

2027 Renter Services Grant Information Guide

Deadline: Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Introduction

This Information Guide provides information about the objectives, criteria, and application process for the Renter Services Grants program. Renter Services Grants are one of many grant streams offered by the City of Vancouver. Information about other social grant programs can be found on the City's web page: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/community-grants.aspx>

Renter Services Grants are investments that contribute to improving rental housing outcomes for renters in Vancouver. They support non-profit community-based programs which assist and empower Vancouver renters to understand their rights, pursue their rights, and/or retain their housing.

Renter Services Grants are intended to augment and enhance, not simply maintain, an organization's capacity to support renters.

Renter Services Grants:

- Respond to dynamic needs of renters in Vancouver
- Address equity by reducing the impact of systemic barriers that create conditions of vulnerability for renters
- Facilitate partnerships and networks between the City, other levels of government, businesses, and non-profit organizations
- Inform and respond to Council priorities on supporting renters, including the provision of direct services that will improve housing outcomes for renters, and non-profit actions that will create positive systemic change for renters
- Increase an organization's capacity to support and/or advocate for the needs of Vancouver renters

Priorities

Renter Services Grants provide funding for projects that address inequity and mitigate conditions that create vulnerability for Vancouver renters.

Priority consideration is given to projects or services that meet the following

- Align with the Renter Services Grants Statement of Intent (noted above)
- Reinforce or support the goals of Council-approved actions to support Vancouver renters
- The primary function is to provide supplemental supports and/or remove barriers to ensure equitable access to services and opportunities for renters in Vancouver

- The primary focus is renters who are experiencing social, physical, and/or economic disadvantages and/or who face discrimination, particularly those living in private market rental housing
- Due to limited funding of this grant program, applications with services that support renters living in private market rental housing will be prioritized
- Use one or more of the following *approaches* to improve housing outcomes for renters:
 - Service-oriented and focused on reducing the barriers to equity
 - Systemic or individual advocacy aimed at securing services and protecting rights
 - Community development which empowers and involves equity denied renters in solving social problems, bringing about positive social change, and extending participatory democracy
- Use one or more of the following *strategies* to improve housing outcomes for renters
 - Organizing/mobilizing volunteer resources
 - Developing mutual support (e.g. coalition building, collaborative projects) among groups, individuals and group support systems
 - Facilitating improved access to renter services
 - Building the capacity of individuals or families who rent to address the causes of rental housing instability
 - Developing or supporting new service delivery models
 - Delivering community-based workshops, conferences, or other non-formal educational opportunities for renters and/or renter advocates
 - Research to better understand systemic challenges experienced by renters

Applicants must demonstrate the approaches and strategies proposed will demonstrably increase an organization's capacity to support and/or advocate for improved housing outcomes for renters. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to identify the measurable potential impact their project will have on Vancouver renters.

Principles for Grant Making

- **Accountability:** We embrace ongoing feedback loops with partners to understand City investments and how they influence change
- **Equity and Inclusion:** We strive to build equity in our communities by making grant processes accessible, particularly for groups that experience exclusion
- **Transparency:** We are open, transparent, and consistent with our grant making processes
- **Informed Decision-Making:** We inform our grant making using evidence-based research, and consider all data sources, both formal and informal
- **Balanced Investment Approach:** We balance short, medium, and long-term investments while addressing immediate concerns to ensure we do not lose sight of our goal to bring about lasting systems change
- **Diversity and Reconciliation:** Our grants recognize the unique strengths of our many diverse communities by fostering relationships, helping heal the past, and moving forward with shared understanding and respect – working with the context of Vancouver as the unceded homeland of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
- **Strategic Alignment:** Our grants demonstrate alignment with Council priorities for renters and related strategies and initiatives
- **Partnerships:** Our relationships with our community and funding partners are based on trust, respect, and transparency

Fairness and Equity

Renter Services Grants provide funding for projects that addresses inequity and mitigates conditions that create barriers to equity for Vancouver renters. Throughout the application, applicants are encouraged to link their work directly to achieving this goal.

The City of Vancouver has developed an Equity Framework to address systemic racism and to reduce barriers for those who have historically experienced the most exclusion, violence, and harm.

This framework is an internal document that will shape how the City, as an employer and policymaker, provides additional supports for equity-seeking groups to advance fair conditions for all people.

For more information about the City's approach, we invite you to read more about the many steps that the City of Vancouver is taking to address racism and inequality:

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/equity-diversity-inclusion.aspx>

Eligibility

An organization must

- Be a registered non-profit society, community service co-op, or social enterprise wholly owned by a non-profit and in good standing with the Registrar of Companies OR be a registered charity, in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency OR a First Nations Band
 - Note: If you are not registered as one of the above, you may partner with a fiscal sponsor that is a registered non-profit society or charity to meet this requirement
- Have an independent active governing body composed of volunteers. The by-laws must have provisions that no staff member can be a voting member of the board or executive
- Demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness, and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities (including trans*, gender-diverse and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions (including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness) in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted
- Be in compliance with the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and the [British Columbia Human Rights Code](#)
- Have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient resources to deliver the programs to which the City is being asked to contribute
- Deliver the funded program in Vancouver, to Vancouver residents.
- If you have applied for a grant previously, were not successful, and plan to apply again during this intake period we ask that you contact us to discuss how your project may or may not align with funding priorities.

Exceptions to the above may be approved at the discretion of the Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services.

Ineligible Projects and Expenses

- Those which fall wholly or primarily within the mandate of other government departments, including (not limited to)
 - Direct healthcare programs (e.g. health self-help groups, health information programs, medical treatment, maintenance or rehabilitation programs)
 - Employment training
- Initial settlement programs
- Direct welfare supports, including food banks, meal programs, and provision of clothing
- **The capital costs of housing, rent payments, or rent supplements**
- One-on-one counselling with licensed psychologists, social workers, or registered clinical counsellors
- Projects which are primarily recreational (formal recreation programs such as clubs/groups or teams), or formal educational projects leading to a credential
 - Note: Non-formal educational projects that do not lead to a formal educational credential are eligible
- Transportation/travel expenses, except those that allow users or potential users to access services
- Legal fees
- Payment of: City property taxes; capital expenses, operating, or capital deficits
- Act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to any other group or organization
- Projects directed to the preservation of any particular ethnic or cultural heritage, except in instances for Reconciliation initiatives

Organizations receiving a Renter Services grant may provide one or more of the programs noted above, but the City's grant cannot be used to support those activities. Exceptions to the above may be approved at the discretion of the Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services.

How to Apply

Online Grant Portal

All applications are now being accepted online via [VanApply](#). To navigate our online grant system, check out our How to Guides, Instructional Videos and more resources [here](#).

Printed copies and e-mailed applications will no longer be accepted.

Application Tasks:	Content:
Organization Information	Basic information about your organization
Program/Project Information	Specific questions about the project for which you are seeking funding
Program/Project Budget	Detailed budget of the proposed project
Final Reports (if applicable)	Sharing results of the project funded

Application Tasks:	Content:
Supporting Documents Required	• List of Board of Directors • Minutes of the most recent AGM • Minutes of the most recent Board Meeting • Organization budget: audited financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year • Organization's Policy on Diversity (if available) • Annual Report (if available) • Organization's By-laws/Constitution (New Org Only) • Incorporation Document (New Org Only) • Job descriptions for staff positions to be funded by Renter Services Grants (if applicable)

Note: It is important that all new applicants contact us to discuss their application prior to submission. This is to ensure that your organization and program meet the eligibility criteria.

Review Process and Amount

Applications will be reviewed and assessed using standard criteria by a team of City staff. If a reviewing member has questions, they may contact the applicant for clarification. Staff will present funding recommendations to City Council for approval typically in early Spring.

Since the review and recommendation approval process leading up to the final decision by Council is extensive, there is no appeal process for grant decisions.

Term of Renter Services Grant

The term of a Renter Services Grants is one year. Grants typically will be disbursed in late Spring in one full payment following Council approval. Exceptions will be discussed on an as-needed basis with grant recipients.

Amount of Grants

The number of projects funded — and, therefore, the size of any one grant — is not predetermined but will be considered in context of the number and quality of applications received. We anticipate grants could be in the range of \$5,000 to over \$50,000. Requests for smaller or greater amounts will be considered depending on the scale and impact on housing outcomes for renters.

Contact Information

If you would like more information about the City of Vancouver's Renter Services Grant and/or you are interested in applying, please contact:

Homelessness Services

Phone: 604-673-8443

Email: homelessness@vancouver.ca

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