

Guidelines for Health and Social Development Grants

These guidelines explain what kinds of projects are considered within the Health and Social Development field. Reading these guidelines will help you make an informed decision about your application.

These guidelines were revised 12 Apr 2017 – previous versions no longer apply.

What is the Health and Social Development field of interest?

The Health and Social Development field of interest supports projects that use social innovation to build healthy, vibrant, and livable communities across British Columbia.

In this field of interest, we look for social innovations that influence and change the social systems that affect the ability of adults, families and communities to create healthy, caring, safe and supportive environments for all members of the community. See more about social innovation in the [What we fund](#) section of our website, and in our funding guidelines.

We offer three types of grants – Develop, Test, and Grow – for new and existing social innovations that have the potential to address root causes and to contribute to systemic change. In this field of interest, you can apply for either community development project funding or for community-based participatory action research funding. See more about the [types of grants](#) we offer on our website, and in our funding guidelines.

What outcomes should we work towards?

Although your project will have its own unique outcomes that you will work to achieve, we are well-positioned to support projects that strive towards at least one of the following broad outcomes:

1. People enjoy levels of health and well-being achievable by addressing [social determinants](#)

- More time is spent engaged in meaningful physical or social and recreational activities
- People have increased access to appropriate and navigable support throughout systems of care
- Communities and individuals are empowered to participate in decision-making and actions related to their own health

2. People are well-connected to their communities

- Increase belonging and inclusion of all people, including children, youth and families
- Embrace and appreciate diversity, allowing for equal opportunity and freedom from all forms of discrimination
- Increase involvement in civic governance and planning to facilitate collaboration and policy change

Guidelines for Health and Social Development Grants

3. People and communities feel they have the power to contribute to, and seek knowledge about their health

- Community members engage in participatory action health research to advance the health of their own communities
- Community members are empowered to develop skills to become leaders and contribute to relevant and measurable change and/or inform public policy related to health
- Research happens in and with community, creates collaboration between academic and non-academic knowledge systems, and is action-oriented
- Evidence-based information is available to position the community to take action

What are the focus areas of this field?

We are especially interested in projects working towards either of the outcomes listed above that also have a focus on:

Connection and Engagement

We are particularly interested in projects that aim to increase conversations between neighbours who are working together to address local issues and solutions, that provide opportunities for individuals to develop new friendships, and that connect people across generational and cultural boundaries. We are also interested in projects that improve or develop solidarity and connections within and across diverse communities.

Accessing Support Systems

We are particularly interested in projects that aim to improve the ability of community members to access and navigate systems of care and support. Successful projects will demonstrate impact at the individual level and present strategies for addressing common barriers.

Does dedicated funding support any specific areas?

A portion of the granting budget for the Health and Social Development field of interest is governed by the specific requests of donors. Priority funding is available to the following types of projects:

Community Poverty Reduction Fund

This fund is designated to address the root causes of poverty by supporting community-inspired social innovations. Supported projects will seek to understand better the underlying root causes of poverty, or will test the ability to influence the systemic behaviours that are creating or holding poverty in place, or will work to scale a proven innovation.

Support to people living with disabilities, illness and disease

Projects that focus on persons living with disabilities, illness and disease (especially mental health, arthritis, blindness, deafness, heart disease or cancer). Projects that focus on children who are living with physical and/or mental disabilities, are in poverty or are otherwise underprivileged, or who are suffering from abuse, injury, or illness.

Guidelines for Health and Social Development Grants

Health research projects that use a community-based participatory action research approach Community-based participatory action research (PAR) is an approach to research that emphasizes participation and action. Community members affected by the condition or issue under study are active leaders and participants in each stage of the research work. They are involved from the conception and design of a plan of action, to its implementation and analysis, to the circulation of its results and conclusions. This approach requires that community voices are heard asking critical questions, documenting and interpreting the findings, and disseminating the results.

How is grant size determined?

Vancouver Foundation funds no more than 50% of the budget for a project, due to funding limitations. Both cash contributions and in-kind donations of services or goods for incurred expenses are considered valid matching funds. In most cases, Vancouver Foundation does not expect to be the sole external Funder connected to the project, nor the largest source of funding listed. Generally, grant sizes are based upon:

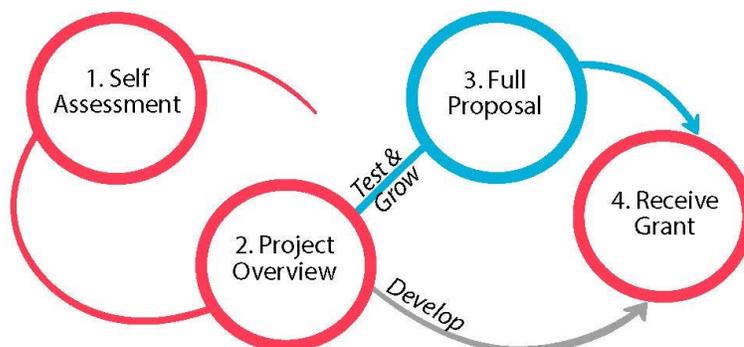
- grant amounts for past proposals of a similar nature
- the size of the total project budget
- the availability of funds during the current granting cycle

Is my organization eligible?

You can check the [eligibility](#) section of our website and take our eligibility quiz, or see our funding guidelines. To encourage applications in our focus areas of **Connection and Engagement** and **Accessing Support Systems**, we will give special consideration to organizations that directly involve the people and communities closest to the health and social challenges in the development of solutions.

How do I apply?

You can apply for a Field of Interest Grant via a simple one or two stage online application process, depending on the type of grant you choose. Completing a self-assessment prior to submitting your application is the best way to increase your chance of receiving a grant.



Guidelines for Health and Social Development Grants

1. Complete your Self-Assessment
 - ✓ Find out [what we fund](#)
 - ✓ Learn about the [fields of interest](#)
 - ✓ Choose a [type of grant](#) (Develop, Test, Grow)
 - ✓ Take the [eligibility quiz](#)
2. Submit your Project Overview (Online Application Form)
 - ✓ Select your Field of Interest and Type of Grant
 - ✓ Review the [submission deadlines](#)
 - ✓ Read the [application guide](#), to help prepare you to submit a proposal
 - ✓ Answer the online questions and estimate your project budget

If you submit a Test or Grow grant request and are invited forward to the next stage, you will then,

3. Submit a Full Proposal (Online Application Form + Support Documents)
 - ✓ Answer additional questions that build upon the information you provided in the project overview
 - ✓ Submit various supporting documents as requested by Vancouver Foundation
4. Receive a grant decision

What is the role of Advisory Committees?

We review applications in partnership with our Advisory Committees - experts in this field of interest. Our advisory committee members help us to evaluate proposals and make funding recommendations. Our advisory committee members generously volunteer their time and energy to help shape our work. These advisors also ensure that we remain in touch with the communities we serve. You can view a current [list of our Advisory Committee members](#) to find out more.

What about Copyright and Intellectual Property?

All submitted materials become the property of Vancouver Foundation, and may be shared with community advisors and/or other Funders at our sole discretion. A [list of approved grants](#) is made public on our website.

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