

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM



## 2025 COMMUNITY SUSTAINING GRANT GUIDELINES



## Purpose of the Grant

The Community Sustaining Grant provides funding to registered non-profit organizations providing services that contribute to **three** 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:

- Be 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.
- Provide services that align with three or more funding priorities in Council's Strategic Plan or other Council approved plans.
- 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.

## The Community Investment Program will not fund:

- Individuals (with the exception of 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 the 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) with the exception of Games Legacy Grant.
- Applicants who request funding amounting to more than 75% of the budget of the program, project, event, or service (with the exception of the Municipal Facility Operating Grant, Subsidiary Grant, and Games Legacy Grant).
- Applicants that do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

## Application Process

### Pre-Application Meetings and Support

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

Returning applicants looking for more information are strongly encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting.

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

- Organization name.
- 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. CIP will notify you via email when the application is available in the CIP Grant Portal. Log in to your [CIP Grant Portal account](#) and complete the application.
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 and greatest positive impact on the community.
2. CIPAC will approve 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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Funding Distribution 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.
  - Six-Month Report highlighting ongoing successes and challenges as well as progress of outcome measurement plan.
  - 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.
    - \$100,000 - \$499,999 - Review Engagement Financial Statements.
    - >\$500,000 - Audited Financial Statements.
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 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.

## 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](mailto: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 <a href="mailto:CIP@rmwb.ca">CIP@rmwb.ca</a> ).
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 <b>4:30 p.m. MST on November 1</b> . Information will not be accepted after this time.

# CIP 2025 COMMUNITY SUSTAINING GRANT GUIDELINES

November 8, 2024	CIP completes preliminary review of applications.
December 1 - December 14, 2023	Review Panel will complete application scoring and ranking.
Early December (TBD)	Council Meeting - Community Sustaining 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 - 1st Installment.
Within 30 days of execution of Grant Agreement	Recipient submits Certificate of Insurance.
July 31, 2025	Recipient submits Six Month Report.
February 28 / April 30, 2026	Recipient submits Final Report.
120 days following the fiscal year end of the organization	Recipient submits Financial Statements.

## Definitions

<b>Agreement</b>	The agreement between the recipient and the Municipality that sets out the terms and conditions for participating in the Program.
<b>Applicant</b>	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.
<b>Community Investment Program Approval Committee</b>	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.
<b>Audited Financial Statements</b>	Means a review of the organization's financial statements by an independent Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), including but not limited to the grant. The financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. In accordance with section 200 of the CPA Canada Handbook - Assurance an audit provides an "expression of an opinion by the auditor on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework." The audit of the financial statements must be approved by the Board of Directors and signed by the chair and treasurer. The organization must retain all supporting agreements, invoices and receipts. The organization must provide the audited financial statements upon finalization, accompanied by the CPA's audit engagement report where the value of the grant is \$500,000 or more.

<b>Certificate of Insurance</b>	For details on the level of insurance required, please contact CIP.
<b>Council</b>	Mayor and Councilors of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
<b>Good Standing</b>	An organization has satisfied all its legal obligations.
<b>Grant</b>	Transfer of monies from the Municipality to an applicant for a project or purpose according to the requirements of the Community Investment Program.
<b>Multi-year Agreement</b>	Means an agreement for services, programs or events over a period of time greater than one year.
<b>Municipality</b>	The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
<b>Program Grants</b>	The different grant options available under the Community Investment Program.
<b>Recipient</b>	An applicant that has been approved to receive a grant and has signed an agreement with the Municipality.
<b>Regional Boundary</b>	The physical area of the Municipality that includes any lands comprising of First Nation Reserve located within the Municipality's geographical boundaries.
<b>Review Engagement Financial Statements</b>	A review of the organization's financial statements by an independent Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), including but not limited to the grant. The financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. In accordance with section 8100 of the CPA Canada Handbook - Assurance (as amended): "Reviews are distinguishable from audits in that the scope of a review is less than that of an audit and therefore the level of assurance provided is lower." The review of the financial statements must be approved by the Board of Directors and signed by the chair and treasurer. The organization must retain all supporting agreements, invoices and receipts. The organization must provide the reviewed financial statements upon finalization, accompanied by the CPA's review engagement report where the value of the grant is more than \$100,000, but less than \$500,000.
<b>Societies Act</b>	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.
<b>Term</b>	The effective date and duration of the agreement.



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**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](http://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](mailto:CIP@rmwb.ca)



# 2025 COMMUNITY SUSTAINING GRANT GUIDELINES

2025 Community Sustaining Grant and Community Impact Grant Applicant Evaluation Scoring Sheet			Score:	0.00
<b>Applicant:</b>				
<b>Service, Program, Project or Event:</b>				
<b>Applicant Capacity</b>	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.				
<b>Project Feasibility</b>	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? **				
<b>Evidence of Need</b>	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."				
<b>Contribution to Community Resilience</b>	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				