



LEVEL BIPOC Grants Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

1. Who are these grants for?

LEVEL BIPOC Grants are available to [registered charities](#) or [registered non-profit societies](#) operating in B.C. that are led by Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC), including BIPOC youth-led and/or youth-engaging that benefit BIPOC communities in B.C.

LEVEL BIPOC grants provide flexible, multi-year operational funding for BIPOC leaders to invest in their leadership capacity to recognize the work and experience of communities undergoing multiple, intersectional forms of systemic oppression.

2. What do you mean by BIPOC-led and BIPOC youth-led organizations?

We define BIPOC-led organizations as groups in which at least two-thirds (67%) of the organization's leadership team and/or board/non-conventional governance structures are held by individuals who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour.

We define an organization as BIPOC youth-led when at least two-thirds (67%) of its leadership positions are held by individuals who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour AND are aged 19-30. Leadership positions include Board of Directors and/or leadership team if staff are employed and/or any other unconventional governance structure that influences operational and strategic decision-making. **We define an organization as BIPOC youth-engaged** when its governance structures actively empower BIPOC youth to significantly influence the organization's policies, practices, strategies, and decision-making processes.

3. Do applicants need to be registered charities?

No. Eligible organizations must be either a [registered charity](#) OR [registered non-profit society](#) (including community service co-operatives) operating in B.C. since January 1, 2025, and has (or will have) society incorporation or charitable registration by April 30, 2026.

4. Do non-qualified donees still need an intermediary organization to apply?

No. In 2023, the [CRA updated their guidance](#), allowing charities to grant directly to non-qualified donees. Vancouver Foundation can now grant directly to non-qualified donees operating in B.C. whose activities advance the foundation's charitable purposes.

For this reason, registered non-profit societies are eligible to apply without needing to partner with a charity to act as an intermediary organization.

5. What can the funds be used for? Do I need a project idea?

LEVEL BIPOC Grants provide operational funding that is not project specific. It's up to the discretion of the grantee to use the funding in whatever way supports their organization's needs, which can include (but are not limited to):

- Operating costs
- Capacity building
- Staffing costs
- Employee assistance programs
- Service delivery costs
- Technology investments

LEVEL BIPOC Grants do NOT fund:

- Individuals
- Non-BIPOC led organizations
- Activities and/or initiatives that do not benefit the populations of BIPOC communities in B.C.
- Endowment funds or capital campaigns
- Activities and programs that take place primarily outside of B.C.
- Operating deficits or after-the-fact support
- Debt retirement
- Monetary reserves
- Mortgage pay-downs
- Large public infrastructure project
- [Activities deemed not charitable](#) as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

6. Can my organization apply if we've received a LEVEL BIPOC grant in the past?

Yes, you can still apply for the grant if you have received funding from the Vancouver Foundation before. However, if you received a LEVEL BIPOC grant in 2024, your application will not be prioritized due to high demand and limited resources. Priority will be given to organizations that did not receive BIPOC funding in the previous grant cycle.

7. Our organization is not BIPOC-led or white-led, but we serve mostly BIPOC communities. Are we still eligible to apply?

LEVEL BIPOC Grants are intended to support BIPOC-leaders and BIPOC youth leadership in the sector. We invite non-BIPOC leaders to consider our other funding opportunities to meet their organizations needs including Transforming Systems Grants and Participatory Action Research Grants.

8. My charity is national, but we do some work in B.C. Are we eligible?

The primary purpose of Vancouver Foundation is to carry out its charitable activities and purposes within B.C. Your organization is eligible to apply if it is registered on [OrgBook BC](#) and/or searchable using the [CRA's list of registered charities](#).

9. I'm a First Nations community/band based in B.C. Are we eligible for funding?

The Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund (TISF) is a grant program that prioritizes funding First Nations communities and bands located in B.C. The next TISF grant cycle will open applications in 2027.

Grant Program Details

1. What type of funding is available? And for how long?

LEVEL BIPOC Grants are operational for \$150,000 to be distributed in equal payments of \$50,000 a year for three years.

2. When is the Stage 1 application deadline?

The Stage 1 online application is open from January 12 until February 9 at 5 pm PST.

3. Do I need to use the funds within a specific time frame?

Not necessarily. We trust that you intend to begin the work within 6 months of being awarded a grant and will use each year's payment within 12 months. But we know things can change so please stay connected with us if something changes.

4. Will LEVEL BIPOC grants be offered again?

Moving forward in 2026, the Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund (TISF) and LEVEL BIPOC Grant programs will alternate by year, so that we can maximize how many organizations can be funded through each program. Both draw from the same source of funding, and alternating when we offer them ensures they are not competing for the same funding pool.

Transforming Systems Grants (TSG) will run every year and will remain open to all applicants, including those eligible for both BIPOC and TISF.

Application Process

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

Vancouver Foundation staff and Community Advisors will review applications and recommend organizations for funding. They will be assessing the grants based on which organizations meet the eligibility criteria using the grant's decision-making matrix.

2. How many stages are in the application process?

There is a two-stage application process for LEVEL BIPOC Grants. Stage 1 is a written application through our online grant management system.

For Stage 2, applicants will be invited to select either an oral or written application. Applicants can expect to receive updates via email from our online grant management system @smartsimple.ca.

3. Who is making the funding decisions?

Our Vancouver Foundation staff will make the funding decisions. Our Community Advisors will be engaged to support the review and adjudicated application process.

Our Community Advisors are a group of self-identified BIPOC adults and youth who are deeply connected to their communities. They contribute valuable lived experiences, expertise, and wisdom to our funding decisions.

4. When can we expect to hear final decisions?

Final funding decisions will be communicated by email by the end of July 2026.

Invitations for Stage 2 written or oral applications will be emailed by end of April 2026 to select applicants.

5. What are the reporting requirements?

Progress reports are required annually. Annual reporting helps us understand how funded work is unfolding, learn from grantee experiences, and share examples of grantee impact. It also supports our responsibility to ensure funds are being used as intended and to identify where our processes or supports could be improved. We aim to keep reporting **straightforward, mindful of grantee time**, and focused on **shared** learning.

Contact

If you have any questions about LEVEL BIPOC Grants, including how to navigate and troubleshoot the online grant management system, please email our staff at level@vancouverfoundation.ca.