

2024 FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAM

Funding Guidelines

Through its Foundation grants program, the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen (“the Foundation”) supports a wide range of projects, programs and activities that will be of benefit to residents in communities throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen region.

Grants will be made to not-for-profit and charitable organizations whose projects, programs or activities align closely with the charitable purposes of the Foundation. The applicant’s project, program or activity must also demonstrate alignment with our funding guidelines.

Each year, the Foundation determines the size and range of grants based on priorities and funds available. The final decision on all granting rests with the Foundation’s Board, on the advice of an independent Grants Committee.

Guidelines

Grants from the Foundation's Community and Field of Interest funds are awarded on an annual basis through the Foundation grants program. Applications for this year’s grants cycle will be accepted from **August 19th through October 15th, 2023**.

The Foundation is committed to being responsive to changing community needs with its grantmaking. Applications are encouraged which address demonstrated **need(s)** 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.

In addition, the Foundation encourages applications that address issues of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and those that demonstrate meaningful action toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Eligible Requests

The Foundation does not have specific priorities or areas of interest for its granting this year. Instead, we encourage organizations to apply for funding to support what is needed most. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Operations (including multi-year requests)
- Program/project delivery
- Pilot projects/programs
- Purchase or upgrading of equipment or technology
- Renovations or repairs
- Research costs

Ineligible requests

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Establish or add to endowment funds
- Establish or add to operating reserves
- Establish or add to a capital campaign
- Sponsor a general fundraising event
- Projects that have a primary purpose of promoting political or religious activities or beliefs

Review Criteria

The following are some of the Grants Committee's considerations when evaluating applications:

- **Community Need:** has the application demonstrated that the project, program or activity is needed, or is filling a gap in the community?
- **Impact:** Does the application outline how the project, program or activity will positively and measurably impact the issue being addressed?
- **Community Involvement and Partnerships:** Does the applicant have partnerships with other community organizations/groups to implement the project, program or activity? Is there community leadership with solid volunteer support?
- **Mission Alignment:** Will this project, program or activity help the organization deliver its mission?
- **Future Planning:** Has the applicant planned how the project, program or activity will be funded in the future?
- **Budget:** Is it clear and reasonable?

More information

Questions about these funding guidelines should be directed to the Foundation's Grants Administrator at grants@cfso.net.