

Indigenous Priorities Granting Program 2021 Application Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Vancouver Foundation is committing \$750,000 to the **Indigenous Priorities Granting Program (IPGP)** to provide **flexible, one-time grants** to First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities and Indigenous-led organizations operating in the lands now known as BC. Grants are available up to \$50,000 and are intended to **support Indigenous-led initiatives that encourage community inclusiveness, belonging, and healing.**

The IPGP is part of Vancouver Foundation's commitment to Indigenous priorities. IPGP is an Indigenous-led initiative to surface and address critical funding and capacity needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The social issues affecting Indigenous communities today are deeply rooted in the historic and ongoing impacts of colonization. As a community foundation we are committed to examining how traditional models of philanthropy have contributed to systemic barriers that limit Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations' ability to access reliable and flexible funding.

IPGP has been designed with the intention to uplift Indigenous priorities and explore how Vancouver Foundation can best listen, learn, and walk alongside Indigenous partners.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

We welcome applications that take a diversity of approaches to community inclusion, belonging, and healing, including those that take into account overlapping forms of discrimination, such as sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and ability. Considering compounding impacts experienced by Indigenous-led organizations and communities, funding can also be used to support staff, fill funding gaps, capacity development and other organizational needs.

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 / LGBTQ2SIA support groups
- Cultural mentorship
- Staff wellness, or other initiatives addressing burn out, etc.
- Intergenerational learning / preservation / transmission of cultural knowledge
- Cultural healing
- Ceremonial practices
- Community events

- Land-based programs

Capital requests, such as costs associated with equipment, technology or renovations will be considered as long as they necessary in order to provide an initiative that supports community inclusion, belonging, or healing.

Please note funding cannot be used for debt retirement, mortgage pay-downs or large public infrastructure projects.

In anticipation that funding requests are greater than the funding budget, we are asking applicants to reflect on traditional ways of doing that emphasis taking only what is needed and ensuring resources are left for others. Please keep this in mind when completing the application. Other funding opportunities will be available in 2022 as part of the Indigenous Priorities long-term granting strategy, which will be informed by the applications we receive this cycle.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be a qualified donee, meaning [a registered charity or another qualified donee listed by Canada Revenue Agency](#)
 - Many First Nation bands are classified as other qualified donees, under the category “Municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada”, please [click here](#) to see if your band is listed.
- Be located or operating in the lands known as BC.
- Be “Indigenous led” - To draw on The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada’s [definition](#) we consider “Indigenous led” organizations as having:
 - 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 among Indigenous communities.

In shifting and sharing power in our grantmaking, special consideration will be given to:

- Indigenous-led organizations who have never received funding from Vancouver Foundation.
- Indigenous-led organizations working in or providing support to rural, remote and/or smaller communities.

KEY DATES

- **November 15, 2021:** Online applications open
- **November 29, 2021:** Online applications close
- **December 16, 2021:** Funding decisions communicated

HOW TO APPLY

All applications should be submitted through the [Online Grant Management System](#). Please register for [email updates here](#), How-To videos and information sessions on the application process will be made available prior to the application open date.

If you would like to start preparing your application ahead of the open date, please use this [Word document](#).

[Click here to download the Visual Application Guide](#).

If your organization does not have reliable internet access or if you need any support, you can either submit your application by email or schedule time with a staff member to answer application questions over the phone. If you are unable to use the online system, please send your application by email to indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca or call 778.309.1576.

Vancouver Foundation is committed to increasing the accessibility of our grant applications. At this time, only written, English language/character applications are accepted in the system. We apologize for any inconvenience and are currently reviewing options for accepting oral applications, options for translation and additional accessibility supports.

If you would like to discuss the program or your project further, please email us at: indigenous.priorities@vancouverfoundation.ca

For support and troubleshooting with the online grant management system, please contact Jill St James at 778.309.1576 or jill.stjames@vancouverfoundation.ca.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To make our funding more accessible, we've simplified the application form to four questions:

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 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)

If you would like to start preparing your application ahead of the open date, please use this [Word document](#). Please note all applications must be submitted using our online application system which opens on November 15, 2021. This document is to support you in preparing your online application.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

To prioritize learning and dialogue, final reports will not be required. Instead, grantees will be invited to phone conversations with staff when grant-related activities are scheduled to end. These will be two-way conversations to discuss how the grant was used to support your initiative, and any outcomes, challenges, or learnings. These conversations will help inform long-term granting strategies and determine how Vancouver Foundation can best continue to support your organization and/or community.

Grantees will also 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.

PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING

Our Indigenous Community Panel (ICP) is a tiered committee made up of Strategic Community Grants Panel members, who support in co-developing both the IPGP and long-term strategy, and Community Grants Panel members, who are primarily responsible for assessing applications and making funding recommendations.

ICP committee members represent diverse territorial and regional populations and demographics. They bring a diversity of knowledge in land-based, urban, Métis, LGBTQI2SA+, youth & Elders, and many other areas.

ICP is perspective-based and committed to creating space to honor the diverse worldviews of the lands and people we serve. Members are deeply rooted in their communities and draw on their lived experiences, their expertise, and wisdom to make funding decisions.

You can learn more about who they are [here](#).

Community Grants Panel members will use a 4 point scale/matrix as reference (Fund Immediately, Fund If Possible, Hold for Consideration and Decline) and the below questions to guide them:

1. 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?
2. Is the organization or community located in and/or serving small, rural or remote communities?
3. Is the request addressing a pressing or urgent need impacting the community?
4. Does the initiative described encourage inclusiveness and belonging, and promote healing?
5. 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?
6. Does the funding request (up to 50,000) make sense? Is the budget in alignment with the activities described?

In the spirit of greater relational grant making, we will be dedicating additional capacity and resources to engage with unsuccessful applicants after decision have been announced. Staff will have conversations

with unsuccessful candidates to identify other funder opportunities, provide feedback on their application, and discuss future funding possibility with Vancouver Foundation.

Vancouver Foundation values accountability and transparency in all stages of grantmaking, please feel free to contact us if you have further questions or concerns.