

Community Grants Policies and Assessment Criteria

The Winnipeg Foundation makes granting decisions based on an application's merit and does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived group characteristics as identified in the Manitoba Human rights Code. Organizations applying for a grant from The Winnipeg Foundation must also adhere to the Manitoba Human Rights Code.

Grant Policies

- Only registered charities are eligible to apply for grants from The Winnipeg Foundation.
- The Winnipeg Foundation is a project funder and does not provide on-going operating support. Grants are awarded for specific purposes and for projects covering a definite period of time. The Foundation does not guarantee annual support for any organization.
- Organizations must demonstrate a strong and committed board, fiscal responsibility, and effective management.
- Projects must primarily benefit the people of Winnipeg. For projects taking place outside of the City, applicants should demonstrate how the project will also benefit the people of Winnipeg. (This includes people making a temporary home in Winnipeg – for example, those coming to the city for medical treatment.)
- Pilot or demonstration projects must include provision for evaluation and a realistic plan for financial viability beyond the pilot stage.
- Organizations may apply for one Community Grant (One-Time, Multi-Year or Major Capital) per calendar year. A second application will be considered in the case of a collaboration. A collaboration is defined as two or more organizations that are jointly planning and implementing a project. Features of a collaboration include defined roles and responsibilities for each partner, as well as regular meetings to plan and implement the project. The collaboration can be between two or more registered charities or between a registered charity and a non-profit organization.
- Applying for a Community Grant does not preclude an organization from applying for a Special Program Grant in the same calendar year, but it must be for a different project.
- Organizations must submit a final report on their previous Community Grant before submitting a new Community Grant application.

Preference is given to projects which:

- demonstrate innovative approaches and techniques to solve community issues, and build individual, neighbourhood and/or community capacity;
- demonstrate accessibility and inclusiveness;
- demonstrate sensitivity to diversity;
- address the root causes of issues in our society;
- demonstrate that consideration has been given to the project's effect on the environment;
- encourage more efficient use of community resources;
- promote cooperation and sharing among organizations to minimize the potential for duplication of services;
- promote volunteer participation; strengthen an organization's capacity to be sustainable;

Grants are not usually made to:

- support operating expenses of established agencies or programs;
- governments.

Grants are not made to, or for:

- individuals;
- project costs related to activities undertaken before the date of the Grants Committee or Board decision;
- annual fundraising campaigns or annual fundraising events;
- pay down mortgages or reduce deficits;
- political activities;
- exclusively religious activities.

Grant Assessment Criteria

Organizational considerations:

- Previous track record or demonstrated capacity to deliver projects and work in partnership

- Receipt of satisfactory required reports on previous grants
- Organization's capacity to contribute to the project
- Grant history
- Site visit (where applicable)

Project considerations:

- Congruency with organization's mission
- Clear goals and activities; overall viability
- Benefit to the community/numbers affected
- Needs of the population being served by the project
- Qualifications and experience of staff conducting the project
- Support for project from other organizations
- Consultation and/or collaboration with other community organizations, where applicable
- Realistic project budget (note: The Foundation will consider budgets that include administrative costs up to a maximum of 20% of the total project budget)
- Support for project from other funders
- Viability of the project should the full amount requested not be provided
- The need for specific conditions to be attached to the funding
- Perspectives of diverse community experts and those of other funders are taken into consideration regarding proposed projects

Other considerations:

- For larger projects, the Foundation looks favourably on the involvement of other funding partners.
- Community organizations that are proposing school-based outreach programs should show a confirmed partnership with schools.
- Organizations that are proposing programs that work with diverse populations should demonstrate cultural competency (ie: a sound understanding of a population's culture and how to deliver the program in that context).
- Construction of new facilities must be accessible to persons with disabilities. For renovations to existing facilities, consideration should be given to accessibility depending on the type of project.

- Organizations should adhere to “effective practices” followed by their sector.
- A project’s impact on the environment should be considered as part of the evaluation. For example, when reviewing a proposal for new construction, preference will be given to projects that aim to meet environmental and/or energy efficiency standards.
- For research projects working with human subjects, evidence must be provided to show that the appropriate ethical standards are met (ie: the project must be reviewed and approved by the relevant ethics committee).
- Grants are not typically made for projects that are primarily the responsibility of municipal, provincial or federal government (e.g. schools, major hospital equipment, etc.).

How to apply

One-Time Community Grant

Applications are due on January 30 for decision in May and September 30 for decision in January.

Major Capital Grant

Applications (Stage 1) are due March 30; invited Stage 2 applications are due June 15 for decision in November.

Multi-Year Grant

Applications (Stage 1) are due April 30; invited stage 2 applications are due June 15 for decision in September.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on the application date and will be accepted online only through The Winnipeg Foundation website, www.wpgfdn.org.

If you have any questions about the Community Grants Policies & Assessment Criteria or would like to meet with a Community Grants staff, please call 944.9474 (toll free 1.877.974.3631) or email grants@wpgfdn.org.