

# 2026 Neighbourhood Small Grants

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*Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen*

## *NSG Application Introduction*

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Welcome, Neighbour! We're glad you're here.

Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) supports residents to bring people together in ways that strengthen connection, belonging, and local resilience across the South Okanagan Similkameen. Grants of up to **\$500** are available for neighbour-led projects that are free and open to the community.

NSG is built on trust, creativity, and neighbourly leadership. We prioritize projects that:

- Build meaningful relationships
- Encourage shared leadership
- Strengthen local resilience (social, cultural, environmental)
- Are Indigenous-led or advance right relationships
- Are youth or student-led

This could look like neighbours learning from one another, sharing culture, preparing for emergencies, or strengthening care in your area.

### **Project Name\***

Don't worry if you're still shaping your idea and haven't finalized a formal title yet.

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Is this a student-led project?**

#### **Choices**

Yes

No

### **If yes, please list your school, university, or youth organization**

*Character Limit: 100*

## *Project Description*

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### **Share your project idea\***

Tell us:

- What you're planning

- Why it matters to you
- How will it bring neighbours together

*Character Limit: 5000*

### **When will your project or event take place?\***

Don't worry if the date isn't finalized yet. A best estimate is fine and can change as your plans come together.

Projects must occur between June 15 and November 30, 2026, and cannot be supported retroactively.

*Character Limit: 10*

## *Project Information*

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### **My project type is:\***

NSG supports a wide range of community-led projects designed to bring people together, deepen connections, and inspire positive change.

Does your project include any of the following? (Select all that apply)

#### **Choices**

- Connecting neighbours who don't usually interact
- Sharing skills, knowledge, or lived experience
- Building pride and care for our neighbourhood
- Celebrating cultural diversity and inclusion
- Strengthening local resilience (social or environmental)
- Discovering and activating community gifts
- Encouraging neighbours to share their gifts
- Creating new traditions or gatherings
- Youth-led
- Other project type (tell us more below)

### **Other project type:**

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Where will your project take place?\***

*To keep NSG focused on public, community-led spaces, events cannot be held at commercial establishments, schools, places of worship, or inside a home without prior approval from the NSG Coordinator.*

#### **Choices**

- Front or backyard
- Local park or outdoor space
- On a street

Virtual

Other location (tell us more below)

**Other location:**

*Character Limit: 50*

**Approximately how many people are you anticipating?\***

**Choices**

- 5 people or fewer
- 6-10 people
- 11-20 people
- 21-50 people
- 51-100 people
- More than 100 people

**Who will help organize or support this project? (Select all that apply)\***

**Choices**

- Neighbours
- Friends/family
- Community staff
- Elders/knowledge keepers
- Youth

**How will you promote your project?\***

**Choices**

- Word of mouth
- Posters/postcards
- Social media
- Email list

*Returning Applicants*

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**Have you received NSG funding before?**

**Choices**

- Yes
- No

**If yes, how many years have you received funding?**

**Choices**

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years or more

**If yes,**

**How is this year's project different or building on the previous project?**

*Character Limit: 1000*

## *Safety & Readiness*

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**Does your project involve any of the following?\***

### Choices

- Fire (open flame, cooking, cultural burning etc.)
- Large tools or equipment
- Large gathering (50+ participants)
- Water-based activities
- None of the above

**If yes, briefly describe how you will ensure safety (including who is helping you plan safely):**

*Character Limit: 2000*

Funded Project Leaders will receive additional guidance on permits, insurance, accessibility, and event safety planning.

## *Budget*

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### Eligible Project Costs

- Food and beverages
- Invitations, decorations, door prizes, and giveaways
- Workshop supplies and art materials
- Shared tools or equipment
- Permits and third-party liability insurance
- Modest honorariums (max \$350 per project)

NSG is about neighbour-to-neighbour connection. Honorariums should not make up the majority of your budget.

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### Ineligible Expenses

- Events restricted to private groups
- Travel for out-of-area participants
- Political campaigns or activities
- Single large purchases
- Bouncy castles or large inflatables

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## Encouraging Local Support

Whenever possible, NSG encourages using grant funds to support **local businesses, artisans, farmers, and community members**, promoting economic sustainability and neighbourhood connections.

### If full funding is not awarded, how would you adjust your project?\*

#### Choices

- Scale the project down
- Seek donations or sponsorships
- Reduce materials
- Cancel the project

**Please download the Budget file by clicking this [link](#).**

Once completed, you will be asked to upload it in the next question.

### Please upload your budget here.\*

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## What Happens Next:

### Save Your Copy

If you would like a copy for your records, please save it before exiting the portal. You may also log in to review your profile at any time.

After you submit your application:

### Confirmation

You will receive an email confirming that your application has been received.

### Review Process

Applications are reviewed by volunteer Neighbourhood Grants Committees to ensure alignment with NSG values and guidelines.

### Follow-Up

If clarification is needed during the review process, the NSG Coordinator may contact you.

### Decision Timeline

Funding decisions will be shared in May 2026.

Successful applicants will receive grant funds in June.

## *Optional: About You*

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The following questions are voluntary. They help us understand who we are reaching and how to improve access and inclusion with this program.

## Gender identity

### Choices

- Woman
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Two-Spirit
- Prefer not to say

## Age group

Which age group do you belong to?

### Choices

- 13-18
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

## Were you born in Canada?

### Choices

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

## If not, how long have you lived in Canada?

### Choices

- Less than 5 years
- 5+ years

## Do you identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)?

### Choices

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

## Accessibility and Inclusion

Do you identify as having a disability or accessibility needs?

### Choices

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

## How long have you lived in your current community?

### Choices

Less than one year

1-2 years

3-4 years

5-10 years

10 years or more

### *Closing*

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Neighbourhood Small Grants exists because residents are capable of shaping the places they live.

Thank you for contributing your time, creativity, and care to your community!