2023 GRANTS PROGRAM

(Community & Field of Interest Grants)

# Funding Guidelines

###### Policy

Through its Community and Field of Interest Funds grants program, the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen supports a wide range of programs that will be of benefit to residents in communities throughout the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. The Community Foundation is responsive to changing community needs.

Grants may only be awarded to registered charities and qualified donees under the *Income Tax Act* (i.e. agencies in possession of a registered charitable number from the Canada Revenue Agency, including Municipalities). In some cases, a grant may be made to an agency acting as a sponsor for an organization that is not registered but wishes to carry out a charitable activity. An intermediary agreement will need to be signed between both organizations.

All applications are considered on merit and funds available for distribution. Each year, the Foundation, based on priorities and funds available, determines the size and range of grants. The final decision on all granting rests with the Community Foundation Board on the advice of an independent Grants Committee.

###### Guidelines

Grants from the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen Community and Field of Interest Funds are awarded on an annual basis. The application deadline for **2023 grants** is ***October 14th, 2022.***

Applications for projects are encouraged which reflect **need** in the community, **build** effective community partnerships and are community-led with volunteer support, **improve** organizational effectiveness and **plan** for continuation of the project beyond initial funding.

CFSOS will not be focusing on specific priorities or areas of interest this year but instead are encouraging organizations to apply for what is needed most, which may include but not limited to:

* Operations
* Program/project delivery
* Pilot projects/programs
* Purchase or upgrade equipment or technology
* Renovation or repairs
* Startup costs
* Research costs

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Applicants will need to identify at least one or more of the 17 SDG’s their project/program is addressing.** [**Click here to learn more**](https://okanagan-similkameen-vital-signs.tracking-progress.org/sdgs/)

**Review Criteria:**

1. **How much does the project touch the CFSOS’s 4 key funding priorities**: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), Seniors, Regional Support, and Reconciliation
2. **Community Need**: Do you feel this project is needed in the community? Is the project filling a gap in the community?
3. **Impact**: How much of an impact will CFSOS funding have on the success of the project? Will the project fail without CFSOS funding?
4. **Community Involvement and Partnerships**: Does the applicant have partnerships with other community organizations/groups to implement the project/program? Is this project/program community led with solid volunteer support?
5. **Mission Alignment**: Will this project help the organization in delivering its mission**?**
6. **Future Planning**: Has the applicant planned how the project will be funded in the future?
7. **Budget**: Does the budget make sense? Reasonable?

*\*All of the criteria are scored between 1 – 5 by the reviewer (5 being the highest score).*

***Grants will not be awarded to:***

* Establish or add to endowment funds
* Establish or add to operating reserves
* projects whose primary purpose is to provide religious activities or beliefs