

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM



2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT GUIDELINES



Purpose of the Grant

The Community Impact Grant provides funding to registered non-profit organizations to deliver programs, projects and events that improve quality of life for residents in the region through one of the following streams:

- Community Programs and Projects
- Community Events

Programs, projects, or events should contribute to **one** or more funding priorities that are aligned with Council's Strategic Plan and other Council approved Plans.

Council approved plans:

- [Council's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Wood Buffalo Age-Friendly Work Plan](#)
- [Diversity & Inclusion in Wood Buffalo](#)
- [Wood Buffalo Culture Plan](#)
- [Wood Buffalo Public Art Plan](#)
- [Wood Buffalo Sport Strategic Plan](#)
- [Municipal Development Plan \(MDP\)](#)

Community Investment Program funding priorities:

- Partnership and collaboration
- Rural and Indigenous communities & relationships
- Social participation
- Community support services and wellness
- Value of culture, heritage and regional pride
- Diversity, inclusion and accessibility
- Hosting events and/or new business and visitors

Grant Eligibility

The Applicant must:

The Applicant must:

- Only submit one application (Community Programs and Projects OR Community Events) and only receive funding for one Community Impact Grant (Community Programs and Projects OR Community Events).
- Be a registered non-profit organization or a community group in partnership with a registered non-profit organization.
- Have resided or operated within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for at least one year.

- Have operations within and provide services to residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- Not hold unrestricted net assets in excess of the organization's annual operating expenses, as reflected in the financial statements of the most recent fiscal period prior to application unless the total unrestricted net assets are less than \$50,000.

Programs that meet the [Provincial Family and Community Support Services \(FCSS\) Guidelines](#) may be recommended to receive funding from the Provincial FCSS and must follow the guidelines of the [Family and Community Support Services Act](#), [Associated Regulations](#) and [FCSS Program Handbook](#). The allocation of the Provincial FCSS funding is at the discretion of the Municipality.

Community Programs, Projects or Community Events must:

- Contribute to one or more Community Investment Funding Priorities.
- Improve the quality of life of residents and outline anticipated impact.
- Provide evidence of community support, including:
 - Additional financial and non-financial resources being leveraged from other sources (including success rate at achieving other funding sources).
 - Number of volunteers that will be involved in the work and the number of hours they will contribute.
 - Collaboration or partnerships with other organizations.
- Be delivered or hosted within the Regional Boundary.
- Be either no cost or low-cost for individuals to participate.
- Be non-political and non-religious in nature.

In addition, Community Events must be:

- Open and accessible to the public.
- In relation to a national or provincial holiday or what may reasonably be seen as a community celebration.
- Sport focused (e.g., sports tournament) and show evidence that the event draws participants from outside the community and utilizes local facilities and businesses.
- Cultural focused (e.g., performing arts event, Treaty Day festivals).

The Community Investment Program will not fund:

- Individuals (apart from Games Legacy Grant).
- For-profit organizations.
- Political organizations.
- Federal and provincial governments, and affiliated bodies.
- Applicants that have overdue or incomplete accounting or reporting requirements related to any grant previously awarded by Municipality.

- Applicants who request funding for programs or services that are provided by a group or organization that is already funded by the Municipality.
- Applicants that do not demonstrate adherence to policy, strategic priorities and relevant outcome measurements.
- Applicants who request funding for programs, activities or facilities which are the mandate or responsibility of the federal or provincial governments, including but not limited to health care, education, religious, housing and childcare programs and facilities.
- Applicants who request funding for programs or services that conflict or compete with other programs or services funded or provided by the Municipality.
- Applicants who request funding for debt retirement, depreciation or financing charges.
- Applicants who request funding for retroactive payments (i.e., costs incurred before grants are approved), except for Games Legacy Grants.
- Applicants who request funding amounting to more than 75% of the budget of the program, project, event, or service (apart from the Municipal Facility Operating Grant, Subsidiary Grant, and Games Legacy Grant).
- Applicants that do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

Grant funds shall be used solely for the program, project or event as defined in the application and grant agreement.

The following expenses are ineligible:

- Operating expenses not directly related to the program, project or event for which the grant was awarded.
- Programs, projects or events expected to be profitable or intended as a fundraiser.
- Providing a grant, donation or scholarship to another person, group or organization.
- Financial assistance to sustain an individual or family.
- Travel to attend events, conferences or training courses outside of the Municipality.
- Sabbatical leave or student exchange.
- Medical facilities or equipment.
- Media and print publications including but not limited to books, magazines, or podcasts.
- Land, building or other capital purchases.

The Community Investment Program will not fund activities that unnecessarily duplicate successful efforts that already exist in the community.

Funding Amounts

Grant funding may be requested up to a maximum amount that varies depending on the stream:

- **Community Programs and Projects** - maximum \$80,000.
- **Community Events** - maximum \$20,000.

The Community Investment Program will not fund more than 75% of the total cost of the program, project, or event.

The maximum percentage is set to ensure sustainability of the program, project or event and to reduce reliance on the grant over time. The maximum percentage is set at 75%.

Administrative expenses of up to 15% of the total program, project or event costs are eligible, up to the grant stream maximum.

Application Process

Pre-Application Meetings and Support

During the Call for Applications, Community Investment Program (CIP) staff are available to answer any questions.

A pre-application meeting is strongly encouraged for new applicants or any applicant looking for more information. During a pre-application meeting, CIP staff will review eligibility, how the grant process works, accessing and completing applications in the CIP Grant Portal and other key information.

To schedule a pre-application meeting, you may send a request to CIP@rmwb.ca. If possible, please provide:

- Organization name.
- Grant stream you are interested in applying for.
- A brief description of what you are requesting funds for.
- Your availability for a meeting.

Stage 1- Application Submission

1. Review these guidelines to ensure your organization is eligible for grant funding.
2. All grant applications will be submitted through the CIP Grant Portal. Log in or register for your [CIP Grant Portal](https://www.rmwb.ca/CIP) account at www.rmwb.ca/CIP.
3. Submit the application, including required attachments, related budgets, and signed Financial Statements of the most recent fiscal year end (Year-end date must fall between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024). The CIP Grant Portal will accept applications until **4:30 p.m. on October 15, 2024**. Late applications will not be eligible.
4. CIP will conduct a preliminary review of the application and supporting documents to ensure eligibility and completeness.
5. If clarification on the submitted application is required, you will receive an email notifying you that revisions have been requested. Please log in to the CIP Grant Portal to provide clarifications. The CIP Grant Portal will accept requested revisions until **4:30 p.m. on November 1, 2024**.
6. All complete and eligible applications will be moved forward to **Stage 2 - Community Investment Program Approval Committee (CIPAC) Review and Decisions**.

Stage 2 - Community Investment Program Approval Committee (CIPAC) Review and Decisions

1. CIPAC will review and complete application scoring based on established assessment criteria.
2. CIPAC will select the successful grant applications in accordance with the budget set by Council and Council's Strategic Plan.
3. Eligible applications will be prioritized based on the highest ranking and greatest positive impact on the community
4. Applicants will be notified of the Approval Committee's decision and their assessment score by early December.
5. There is no appeal of CIPAC's decision.

Formal concerns with the grant approval process may be addressed by submitting a complaint under the Whistleblower Policy LEG-150.

Assessment Criteria (See Appendix A for Scoring Sheet template)

Category	Weight
Applicant capacity	25%
Project feasibility	25%
Evidence of need	25%
Contribution to community resilience	25%
TOTAL	100%

Fund Disbursement Process

Grant funding will be disbursed only to recipients in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The following must be satisfied and will be verified by the Municipality prior to awarding of grant funding:

- Property taxes must be current and paid.
- Utility bills must be current and paid.
- There must not be a related unresolved order to comply with the Land Use Bylaw, Building Code, Fire Code, Community Standards Bylaw or other regulation.
- Applicant must not be a party to a legal dispute with the Municipality.
- All necessary municipal permits and permissions must have been received for the project and are closed and without deficiencies.

Exceptions to the above will be at the discretion of the Municipality on a case-by-case basis.

Reporting Criteria

A successful applicant will be required to complete and/or upload the following in the CIP Grant Portal:

- Certificate of Insurance within 30 calendar days of execution of grant agreement.
 - Final Report demonstrating the positive impact of the funded programs and services through account of organization's collected outcome measures and, if applicable, the status of any additional funds included in the grant application.
 - Attachments including examples of how the organization publicly recognized the funding considerations provided by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
 - Refer to [Logo Request Form](#) and the [Logo Standards Guide](#) for usage.
 - Financial Statements determined by the total grant thresholds that the recipient receives from CIP for the grant year:
 - < \$100,000 - Summary of Revenue and Expenditures.
1. CIP may require additional reporting on a case-by-case basis.
 2. Any reporting requirements not met by the recipient may result in termination of the grant or ineligibility to receive grants in the future.
 3. All funds not used for the approved purpose must be returned to the Municipality, as per the guidelines below unless the Municipality approves, in writing, their use for another purpose:
 - Amounts below \$2,500 may be forgiven.
 - Amounts greater than \$2,500 and below \$25,000 may be requested to be repaid in full.
 - If additional funding from other sources is received for the approved program, project, service, or event, the surplus funds may be requested to be repaid in full.

Partnership

Where the program, project or event application is a partnership between one or more organizations or community groups, at least one organization must be a registered nonprofit, and must be the applicant.

In these cases, the applicant must:

- Be accountable for all project deliverables and reporting requirements.
- Assume financial responsibility for the grant funds.

Eligible Partners:

- Registered non-profit organizations, registered charities, or community-based groups that work directly with the applicant.
- Include organizations or groups that would not qualify to apply on their own and/or do not need to be a registered non-profit organization or registered charity.

Multi-Year Funding

Multi-Year Funding is defined as grant funding provided to an organization with specific conditions where funding is approved for more than one fiscal year, providing longer term financial stability to the recipient.

Multi-year grants will not be offered in 2025 and will resume in the 2026 grant year to align with Council's term.

Disclosure of Information

A condition of accepting funding is that the Municipality has the authority to examine recipients' records at any time to ensure funds are being used in the manner originally agreed upon. Any funds not used as described in the agreement may have to be returned.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like clarification, please contact CIP@rmwb.ca or call Pulse at **780-743-7000** or toll-free at **1-800-973-9663**.

Key Dates

Date	Key Action
September 3, 2024	Applications open
During Call for Applications	Pre-application meeting, information sessions and one-on-one support (contact CIP@rmwb.ca).
October 8, 2024	Deadline for pre-application meeting.
October 15, 2024	Applications close. Deadline to submit your application is 4:30 p.m. MST. Applications will not be accepted after this time.
October 16 - November 1, 2024	Requested application revisions from CIP, where applicable. Deadline to submit your required revisions is 4:30 p.m. MST on November 1 . Information will not be accepted after this time.
November 8, 2024	CIP completes preliminary review of applications.
Early December (TBD)	Council Meeting - Community Impact Grant budget approval.
Early December (TBD)	CIPAC selects successful Applicants.
Early December (TBD)	CIP sends CIPAC's decision to applicants.
December 31, 2024	CIP sends grant agreements to applicants.

Within 30 days of execution of Grant Agreement	Grant funding distribution
Within 30 days of execution of Grant Agreement	Recipient submits Certificate of Insurance.
Within 60 days of Community Events	Recipient submits Final Report - Community Events Stream
February 28, 2025	Recipient submits Final Report - Community Programs and Projects Stream.
120 days following the fiscal year end of the organization	Recipient submits Financial Statements.

Definitions

Agreement	The agreement between the recipient and the Municipality that sets out the terms and conditions for participating in the Community Investment Program.
Administrative Expenses	The expenses that an organization incurs not directly tied to the specific program, project or event being applied for. These expenses are related to the organization as opposed to an individual program, project or event. The expenses include Executive Director wages and salaries, costs of general services such as accounting, bookkeeping, insurance, office rent, freight, courier, postage, legal costs, office supplies, printing and utilities.
Applicant	Any group, club, individual or organization incorporated as a non-profit, charitable, or Subsidiary Corporations or registered as a society under the Alberta Societies Act and is in good standing under its relevant legislation who submits an application.
Community Investment Program Approval Committee	The Council Committee to approve program grant recommendations, which is composed of Council-appointed members at large and supported by members of administration who provide information and guidance as needed.
Certificate of Insurance	For details on the level of insurance required, please contact CIP.
Council	Mayor and Councilors of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
Event	A planned public, social and/or recreational occasion that takes place annually or that is timebound to an annual celebration, tournament, holiday, or other community gathering. Events are open to all in the community.
Good Standing	An organization has satisfied all its legal obligations.
Grant	Transfer of monies from the Municipality to an applicant for a project or purpose according to the requirements of the Community Investment Program.
Low-Cost	Offered at a rate that is accessible for individuals/groups with no disposable income.

Multi-year Agreement	Means an agreement for services, programs or events over a period greater than one year.
Municipality	The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
Program	A set of related, ongoing activities that work together to achieve a common long-term goal or objective and provide support to specific demographics. For example, a program focused on promoting wellness might include activities for adults such as life-skills workshops and outreach.
Program Grants	The different grant options available under the Community Investment Program.
Project	A temporary initiative with a specific timeframe, goal, and set of tasks. It's a unique undertaking designed to deliver a particular outcome or result. For example, a community garden.
Recipient	An applicant that has been approved to receive a grant and has signed an agreement with the Municipality.
Regional Boundary	The physical area of the Municipality that includes any lands comprising of First Nation Reserve located within the Municipality's geographical boundaries.
Societies Act	A society may be incorporated under this Act to promote any benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic, religious, charitable, artistic, literary, educational, social, professional, recreational, sporting or any other useful object, but not for the purpose of carrying on any trade or business.
Summary of Revenue and Expenditures	A financial statement summarizing the organization's revenues and expenses during the organization's fiscal year (including but not limited to the Grant), verified by a member-at-large of the organization, which may be prepared but not verified by an executive member (i.e. president, vice-president, or treasurer) or the organization.
Streams	The different grant options available under a program grant.
Term	The effective date and duration of the agreement.
Unrestricted Net Assets	Accumulated net assets that the organization has not set aside for a particular purpose or earmarked by a donor for specific program or project, as reflected on the organization's financial statements.

For more information, please visit the Community Investment Program website at www.rmwb.ca/CIP.

Community Investment Program

Community Services
 Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
 9909 Franklin Avenue
 Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4
CIP@rmwb.ca

Appendix A

2025 Community Sustaining Grant and Community Impact Grant Applicant Evaluation Scoring Sheet			Score:	0.00
Applicant:				
Service, Program, Project or Event:				
Applicant Capacity	Not Applicable - N/A Not Met - 0 Needs Work - 1 Needs Some Work - 2 Good - 3 Exemplary - 4 "	Weight	Score	
The organization complied with Schedule B of all previous agreements. (past 2 years)*		25%	0.00	
Program or Project aligns with organization's mission and mandate.**				
Organization has demonstrated financial sustainability and ability to deliver project as outlined?***				
The organization has demonstrated sound leadership/governance - board and director structure.				
Project Feasibility	Not Applicable - N/A Not Met - 0 Needs Work - 1 Needs Some Work - 2 Good - 3 Exemplary - 4 "	Weight	Score	
Organization provided a clear, easy to understand, and concise application (including relevant attachments)?		25%	0.00	
Application includes a clear description of the activities that clearly outlines the proposed scope of what funding will be used for?				
Does the application reasonably demonstrate that the program, project, service or event is not duplicative by clearly outlining the uniqueness of the initiative in comparison to services provided by or funded by your department or the Municipality?				
Project is accessible, relevant, adaptable and targets identified needs in the community in accordance with project outcomes. **				
Project has community support, demonstrated by additional funding sources, non-funding support (e.g., in-kind), partnership/ collaboration, and volunteer involvement. (Consider ability to support project without CIP funding).				
Proposal meets at least three objectives (SUS) one objective (CPP & CE) of Council's funding priorities, including demonstrated alignment to Council's strategic plan?***				
Evidence of Need	Not Applicable - N/A Not Met - 0 Needs Work - 1 Needs Some Work - 2 Good - 3 Exemplary - 4 "	Weight	Score	
Has the application effectively demonstrated community need?		25%	0.00	
Has the application identified reasonable project outcomes in alignment with the project objectives, Council's funding priorities, and demonstrated community need.				
Extent to which the project enhances Indigenous culture and communities and promotes Indigenous community healing, language, cultural restoration, reconciliation, equity, and inclusion.*				
Has the application demonstrated support of an equity-deserving group and addressed reducing barriers to the target group? Equity-deserving groups: Communities that identify barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination. i.e., people of the following communities: 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous, Black, Neurodivergent, People with Disabilities, Visible/Non-Visible Minority, Newcomers, Immigrants, Refugees, Other."				
Contribution to Community Resilience	Not Applicable - N/A Not Met - 0 Needs Work - 1 Needs Some Work - 2 Good - 3 Exemplary - 4 "	Weight	Score	
Expected outcomes have been well considered and will have significant impact on the community if achieved**		25%	0.00	
Applicant outlines appropriate methods for evaluating project results.				
Prior success with outcomes of CIP funding. (Demonstrated sound logic modelling and outcome measurement). (past 2 years)*				
Project involves appropriate partners to amplify impact through collaboration.				
Note:				
* Questions with N/A answers will be omitted in weighting. Applicant will not be penalized for not meeting the criteria.				
** Questions will be weighted higher				