

2019 INDIGENOUS HEALING AND WELLNESS GRANTS INFORMATION GUIDE

Deadline: Friday, February 8, 2019 at 4:30 pm

“Access to traditional and culturally appropriate health care practices is equally, if not more important, than access to mainstream non-Aboriginal health care. There is a need for Aboriginal-specific programs in the DTES, with all services being able to provide traditional, spiritual and cultural health and healing supports.” Aboriginal Health Healing and Wellness in the DTES Study, City of Vancouver, 2017

“Ceremony helps people to incorporate healthy values such as respect, love, courage, humility, truth, trust and strength into their daily lives.” Traditional Healing Circle of Elders, First Nations Centre, National Aboriginal Health Organization, 2007

The City of Vancouver is seeking proposals for the *2019 Indigenous Healing and Wellness* grant stream to fund programs that provide traditional, spiritual and cultural healing, and wellness activities to Vancouver’s urban Indigenous community.

The goals of the IH&W grants are to:

1. Increase access to Elder services and Indigenous traditional, cultural, and spiritual services;
2. Improve integration of Elder services and Indigenous healing and wellness activities into mainstream health services; and,
3. Improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, Vancouver City Council designated Vancouver as a ‘City of Reconciliation’ and “A Healthy City for All”: a city where together we are creating and continually improving the conditions that enable all of us to enjoy the highest level of health and well-being possible.” The City of Vancouver’s Healthy City Strategy is guided by a number of key principles, including a broad and holistic understanding of health and well-being, and a “for all” lens that helps ensure that we pursue both universal initiatives and those focused on specific populations most vulnerable to health inequities.

The Healthy City Strategy sets out 13 aspirational goals, 22 targets and 45 indicators for tracking the overall health of the city. To learn more about the Healthy City Strategy please visit [Healthy City Strategy](#). In 2017, the City established the Indigenous Healing and Wellness Grants program with the objective of increasing access to the counsel of Elders and Indigenous traditional, cultural, and spiritual supports and services in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR INDIGENOUS HEALING AND WELLNESS GRANTS?

- Provide Indigenous cultural/spiritual knowledge unique to the client's culture and spirituality;
- Provide guidance, cultural and spiritual support through, e.g., one-to-one sessions, group work, sharing circles, healing circles;
- Share cultural knowledge and expertise through activities such as drum making, art, carving, crafts, storytelling, talking circles, history lessons, nature walks, traditional drumming and singing; and,
- Share spiritual knowledge and expertise through activities and ceremonies such as welcoming, opening and closing prayers, smudging, brushing off, sweatlodge, medicine picking and other traditional practices.

WHAT PROGRAM ASPECTS OR ACTIVITIES CAN BE FUNDED?

In direct response to findings of the *Aboriginal Health Healing and Wellness in the DTES Study*, the first two years of the IH&W program focused specifically on supporting the involvement of Elders in providing traditional health and wellness activities.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation describes an Elder as "someone who is considered exceptionally wise in the ways of their culture and the teachings of the Great Spirit. They are recognized for their wisdom, their stability, their humour and their ability to know what is appropriate in a particular situation. The community looks to them for guidance and sound judgment. They are caring and are known to share the fruits of their labours and experience with others in the community..." Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 2005

While the need to ensure Elders are being provided with appropriate levels of financial and other supports remains a key focus of the grants program, learnings from the two pilot years (2017 & 2018) have led to a broadening of the types of traditional activities that may be eligible for funding. For example, some organizations noted that youth who have been raised within their traditional cultures may be traditional knowledge holders who can be critical resources for providing healing & wellness supports to their peer group and/or people of other ages. Thus, the program recognizes that traditional knowledge keepers may include Cultural Workers, Cultural Advisors, Spiritual Advisors, Traditional Healers, and/or others who are not necessarily Elders, but whose involvement may also be key to achieving a program's healing and wellness goals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this grant, organizations must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be at least one of the following:
 - Registered non-profit society
 - Community service co-op
 - Social enterprise wholly owned by a non-profit, and in good standing with the Registrar of Companies
 - Registered charity with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA)
 - First Nations band
- Must have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. The by-laws must have provisions that no Board director can be remunerated for being a director; staff members cannot be voting members of the Board or Executive;

- Must have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient resources to deliver the services and programs to which the City is being asked to contribute;
- Must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted;
- Must achieve a minimum of 1:1 leverage from other sources, which can include support from other funders and/or institutions, as well as staff time, space and material donated or provided by other organizations to support the project;
- The program for which funding is being sought must be located in Vancouver or, if not, must demonstrate it is primarily serving residents of Vancouver;
- A significant percentage of the people to be supported through the grant activities must be Indigenous; and,
- The program for which funding is being sought must have been in existence for a **minimum of 18 months** prior to the application.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses for the City grant funds include:

- **A minimum of 80%** of the City grant must be spent on honorariums, contracts or salaries for traditional knowledge keepers (compensation for services must be reasonable and on par with similar programs);
- Local transportation costs for traditional knowledge keepers (e.g., transit, taxi, mileage);
- Program supplies and expenses directly related to provision of traditional and culturally appropriate health care practices (e.g., traditional foods, drums, etc.);
- Rental of additional spaces like boardrooms, halls, or community cultural centres or long houses for feasts, ceremonies, or honourings; and,
- Additional training and development opportunities for **Elders** who work primarily with vulnerable or at-risk populations in the DTES.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALING AND WELLNESS GRANTS IN 2019 IS \$150,000.

Maximum Grant Amount per Program: \$20,000. *The size of individual grants will be dependent on program budgets and the total number of grants awarded.*

HOW TO APPLY

Application Forms are available on the City of Vancouver website at [Indigenous Healing & Wellness Grants](#).

The application for Indigenous Healing and Wellness grants consists of four forms:

- **Form 1 – Organization Information** (Word)
- **Form 2 – Indigenous Healing and Wellness Program Information** (Word)
- **Form 3 – Program Budget** (Excel)
- **Form 4 – Organization Budget** (Excel)

Additional supporting materials are listed in the application form checklist. Please review the checklist carefully as the completeness of your application is considered during the adjudication process.

EMAIL your application to: socialpolicygrants@vancouver.ca
and

MAIL or DELIVER one PRINTED COPY of all documents to:

Social Policy and Projects
City of Vancouver
501-111 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4

QUESTIONS

Please contact Carmel Boerner, Social Planner

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604-257-8763