

FAQs - Poverty Reduction Funding



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What is the Community Poverty Reduction Fund?

The Community Poverty Reduction Fund is a new \$7 million fund set up by the Government of British Columbia to address the root causes of poverty in communities across the province. Vancouver Foundation is responsible for administering the fund through its Field of Interest (FOI) granting program. See <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants>

Who can access the funding?

Vancouver Foundation provides grants to registered charities and other qualified organizations listed by Canada Revenue Agency. You can find more information about eligibility at <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/eligibility>

If I want to submit a project proposal focused on poverty, what field do I apply to?

Proposals for poverty reduction projects can be submitted to any of the granting fields and cycles that Vancouver Foundations currently offers: Arts & Culture, Education & Training, Environment & Animal Welfare, and Health & Social Development.

While we do receive projects that address poverty reduction through all fields, most apply for funding through our Health & Social Development Field. There is also a sub-field – Health, Medical, Education & Research (HMER) – where community-based, participatory-action, health research projects focused on poverty may qualify for funding. Another prominent field for poverty reduction is Education & Training. <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/fields-interest>

I hear that you fund social innovation? What does that mean when it comes to poverty?

The Community Poverty Reduction Fund is designed to address the root causes of poverty by supporting community-informed social innovations. Supported projects will seek to better understand how to address the systemic causes of poverty, test the ability to influence the systemic behaviours that are creating or maintaining poverty, or will work to scale a proven social innovation.

Every year, between 70-80% of Vancouver Foundation donor advised grants go to projects and organizations that support the needs of vulnerable or marginalized individuals through direct intervention programs and services, or to support the on-going operations of the charities themselves. Our Field of Interest and other community grants, which represent 20-30% of our annual funding, seek to identify projects that are working towards systemic change related to the root causes of poverty through social innovation. These are projects that change the basic routines, resource and/or authority flows and the beliefs that create and/or maintain a systemic issue within society.

More information about how Vancouver Foundation defines social innovation and its criteria can be found at <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/what-we-fund>

What kind of grants are available for poverty reduction projects?

We offer three kinds of grants through our Field of Interest Program. They are known as Develop, Test, and Grow grants. Each is focused on a different stage of social innovation, with funding levels aligned to what the project is trying to achieve.



Develop grants provide up to one year of funding of up to \$10,000 for early-stage project ideas that organizations wish to develop into concrete project plans. They do not require matching funds.

Test grants provide funding of up to \$75,000 annually for projects that have developed a project plan and are looking to test an intervention to influence systemic change. They require matching funds and can involve multi-year support to a maximum of \$225,000 over three years.

Grow grants provide funding of up to \$50,000 annually to scale proven social innovations. They require matching funds and can involve multi-year support to a maximum of \$150,000 over three years. Grow grants allow project teams that have had some success in influencing change to scale up, out, or deep to achieve greater systemic impact.

The application process for both Test and Grow grants is in two stages. The first stage is a Project Overview which is reviewed by staff in consultation with Advisory Committee members who have expertise in the granting area. Successful Project Overviews are invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Full Proposals are then reviewed together by staff and Advisory Committees at granting meetings. Advisory Committees are responsible for recommending funding to the Grants & Community Initiative Committee of the Vancouver Foundation Board. This Committee reviews the recommendations and proposes them to the Board for final approval.

While projects can progress linearly through all three grant types, this is not required. Projects can apply for any one of the grant types depending on the nature of the work that will be developed and implemented. See <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/types-grants>

What are the dates for submission and decision?

This depends upon what system your project is attempting to influence and the grant field you apply to. Key dates for submission and decisions can be found at <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/key-dates>

I've heard you also offer cohorts so project teams can learn together. Will one be available on poverty reduction?

Vancouver Foundation has been prototyping two types of cohorts for its Field of Interest program: a Develop cohort and a Learn cohort.

Develop cohorts allow projects teams working on similar issues to come together to learn more about the system they are attempting to influence, and be better positioned to apply to funders for their project. A grant to participate in a cohort may be offered as an alternative to a Develop grant. We are currently considering offering a Develop cohort on poverty reduction, but no final decision has been made.

Vancouver Foundation may also offer Learn cohorts for grantees that have already received funding – from us or other funders – for their projects. These cohorts allow teams to exchange ideas and learning about social innovation and how to sustain systems change. A Learn cohort focused on poverty reduction is also under active consideration but a final decision has not yet been made.

Please [sign up for our e-mailing list](#) to learn more about these opportunities.



I already have a Vancouver Foundation grant. Am I eligible to apply for poverty reduction funding?

As a broad-based provincial funder, we aim to support a variety of project teams. Should you already have current funding from Vancouver Foundation for a project, this will be considered if you submit another application for funding. For example, we may look at what stage your current project is at, as well as the merit of your new project and the prospect of your organization managing multiple projects.

You will not be eligible for funding if you apply to “top up” the financial support you have already received for your current project.

Where can I learn more?

Please visit our website at <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants> to learn more about funding opportunities at Vancouver Foundation. To review resources that are specific to Field of Interest grants, please see <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/resources>

More information on applying for a Field of Interest grant can be found at <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants/apply>

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