

What is the Community Development Program?

The Community Development Program supports the efforts of Basin residents to address community challenges and opportunities.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include registered non-profits, local governments and Indigenous Communities in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map).

When is the application deadline?

The Community Development Program accepts inquiries and applications on a continuous basis throughout the year. The program will close when available funds have been committed.

What types of projects are eligible?

Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion. The types of projects that may be eligible include, but are not limited to:

- strategic, broadly supported projects that address community challenges or take advantage of unique opportunities that have significant positive impacts on Basin communities;
- planning projects that will lead to implementation of a tangible project;
- capital projects such as construction or renovations of community assets; and
- equipment used to enhance program delivery and efficiency.

What types of projects are not eligible?

Ineligible projects include the following:

- Projects that may relieve any level of government of its obligations, including improvement districts.
- Projects that are eligible for one of the Trust's other programs, with the exception of Resident Directed Grants (ReDi) (visit [ReDi Grants](#)).
- Community events and celebrations, festivals and fairs (visit [Sponsorship Program](#)).
- Projects or activities of political parties, advocacy or lobby groups or of organizations that are exclusive or discriminative in nature.
- Projects that are for the purposes of travel e.g. attending conferences.
- Sports teams, tournaments or sporting and recreational equipment.
- Donations to fundraising initiatives.
- Projects that primarily benefit the applicant itself or the members of a membership based organization.

What types of costs are eligible?

Eligible project costs include costs that are direct and necessary for the successful implementation of the project.

What types of costs are not eligible?

Ineligible costs include the following:

- retroactive costs (costs that have already been incurred prior to funding approval by the Trust);
- core operational expenses of the organization, including but not limited to wages, rent, and utilities;
- projects that support improvement district and local government infrastructure; and
- mechanical repair/replacement or structural renovations that should reasonably be anticipated and budgeted for.

How much will the Trust fund?

Typically, the Trust will not be the sole funder of projects.

Projects that demonstrate that fundraising efforts have been made and/or are being undertaken are more likely to receive funding.

Priority is given to projects with confirmed cash contributions from the applicant organization or other funders.

How does the Trust select projects for funding?

When reviewing project applications, the Trust will consider whether:

- the project demonstrates that it will support broad public benefit to Basin communities and that the primary beneficiary is not the applicant or solely the members of a membership-based organization;
- project activities that have a low financial barrier for Basin residents to participate;
- community support is clearly demonstrated, indicated by activities like fundraising, financial commitments and partnerships;
- the project is substantially ready to be implemented if Trust funds are approved;
- there are no similar projects proposed or recently completed in the same community that overlap with, contradict or duplicate the project being applied for; and
- the applicant has demonstrated capacity to deliver the project and will maintain the community assets that will be the result of this project.

The Trust strives to distribute Program funds across communities, organizations and project types and will consider this as part of the adjudication of all applications.

Additional consideration may be given to projects that incorporate:

1. Indigenous perspectives or partnerships with Indigenous Peoples.
2. Climate resilience practices.
3. Employment creation or workplace training.

When will organizations hear the results?

Trust staff will be in contact during the evaluation phase and may request additional information. The adjudication process can take up to eight weeks.

Organizations will be contacted by email, at the address provided on the application form, to confirm if the project application has been approved for funding.

To finalize funding, both parties will sign a Contribution Agreement.

When can a project begin?

Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after Trust approval of funding has been received and the Contribution Agreement has been signed.

What else to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available. The Trust retains the right to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding allocated to each project; this may be all or part of what was requested.

Depending on the nature of the project, applicants may have to obtain specific permits and approvals prior to receiving Trust funds.

Ready to apply?

Contact the Trust to inquire about your project:

- submit a project inquiry online: ourtrust.org/CDPIquiry; or
- call 1.800.505.8998 if you have questions or want to discuss your project idea.

Selected projects will be invited to apply and sent a link to the application.