

# 2026 Ready Where We Live Grants

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*Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen*

## *Ready Where We Live Application Introduction*

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Welcome, Neighbour!

**Ready Where We Live** supports neighbours to come together, build relationships, and strengthen local preparedness by starting with what already exists in the community: local knowledge, everyday skills, informal helping networks, gathering places, lived experience, and people who care about one another.

**Grants of up to \$500** are available for neighbour-led gatherings that help people get to know one another, share skills and resources, identify neighbourhood strengths, and learn practical ways to prepare for local risks using trusted community preparedness toolkits.

When emergencies happen, neighbours are often the first line of support.

**Ready Where We Live** helps communities build on the connections, gifts, and strengths already present so neighbours are more ready, more connected, and more able to support one another.

### **Shared Leadership**

**Ready Where We Live** encourages projects to be led by at least two neighbours working together.

Preparedness is stronger when it is shared. Co-leading helps share the planning, build relationships, and bring different skills, gifts, and perspectives into the project.

We encourage applicants to invite a neighbour, friend, or community member to help plan and host their gathering. Projects that demonstrate collaboration and shared leadership may be prioritized during the review process.

If you have a co-lead, please include their first and last name.

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Co-lead email address**

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Project Name\***

Still shaping your idea? That's okay. Your project name can be simple, such as your road, street, building, or neighbourhood name.

*Character Limit: 100*

## About Your Neighbourhood

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### How connected is your neighbourhood today?\*

Which best describes your neighbourhood?

#### Choices

We have never gathered before

We occasionally gather

We gather regularly

We've talked about preparedness before

We've hosted NSG events before

### Topics To Explore Together\*

Which topics would your neighbourhood like to learn about or prepare for together?

Select all that apply.

#### Choices

Wildfire

Flooding

Extreme heat

Earthquake

Power outages

Severe weather

Drought or water shortages

Evacuation planning

Supporting seniors or vulnerable neighbours

Emergency communication

First aid and emergency skills

Building neighbour connections

Other

### Other topic

*Character Limit: 250*

### Tell us about your idea\*

Please tell us:

- What activities you are planning
- How neighbours will participate
- What preparedness topics you will explore
- Why this matters in your neighbourhood
- What neighbourhood strengths, skills, relationships, or gathering places your project will build on
- How the project will help neighbours know and support one another

Projects do not need to create a formal neighbourhood emergency plan.

*Character Limit: 1500*

## Gatherings\*

How many gatherings are you planning?

### Choices

- One gathering
- Two gatherings
- Three or more gatherings

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

Best estimate is fine and can change as your plans come together.

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

*Character Limit: 10*

## Toolkit Selection

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### Which toolkit(s) do you plan to use?\*

There are many excellent preparedness resources available online. We encourage you to explore and select one to three toolkits that best fit your neighbourhood's interests and needs.

Some of our recommended resources include:

PreparedBC

Household and neighbourhood preparedness resources. *Hard copies of select guides may be available.*

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program Manual

Neighbourhood-level planning tools developed by RDCK.

Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit

Preparedness resources designed for rural communities.

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*Please note FireSmart-specific toolkits are not funded through the RWWL stream. FireSmart resources are available through the RDOS, your local municipality, or fire department*

### Choices

- PreparedBC
- Neighbourhood Emergency Prep Program
- Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit
- Other

### Other toolkit or resources

If other, please tell us which resource you plan to use.

*Character Limit: 250*

### How will these resources be used?\*

Share how you will use these resources in your gathering(s)?

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Participation & Location

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### Who will help organize this project?\*

Select all that apply:

#### Choices

- Neighbours
- Friends and family
- Youth
- Elders or Knowledge Keepers
- Community organizations
- Other

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

#### Choices

- Front or backyard
- Park or outdoor space
- Street or cul-de-sac
- Community space
- Other

### Approximately how many households do you hope to involve?\*

#### Choices

- 1–5
- 6–10
- 11–20
- 21–50
- 50+

### How will you invite neighbours?\*

Select all that apply.

#### Choices

- Door knocking
- Word of mouth
- Posters or postcards
- Community notice board
- Social media

Email

## *Community Assets*

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### **What strengths already exist in your neighbourhood?\***

Every neighbourhood has assets. These may include people, places, relationships, skills, tools, cultural knowledge, communication networks, or informal ways neighbours already help one another.

Select all that apply.

#### **Choices**

- Communication networks
- Elders
- Emergency management experience
- Equipment or tools
- First aid training
- Gardeners
- Gathering spaces
- HAM radio operators /comms experience
- Language skills
- People with emergency response experience
- Trades skills
- Youth leaders
- Other strength not listed

### **List other strength(s)**

*Character Limit: 150*

### **Outcomes\***

By the end of your project, what do you hope neighbours will have created or strengthened together?

Select all that apply.

#### **Choices**

- Contact list
- Skills inventory
- Household preparedness plans
- Neighbourhood map
- Emergency communication plan
- Shared emergency supplies plan
- Stronger relationships
- Better understanding of local risks
- Greater confidence in responding to emergencies
- More neighbours contributing their skills, gifts, or knowledge
- Clearer understanding of who can help with what

## *NSG Experience*

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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

## *Project Support*

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**Ready Where We Live** supports neighbours learning and preparing together.

The focus is on building relationships, recognizing local strengths, and increasing shared readiness - not simply purchasing emergency equipment.

### **Typical Grant Amounts**

Grants typically range from \$200 to \$500 depending on:

- Number of gatherings
- Number of households involved
- Planned activities
- Project support needs
- Overall impact and feasibility

### **Eligible Expenses**

Grant funds may be used for:

- Food, snacks, and beverages for gatherings
- Invitations, name tags, printing, and outreach materials
- Supplies and materials needed for preparedness activities
- Preparedness-related door prizes or small giveaways, such as flashlights, batteries, or simple emergency items, where these support a gathering or learning activity

- Modest honorariums or mileage/gas cards for local guest speakers, such as Emergency Support Services (ESS), firefighters, RCMP, paramedics, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, or other community experts
- Other reasonable costs that help neighbours gather, learn, and prepare together

### Ineligible Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Bulk purchase of individual household emergency kits
- Major equipment purchases
- Chainsaws, generators, radios, or similar equipment
- Expenses incurred before approval
- Projects where the main purpose is purchasing emergency equipment rather than gathering, learning, and preparing together

### What support do you think you'll need for this project?\*

Funding amounts are determined based on the number of gatherings, households involved, planned activities, and overall project scope.

Select all that apply:

#### Choices

Food and refreshments

Printing and outreach materials

Preparedness activity supplies

Guest speaker or local expert

Door prizes or preparedness giveaways

Other

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.

#### Confirmation

After you submit your application, you will receive an email confirming that it has been received.

#### Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a volunteer committee to ensure alignment with the program's values and guidelines.

#### Follow-Up

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

#### Decision Timeline

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Funding decisions are typically shared within two

weeks of receiving a complete application. Successful applicants will receive grant funds within one month of approval.

## *Optional: Helping Us Support You*

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The following questions are optional. They help us understand how to make Ready Where We Live easier to access and more supportive for neighbourhood-led projects.

### **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
- Prefer not to say

### **Support needs**

Is there anything that would help make this application, project planning process, or gathering more accessible for you or your neighbours?

#### **Choices**

- Translation or interpretation
- Help with forms
- Mobility or accessibility considerations
- Printed materials
- Other support
- No support needed at this time

### **Other support needed**

*Character Limit: 200*

## *Closing*

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**Ready Where We Live** exists because neighbours are capable of shaping safer, stronger, and more connected communities.

It starts with what is already here: people, relationships, local knowledge, and the willingness to look out for one another.

RWWL is co-funded by CFSOS, Vancouver Foundation, and the NSG program.

