

Indigenous Priorities Granting Program 2021 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

ELIGIBILITY

1. Who are these grants for?

These grants are for First Nation, Metis, or Inuit communities and Indigenous-led charities that are a [registered charity or a other qualified donee listed by Canada Revenue Agency](#) and operating in BC.

For the purpose of this program, we draw on [The Circle's definitional matrix](#), to define Indigenous-led charities as organizations with:

- Indigenous leadership at all levels (including board and executive);
- Indigenous cultures and languages central to its daily operations;
- Programs delivered by Indigenous people; and
- Formal protocols with Indigenous communities.

2. What can the funds be used for?

Funding priorities for the IPGP are flexible to meet current needs of communities and organizations. We are accepting applications for a diversity of initiatives, which can include, **but are not limited to:**

- Operating costs
- Capacity building
- Elder and knowledge keeper support
- Gender-specific support groups
- Cultural mentorship / preservation / transmission of cultural knowledge
- Staff wellness, or other initiatives addressing burn out, etc.
- Intergenerational learning
- Cultural healing
- Ceremonial practices
- Community events
- Land-based programs

Capital requests, such as costs associated with equipment, technology or renovations will be considered if they are required to deliver initiatives that focus on community inclusion, belonging, or healing.

3. Are there activities that will not be funded?

Vancouver Foundation does not provide funding for debt retirement, reserves, mortgage pay-downs or large public infrastructure projects. Activities and programs that take place primarily outside of B.C are also not eligible for funding.

4. What is a qualified donee?

Under the Income Tax Act, a qualified donee is an organization that can issue official donation receipts for gifts they receive from individuals and corporations such as a registered charity. Registered charities can also make gifts to them.

Vancouver Foundation can only grant to [qualified donee](#) , meaning [a registered charity or a other qualified donee listed by Canada Revenue Agency](#)

5. I'm from a Nation/band based in BC. Are we eligible for funding?

Many First Nation bands are classified as "other qualified donees", under the category "[Municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada](#)", meaning they are eligible for funding from Vancouver Foundation.

Please [click here](#) to see if your Nation is listed.

6. My organization is national, but we do some work in BC. Are we eligible?

You are eligible to apply; however, we are prioritizing Indigenous-led organizations based in and serving communities in BC.

7. Our organization is not Indigenous-led, or is settler-led, but we serve mostly Indigenous peoples. Are we still eligible?

No, at this time funding priority will only be given to qualified First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities and Indigenous-led organizations.

8. I've previously received a Vancouver Foundation grant. Does this mean I cannot apply for this grant?

Yes, you can still apply for the grant if you've received another grant by Vancouver Foundation, but priority will be given to organizations that have either not received funding in the last five years or have never received funding from Vancouver Foundation.

9. Do I need to start and end the use of these funds between a set deadline?

We assume that most organizations will use these funds within a year from the date the grant is awarded to support the and needs the organization has identified.

FOR NON-QUALIFIED DONEES

10. [NEW Q&A: Oct. 25] The eligibility criteria of being a qualified donee is a barrier for my organization. Why is Vancouver Foundation requiring this?

Under the Income Tax Act, Vancouver Foundation can only provide funding to qualified donees (such as registered charities and public bodies performing a function of government like First Nations bands). We know that for many Indigenous-led organizations and other equity-deserving groups, this creates tremendous barriers to accessing reliable funding. Registering for charitable or qualified donee status requires time and resources that would otherwise be spent supporting communities, which is why we are currently advocating for change.

We are on a federal advisory panel on the charitable sector to recommend changes to the Income Tax Act and Canada Revenue Agency practices that would increase engagement and relationships between charities and organizations that do not have qualified donee status. There is growing momentum on this topic and we are hopeful that change is on the horizon, however at this time we remain unable to grant to non-qualified donees.

If your organization is facing a barrier to accessing this grant because of the 'qualified donee' requirement, please let us know by emailing indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca.

11. [NEW Q&A: Oct. 25] What if our organization is not a qualified donee?

One way in which we are able to grant to non-qualified donees is in situations when a non-profit or other organization is working closing with a registered charity and can apply as part of an Intermediary agreement. When using an Intermediary, the Applicant (the qualified donee) must still direct and control the use of the resources associated with the activity (although it may generally delegate authority to the Intermediary (the non-qualified donee) to make day-to-day operating decisions).

Please note when completing the application, the qualified donee organization will be the "Applicant Organization" and the non-qualified donee will be the "Intermediary Organization".

If you are not a qualified donee, you can partner with an organization that is a qualified donee, such as a registered charity, to carry out the activities associated with the funding request. The qualified donee organization will still need to submit the application. **Please note when completing the application, the qualified donee organization will be listed as the "Applicant Organization" and the non-qualified donee will be listed as the "Intermediary Organization".**

We strongly encourage and recommend applicant organizations and intermediaries working together, to create written agreements for shared understanding of the work.

Please refer to Canada Revenue Agency's guidelines for more details about intermediary organizations: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/policies-guidance/using-intermediary-carry-a-charitys-activities-within-canada.html#toc2>

For questions about or more information on applying as part of an Intermediary agreement, please contact indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca

- 12. [UPDATED Q&A: Oct. 25] My organization is not a qualified donee. Can Vancouver Foundation help me find a registered charity or other qualified donee who I can partner with for my application?**

Vancouver Foundation is unable to brokerage these types of relationships. However, staff may be able to assist in identifying other funding opportunities for your organization, please contact indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca for more information.

- 13. I'm a non-qualified donee of an Indigenous-led initiative/group/non-profit. I'd like to apply as the Intermediary with an Applicant Organization that is a qualified donee, but I'm based in B.C. and they are based elsewhere in Canada. Am I still eligible?**

Yes, as long as both the intermediary and the qualified donee/applicant organization have a mandate to deliver programming and work that takes place in British Columbia.

- 13. Is it okay if my organization, as an intermediary is Indigenous-led, but the Application Organization is not?**

Yes. The qualified donee/applicant organization can be white-led or not led by self-identified Indigenous folks.

GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS

- 14. Is this a one-year grant?**

Yes. We are working to explore multi-year grants to better serve Indigenous-led organizations and communities as part of a long-term Indigenous Priorities granting strategy.

- 15. Will this grant only be offered this one time?**

Yes, this specific grant program is designed to allocate funding made available only in 2021. The outcomes and evaluation of this one-time granting program will be used to inform the long-term granting strategy for the Indigenous Priorities Program that will be co-developed alongside the Indigenous Community Panel and with community. We anticipate launching the long-term strategy, with additional funding available in 2022.

- 16. What is the maximum/minimum amount I can request?**

You are able to request up to \$50,000 for your organization based on the scope of your initiative.

17. What is the pool of funding available for this grant? How many organizations are you going to fund with this grant?

The funding budget for these grants is \$750,000. Depending on requested funds, we will likely be able to fund between 20-50 initiatives.

APPLICATION PROCESS

18. What is the application process?

All applications must be submitted through Vancouver Foundation's [online grant management system](#). More information on how to apply using our online system, including instructions and how-to videos, will be made available prior to the application open date.

If your organization does not have reliable internet access or limited capacity, you are welcome to submit your application as a word document by email or schedule time with a staff member to answer application questions over the phone. Click here for a [Visual Application Guide](#).

19. What kind of questions will be in the application?

Please see below the list of application questions. We anticipate the online application will take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete.

1. Is your group/organization Indigenous-led (i.e. are decisions and direction provided by Indigenous peoples)? Please briefly share how decisions are made. (300 words)
2. What is the pressing need(s) of your community that your initiative will address? (300 words)
3. How much funding are you requesting and what will you use the funds for? Requests can be up to \$50,000. (300 words)
4. What are the larger needs of your community right now, beyond this funding request? (300 words)
5. Is there anything else you want to tell us? (300 words)

20. What is the assessment criteria for these grants? How are you deciding who you will fund?

Community Grants Panel members will use a 4 point scale/matrix as reference (Fund Immediately, Fund If Possible, Hold for Consideration and Decline) and remind them of the priorities that we outlined for the grants:

- Is the Applicant or Intermediary Organization an Indigenous-led organization or representative of a First Nation, Inuit and Métis community in the lands known as BC?
- Is the organization or community located in and/or serving small, rural or remote communities?
- Is the request addressing a pressing or urgent need impacting the community?

- Does the initiative described encourage inclusiveness and belonging, and promote healing?
- Does the funding request include capital requests? If so, is the request necessary in order to deliver an initiative that encourages inclusiveness and belonging, and promotes healing? How urgent is this capital request?
- Does the funding request (up to 50,000) make sense? Is the budget in alignment with the activities described?

21. Who is making the funding decisions?

Our Indigenous Community Panel (ICP) is made up of individuals deeply rooted in their communities who draw on their lived experiences, their expertise, and wisdom to make funding decisions. You can learn more about who they are [here](#).

22. When can we expect to hear decisions by?

You can expect to hear a decision by December 16, 2021.

23. What kind of reporting requirements do these grants have?

No final report will be required. Staff will schedule a phone conversation as grant related activities are scheduled to wrap up. They will ask questions related to how the grant has been used to support your initiative, and any outcomes, challenges, or learnings you experienced to help inform long-term granting strategies. Grantees will have the opportunity to convene, participate in a learning day(s), and network with other organizations and communities. Details of participation and time commitment can be discussed with Vancouver Foundation staff.

SUPPORT

24. I have a question about the grants that was not answered here. Who do I connect with?

Please contact a staff member at indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca for general questions about this grant program and its priorities or for information about the application process.

25. I have some technical questions about the application process. How can I get help?

Please contact Jill, our grants coordinator for assistance with our grant management system at jill.stjames@vancouverfoundation.ca

