

Recovery and Resiliency Fund

FAQ for Applicants

Last updated: July 27, 2022

Summary of FAQ Updates

The FAQs will continue to be updated to clarify any information that we are receiving questions about. We will provide a summary of changes in this section every time updates are made to this document for easy reference.

July 27, 2022

- Updated to clarify that while applicants must have been operating in BC since January 1, 2020 (before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic), they have until September 30, 2022, to receive their charitable registration or society incorporation.
- Updated to clarify that the eligibility criteria of having “an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million” is intended to mean:
 - Actual annual expenses in 2020 and 2021 of \$1 million or less as per the applicant’s Statement of Financial Operations (i.e. Income Statement)
 - Budgeted annual expenses in 2022 of \$1 million or less
- Updated to include the following documents may be required to confirm eligibility for organizations that are selected for a grant:
 - Statement of Financial Operations (i.e. Income Statement), budgets, T3010 filings, notification of registration or certificate of incorporation
- Updated to emphasize that organizations that had to close temporarily or cyclically during the pandemic are *also* eligible to apply.

General

Q1. What is the Recovery and Resiliency Fund?

The Recovery and Resiliency Fund is a ground-breaking new fund made possible through a partnership between Government of BC, Vancouver Foundation, United Way BC, and New Relationship Trust that will distribute 34 million to charitable and non-profit organizations, of which Vancouver Foundation has contributed \$4 million. \$5 million of the Fund has been earmarked for New Relationship Trust to grant directly to Indigenous-led organizations with more than \$1 million in annual revenues. This Fund is intended to support charities and non-profit societies that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Q2. What types of organizations is this Fund intended for?

This Fund provides organizations that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with funding to support their recovery efforts and long-term planning. It seeks to distribute by:

- funding Indigenous-led organizations with annual expenses of any size
- funding non-Indigenous organizations with annual expenses of \$1 million or less
- funding proportionately more organizations located in and/or operating in rural areas
- funding proportionately more organizations in full partnership with, or led by, equity-denied communities that center the communities they represent

Q3. What are the grants supposed to be used for?

The funding is meant to support an organization's overall operational recovery and resiliency and to reduce its overall operational vulnerability to social, economic, and environmental uncertainty. Since these grants are flexible, it's up to the discretion of the grantee to use the funding to support those efforts. This could include strategic planning, technology improvements, infrastructure, partnership development, etc. This funding is not meant to support the operational viability of specific departments, programs, or initiatives within an organization. We're also not accepting applications through 3rd parties.

Q4. How many grants are available?

There is a total of 144 grants available through Vancouver Foundation and United Way BC across BC's eight economic development regions. Within each of these regions:

- 5 grants of \$50,000 per year for three years will be distributed to organizations that meet the criteria for Base Amount eligibility.
- 13 grants of \$72,000 per year for three years will be distributed to organizations that meet the criteria for both the Top-Up Amount eligibility.

Q5. What are the economic development regions?

The eight economic development regions are: Cariboo, Kootenay, Lower Mainland/Southwest, Nechako, North Coast, Northeast, Thompson-Okanagan, and Vancouver Island/Coast. For a map, please click [here](#).

Q6. Why are grants distributed by region?

Awarding grants across the eight regions ensures an equitable distribution of funding across the province, because it increases funding to organizations located in and serving rural and remote communities.

Q7. Which organizations should be applying for the Indigenous Resilience and Recovery Grants through New Relationship Trust?

Indigenous-led organizations with annual revenues of more than \$1 million should apply for funding through New Relationship Trust [here](#).

Q8. Why is New Relationship Trust looking at revenues instead of expenses like Vancouver Foundation?

New Relationship Trust has chosen to look at revenues instead of expenses because for their applicants, revenues reflect 'actuals' that serve as the best baseline data to validate an organization's economic reality and size.

Q9. Who can I contact for more information?

For questions about the Fund, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, please contact grants.admin@vancouverfoundation.ca.

We also have more information on [our website](#) such as the Program Guidelines (which also includes the Equity Matrix and application questions).

For questions about New Relationship Trust's Indigenous Recovery and Resiliency Grant, please contact IRR@nrtf.ca.

Eligibility

Q10. What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible for the Base Amount, which is \$50,000 for three years, applicants must:

- Have been operating in BC since January 1, 2020 (before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic) and have (or will have) society incorporation or charitable registration by September 30, 2022.
- Organizations that had to close temporarily or cyclically during the pandemic are also eligible to apply.
 - Non-profits that incorporated as 'Member-funded' Societies are not eligible to receive funding. This designation is recorded in the incorporation record that you can look up here: <https://www.bcregistry.ca/societies/>
 - For more information on not-for-profit organizations, please see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/not-for-profit-organizations>
 - Extra-provincial non-share corporations¹ must be in good standing with B.C. Registries and Online Services.
- Provide charitable benefit to the community-at-large in one or more of BC's [eight economic development regions](#)
 - Regardless of whether the organization is a charity or a non-profit society, its purpose must benefit the community-at-large
 - To see a list of charitable purposes and their descriptions, please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/registering-charitable-qualified-donee-status/applying-charitable-registration/charitable-purposes.html>
- Have an identifiable need to recover from the pandemic, a vision of its longer-term resiliency, and needs additional financial resources to realize its vision.
- Have annual expenses in 2020 and 2021 of less than \$1 million as per Statement of Financial Operations (i.e. Income Statement).

To be eligible for the Top-Up Amount, which is \$50,000 plus an additional top-up amount of \$22,000 for three years, applicants must:

- Meet all the criteria under the Base Amount Eligibility; *and*

¹ An extra-provincial non-share corporation is a not-for-profit organization that has been incorporated or otherwise formed federally under an enactment of Canada; in a province or territory other than B.C.; or, in another country.

- Be either ‘Equity Partnership’ or ‘Equity Led’ in the [Equity Matrix](#) in at least 3 of the 4 attributes sections: Leadership, Values & Practices, Program & Team, Accountability to Community

Q11. What is the difference between Base Amount and Top-Up Amount?

The Base Amount offers \$50,000 of flexible funding each year for three years to organizations that meet the base eligibility requirements. The Top-Up Amount offers a total of \$72,000 for three years to organizations that meet the base eligibility requirements and are in full partnership with or led by equity-denied communities. We’re offering more money through the top-up process to acknowledge that organizations led by equity-denied communities often experience additional barriers and biases accessing and securing funding.

Q12. What do ‘equity partnerships’ and ‘equity led’ mean?

Organizations that identify as ‘equity partnerships’ or ‘equity led’ center the worldviews and lived experiences of equity-denied communities either by being in full partnership with them or having representation in decision-making roles within the organization. We are offering larger grants to these groups because we acknowledge that these organizations and the communities they represent and serve have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and face barriers to accessing funding.

Q13. If my organization does not have charitable status, can I still apply?

Yes, we are testing a new structure that would allow us to grant to non-qualified donees (non-charities) as long as the organization is an incorporated society in BC and, has a charitable purpose, and can demonstrate they provide community benefit such as social services, advocacy, or arts and culture. We do require that the date of incorporation for non-profit societies must be on or before September 30, 2022.

Q14. My organization has larger actual annual expenses than \$1 million, but we’ve also been impacted by the pandemic significantly. Why is this funding not available to me?

We know the pandemic has affected organizations across the sector. Based on research and data, we also know that smaller organizations with annual expenses of less than \$1 million, those in rural and remote communities, and those that are led by equity-denied communities have been hit especially hard. Reports have shown that small organizations have limited capacity for fundraising and granting to respond to shifts in funding in light of the pandemic. This Fund is intended to address those challenges and ensure these organizations can continue to serve their communities. Additionally, Indigenous-led organizations with annual revenues of more than \$1 million can apply for funding through [New Relationship Trust](#).

Application Process

Q15. How do I apply?

From July 13 to September 30, applications will be open. Applicants will then fill out a short application form online through Vancouver Foundation’s [Grant Management System](#) that’s intended to determine eligibility. We will randomly select organizations to receive a grant from all valid applications and then contact them to confirm their eligibility and need.



Indigenous-led organizations with annual revenues of more than \$1 million can apply for funding directly through New Relationship Trust [here](#).

Q16. What types of questions are asked in the application?

The application form is relatively simple and only asks questions to confirm eligibility, such as whether your organization has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and if you need funding to build recovery and resiliency. We also ask questions about your organization's relationships with equity-denied communities to determine the eligibility for the Base Amount or the Top-up Amount. Click [here](#) to view all the questions.

Q17. Is the application process the same for charities and non-profit organizations?

Yes, the application process is the same for both types of applicants. The only difference is that organizations apply either as a registered charity or as an incorporated society.

Q18. What types of documentation will be required to validate my organization's eligibility?

The types of documentation we will require to validate your eligibility could include:

- a Board of Directors list with short bios
- a Senior Staff list with short bios
- Statements of Financial Operations (i.e. Income Statement) for 2020 and 2021
- a budget for 2022
- annual reports or summaries of operations for prior years
- notification of registration or certificate of incorporation

Q19. How will my grant application be assessed?

Rather than using an adjudication process, we will be testing a randomized selection process where all eligible applications will be pooled together regionally, then by Base Amount or Top-Up Amount, and then randomly selected until funding in each of these pools is committed. Selected applicants will then be contacted to validate their eligibility. Applications from Indigenous-led organizations will be assessed, validated, and supported by Vancouver Foundation's Indigenous Priorities team (which is Indigenous-led). If eligibility criteria are not met or cannot be validated, then another organization will be selected using the same process.

Q20. Why is Vancouver Foundation using a randomized selection process?

The randomized selection process has been shown to remove bias that places organizations in a competitive process based on merit. This process focuses on quantitative indicators that measure eligibility instead of qualitative or subjective indicators that measure merit. We then use a relational and reciprocal process to confirm eligibility. In doing this, our hope is that we are minimizing barriers to make this funding more accessible.

For Selected Applicants

Q21. When will I know if I've been selected to receive a grant?

On September 30, 2022, applications will close. Soon after, we will begin randomly selecting applications from the different pools of eligible organizations. Throughout October and November, we'll reach out to organizations that have been selected to validate their eligibility and need.

Q22. When will I receive the grant payment?

Once an application has been validated for eligibility and need, we will process grant payments by December 2022 at the latest.

Q23. What are the reporting requirements if my application is selected to receive a grant?

The partnering funders will take on the responsibility to learn about each grantee’s recovery and resiliency progress and then to report these findings out publicly. Progress and final reports will not be required and instead, grantees will be invited to convening opportunities with other grantees and to discuss how the grant was used to support your organization’s recovery and resiliency, and any outcomes, challenges, or learnings you experienced. These conversations will help inform long-term granting strategies and determine how Vancouver Foundation, United Way BC, and New Relationship Trust can best continue to support the sector.

