundation [nearest you](#).

Eligible organizations

The ECSF run by CFC will support qualified donees in running projects at the community level that serve vulnerable populations that have been especially affected by COVID-19.

Eligible projects include ongoing programs that meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document. Qualified donees should be in touch with their local community foundation to learn more about available grant sizes.

Applicants will be required to share how their project assists vulnerable populations, the populations they serve, and the impact of the project on the community.

Examples of qualified donees include:

- registered charities;
- registered Canadian amateur athletic associations;
- registered Canadian municipalities;
- registered municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada.

Those ineligible to apply include:

- Individuals
- the Government of Canada (federal government);
- provincial and territorial governments;
- the Crown; and
- the United Nations.

Qualified donees must be registered on the CRA's list of [qualified donees](#).

Eligible projects

The ESCF will provide immediate financial support for projects that are serving vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of COVID-19. Qualified donees may apply for more than one grant, as long as each application describes a distinct project.

Specifically, eligible projects will:

- Clearly address a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused by COVID-19;
- Serve one or more vulnerable groups (defined below);
- Be carried out in a short timeframe with a reasonable budget, before March 31, 2021

Examples of eligible projects where vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 include:

- Creation of a digital health platform to continue mental health and addictions recovery programming
- Development and delivery of a virtual mental health program for caregivers
- Purchase of food kits for marginalized families experiencing interrupted support services

- Addition of meal service staff at a women's shelter to meet public health guidelines
- Food purchase assistance for members living on-reserve, where supplies and delivery are interrupted
- Purchase of a freezer by a food bank to accommodate rise in food orders
- Technology purchase and service enabling seniors in-residence to connect with their families virtually
- Increased staffing and supplies at a shelter for women and children fleeing violence
- Preparing and delivering food for persons with disabilities
- Remote arts programming for vulnerable youth
- Procurement and delivery of educational materials to Aboriginal Friendship Centre families
- Development of online social skills curriculum for individuals with special needs, replacing in-person programming
- Deployment of a social worker to provide Deaf community with information on COVID-19 and support to navigate impact relief services

Vulnerable populations include:

Children, Youth or Elderly

- Children and youth (ages 0-29)
- Youth ageing out of care
- Seniors and Elders (in and not in care)

Vulnerable Workers

- Caregivers
- Workers who are vulnerable (essential, temporary foreign, those in the informal labour market)

Populations Requiring Specific Care or Supports

- People experiencing homelessness
- People struggling with addiction
- People living with mental illness
- People with low-income or living in poverty
- Persons with disabilities
- People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence
- People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)
- Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)
- Veterans
- Students (postsecondary)

Marginalized Communities in Canada

- Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)
- Women and girls

- Members of LGBTQ2s+ communities
- Newcomers (Permanent and temporary residents including immigrants and refugees)
- Racialized people (Arab, Black, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Latin American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Other racialized groups)
- Indigenous people (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)

Eligible expenses

All budget items must be project-related and must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. Eligible expenditures will vary depending on the project. The list below are examples of possible expenditures.

- Wages and employment-related costs for existing or additional staff;
- Fees for professional service;
- Disability supports for staff of the Grant Recipient;
- Materials and supplies;
- Printing and communication;
- Travel costs;
- Utilities;
- Insurance;
- Rental of premises;
- Lease, purchase and maintenance of equipment;
- Performance monitoring and reporting costs;
- Data collection;
- Knowledge development activities; and
- Other administrative costs associated with the project.

Ineligible Projects and expenditures

Ineligible projects include:

- Projects that are designed for fundraising purposes,
- Profit generating projects or activities,
- Any activity taking place outside of Canada
- Projects that have received funding through another ECSF intermediary (Red Cross or United Way)

The following expenditures are ineligible, and will not be supported by the ECSF:

- Purchase of real property (land or building)
- Expenses incurred prior to April 1, 2020

- Expenses incurred after March 31, 2021
- Any expenses that are covered by another funding source (including the Government of Canada, Canadian Red Cross and United Way Centraide Canada or their local affiliates). Projects may receive funding from other sources, but those funds may not cover the same expenses as this grant.

Timeline

The community foundation network is accepting applications beginning on May 19, 2020. Applications must be submitted before July 27, 2020 for activities occurring between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

What are the grant amounts through the ECSF?

The ECSF offers a range to be effective to organizations working in communities of various sizes and geographies. In small communities of 15,000 residents or less, the maximum ECSF grant amount is usually \$40,000. For larger cities and regions, the maximum grant amount is usually \$75,000. Community Foundations may also set their own limits, please check with your local Community Foundation. There is no minimum grant amount.

When can I expect to receive results?

Applications are received and evaluated on a rolling basis. Decisions will be made weekly. Applicants will receive a decision no later than July 31, 2020.

How to apply

If you are eligible and would like to apply, please reach out to your local community foundation to discuss your project and application.

When you are ready to apply, please visit the [Application Portal](#). Please review this video (link forthcoming May 19) for instructions and help with submitting your application.

If your organization is located in an area that is not served by a community foundation and you are interested in applying, please contact CFC at covid19@communityfoundations.ca.