

PROGRAM GUIDE: SENIORS AND ELDERS ACTIVITY GRANTS

This Guide identifies what types of projects are eligible and gives you important information on how to complete an application for the Seniors and Elders Activity Grants.

Questions? Contact us at 1.800.505.8998 or socialgrants@ourtrust.org

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WHAT ARE THE SENIORS AND ELDERS ACTIVITY GRANTS?

The Trust is accepting applications for:

1. capital projects that improve community-purpose buildings that are actively used for services, activities and events for seniors (such as seniors halls and/or centres); and
2. projects that directly improve quality of life and social connections for seniors in the Basin, including projects that support Indigenous elders.

Providing opportunities and amenities for seniors and ensuring vulnerable populations have access to support is identified in the Trust's Columbia Basin Management Plan (2020-2022) as an objective and desired outcome of the strategic priority, *Community Well-being* and integrated priority of *Working With Indigenous Peoples*. Learn more about the Columbia Basin Management Plan [here](#).

Contact us at socialgrants@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998 to discuss your project and explore eligibility.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The Seniors and Elders Activity Grants has **two funding streams** with separate application processes. **Eligible applicants may apply to one or both streams.**

Funding Stream	Application Details
1. Building and Capital Support Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building improvements• Energy improvements• Outdoor activity spaces	Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) online by Thursday, November 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT. You will hear from us by early January and, if selected for further consideration, invited to meet with a Trust Program Advisor to support further project and application development. Final funding decisions are expected by early March 2022.
2. Services and Activities Grants	Applications are due by Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

FUNDING STREAM 1: BUILDING AND CAPITAL SUPPORT GRANTS

1. What are Building and Capital Support Grants?

These grants support energy retrofits, repairs and improvements to increase safety of community-purpose buildings actively used for seniors services, activities and events (such as seniors halls and/or centres).

2. Who can apply?

Eligible applicants (Eligible Applicants) include registered non-profits, First Nations communities and local governments from the Columbia Basin Trust [region](#). Eligible Applicants must own the specific venue, defined as a building that is actively used for seniors programs, activities and events. Local non-profit seniors-serving organizations that have long-standing leases or operating agreements in place with local governments and First Nations communities that own the hall or centre are also eligible to apply.

This Program may prioritize applications that:

- include a completed building inspection or engineering design; and
- are for buildings older than 10 years.

After submission and review of the Expressions of Interest, our Program Advisor is available to support Eligible Applicants to further develop their project scope and funding applications.

3. What types of projects are not eligible?

The types of projects that are **not** eligible include those that:

- occur in buildings owned by private sector entities;
- occur in buildings with exclusive membership and/or barriers to entry;
- occur in buildings that are sports facilities and/or recreation centres;
- occur on or in non-profit seniors housing buildings unless the location clearly demonstrates use by the public/broader seniors community;
- are not actively used for seniors programs and activities;
- take place outside the Basin; or
- relieve any level of government of its obligations.

Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion.

4. When is the application deadline?

Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) online by **Thursday, November 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.**

Before starting the process, we highly encourage you to contact Trust staff to discuss your project idea by email at socialgrants@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998.

5. What types of costs are eligible?

A. Energy Improvements

Energy improvements aim to conserve or generate energy and must show a positive return on investment. Eligible costs include items like the following:

Costs associated with the purchase and installation of alternative and renewable energy generation systems, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• air source heat pumps• solar systems	Costs associated with improving energy conservation and efficiency such as upgrades to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• air sealing• heating, ventilation, and air conditioning• LED lighting• insulation• domestic hot water• thermostat and other controls
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B. Building Repairs and Improvements

Building repairs and improvements aim to restore a building envelope, its structural building components or address safety/accessibility issues.

<p>Costs associated with restoring a building envelope such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exterior finishing • roofs • doors • windows 	<p>Costs associated with restoring structural components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footings • foundations • posts and beams • roof structure 	<p>Costs associated with improving safety such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessibility enhancements • creation of outdoor program/activity space • mould or radon remediation
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6. What types of costs are not eligible?

Ineligible costs include:

- engineering
- decorating
- window coverings
- hazmat assessment
- fire suppression
- appliances

7. How much can I apply for and how much of my project will the Trust fund?

Applicants can request up to 80%* of the project's total costs, to a maximum request of \$100,000, from the Trust.

**Depending on the applicant's ability to contribute, the Trust may consider a larger contribution.*

8. How will the Trust select projects for funding?

Energy Improvements:

- If selected for further consideration, you will be invited to meet with the Program Advisor who will help you identify the project's potential to improve energy performance or generate energy and the associated return on investment (ROI).
- ROI measures gain generated on an investment relative to the amount of money invested." A simple formula is ((total accumulated annual savings over the project's lifespan - capital cost) / the capital cost) x100.

Example A:

Total annual savings (project lifespan is 10 years at \$600 per year) = \$6,000

Capital Cost = \$5,000

(((\$6,000 - \$5,000) / \$5,000) x100 = ROI = 20%

Example B:

Total annual savings (retrofit lifespan is 8 years at \$3,000 per year) = \$24,000

Capital Cost = \$23,000

(((\$24,000-\$23,000) / \$24,000) x100 = ROI= 4.2%

Example A is preferred over Example B due to the higher ROI.

Building Repairs and Improvements:

- If selected for further consideration, the Advisor will provide feedback on the repairs, including if you should consider performing engineering assessments or other studies.
- You must apply to other applicable rebate/funding program(s).

- You will then work with Trust staff and the Program Advisor to finalize project and application development.

9. When can my project start?

You can only put grant money toward approved project expenses that occur after your organization and the Trust have signed the Contribution Agreement.

Also, depending on the nature of your project, you may have to obtain specific permits and approvals before receiving Trust funds.

You should plan to start your project no earlier than April 1, 2022.

10. What else do I have to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets the eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as we often receive requests for more funding than we have available. We will determine project eligibility and the amount of funding we may allocate to each project. We may offer part, or all, of the funding you request.

11. When will I hear the results?

The Trust will notify applicants regarding their EOIs in December 2021.

12. How do I apply?

- Download the [Worksheet](#) to support you in developing your application offline if you so choose.
- Complete the online [Expression of Interest form](#) by **November 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT**
- If selected for consideration, you will be invited to meet with the Program Advisor to support further project and application development.

FUNDING STREAM 2: SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES GRANTS

1. What types of projects are eligible?

Projects that pilot or expand services and/or activities for seniors should fit at least one of the following categories:

1. Directly increase quality of life, reduce barriers to community services, activities and events, and/or support seniors experiencing or at risk of experiencing vulnerabilities to remain active and live independently, including projects that support Indigenous elders.
2. Foster social inclusion and connections for seniors experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, social isolation.
3. Deliver programs and activities for seniors that are culturally appropriate and inclusive (e.g., intergenerational or intercultural projects), including projects that support Indigenous elders.
4. Create or improve transportation networks, including coordinating volunteers, to help seniors stay connected to their communities.
5. Involve short-term planning to support the development of inclusive seniors programming, services and/or projects in the community. (Priority will be given to rural communities and communities that have not previously conducted planning activities related to seniors. Planning grants are up to a maximum of \$5,000.)

In addition, projects that incorporate some of the following **Operating Principles** will be prioritized for funding support:

- pilot or expand initiatives that align with the project categories above;
- provide evidence of community partnerships and collaborations;
- include the perspectives of seniors in developing and delivering solutions;
- incorporate Indigenous perspectives and culturally relevant approaches;
- attract funding from other sources that share common objectives and desired outcomes, including a plan for long term sustainability, as appropriate;
- have not previously received Trust funding;
- document lessons learned and share results with stakeholders from across the Basin to catalyze similar projects;
- demonstrate capacity and expertise to deliver the project; and
- include reasonable and cost-effective budget for project delivery.

Projects with larger funding requests may be required to demonstrate that they incorporate more Operating Principles than projects with smaller funding requests.

2. Who can apply?

Eligible Applicants include registered non-profits, First Nations communities and local governments from the Columbia Basin Trust region. Businesses may be considered depending on the project, partnerships, and its broad community impact.

3. What types of projects are not eligible?

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

- involve paying for core or ongoing operating expenses of Eligible Applicants;
- do not address one of the project categories above;
- take place outside of the Basin;
- relieve any level of government of its obligations;
- provide direct financial contributions and/or subsidies to individuals;
- have received funding from the Trust in the past; and
- will undertake activities of political parties, advocacy or lobby groups or of organizations that are exclusive or discriminative in nature.

4. When is the application deadline?

Applicants must complete an application online by **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.**

Before starting the process, we highly encourage you to contact Trust staff to discuss your project idea by email at socialgrants@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998.

5. How much can I apply for and how much of my project will the Trust fund?

Applicants can request up to a maximum of 80%* of the project’s total costs from the Trust.

Project Category	Maximum Grant
For projects addressing project categories 1-4 (outlined on page 5)	There is no maximum amount for project grant requests. However, we anticipate that

	many successful Grants will be in the range of \$10,000 - \$100,000.
For planning activities addressing project category 5 (outlined on page 5)	Applicants can request up to a maximum of \$5,000. If an Applicant is requesting funding for both planning activities and eligible project implementation costs, the request for planning activities should not exceed \$5,000.

*While the Trust prioritizes project applications that have other confirmed cash revenue sources, in-kind contributions may be considered as part of the applicant's 20% contribution if the organization:

- is primarily volunteer-driven;
- has a limited operating budget;
- demonstrates a sustainable project plan;
- meets all other eligibility criteria; and
- is making reasonable efforts to raise additional funds.

If you are requesting a larger amount of funding, your project should demonstrate significant regional impact, long-term sustainability, community-wide collaboration and additional confirmed funding contributions from sources other than the Trust. Letters of Support from partners and other organizations (e.g. non-profits, government, businesses, etc.) familiar with your organization and/or your project are required.

6. Can I apply for multi-year funding?

Grants are limited to a 36-month maximum timeframe. If you are requesting multi-year funding for a project, your budget should reflect the cash required to complete the project over the entire timeframe listed in the application.

7. How will the Trust select projects for funding?

The Trust will review your submitted application to consider how well your project aligns with the eligibility criteria, Project Categories, and Operating Principles as described above.

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

8. When can my project start?

Projects for this intake should begin no earlier than April 2022. Trust funding can only be put toward approved project expenses after receiving funding confirmation from the Trust.

9. What else do I have to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets the eligibility criteria it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available. An invitation to apply does not guarantee that the final, submitted application will be approved. The Trust retains the discretion to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding it may allocate to each project and to offer part or all of the Trust portion of the funding request.

10. When will I hear the results?

The Trust will notify applicants regarding their applications by the end of February 2022.

11. How do I apply?

- a. Download the [Application Guide](#) and [Worksheet](#) to support you in developing your application offline if you so choose.
- b. Send an email to socialgrants@ourtrust.org to book a telephone call with us at your convenience and receive support with your project and application development.
- c. Complete the [online application form](#) by **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT**

If you have any questions about the application process, contact Trust staff at socialgrants@ourtrust.org or 1-800-505-8998.