

SOCIAL POLICY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE GRANTS INFORMATION GUIDE

This Information Guide provides information about the objectives, criteria and application process for the Social Policy **Neighbourhood House Grants** program (formally called Neighbourhood Organization Grants).

For information about other community grants offered by the City, please visit:

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/community-grants.aspx>

INTENT OF THE GRANTS

The Social Policy **Neighbourhood House Grants** provide **core operating funding** to neighbourhood houses located in Vancouver to support a wide range of programs, activities and services that advance the goals of the City's [Healthy City Strategy](#).

WHAT ARE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES?

Neighbourhood Houses (NHs) have been an important part of Vancouver's social infrastructure for more than 70 years. Neighbourhood houses are place-based nonprofit organizations that integrate the functions of service delivery, community building, and community change through local neighbourhood hubs. The range of activities and services each NH offers is determined by conditions within each community and by the needs and interests of the people living in that community.

Currently there are 11 neighbourhood houses (NHs) in Vancouver. The newest neighbourhood house – Arbutus Neighbourhood House will be open in 2026, which will bring the total number of NHs to 12 in the near future. They include (in alphabetical order):

1. Arbutus NH (open in 2026)
2. Cedar Cottage NH
3. Collingwood NH
4. Downtown Eastside NH
5. Frog Hollow NH
6. Gordon NH
7. Kiwassa NH
8. Kitsilano NH
9. Little Mountain NH
10. Marpole NH
11. Mt Pleasant NH
12. South Vancouver NH

WHO CAN APPLY?

The organization must:

- Be a **Neighbourhood House**.
- Be **located and operated in Vancouver**.
- 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, be a First Nations Band;
 - Please note that 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 registered charity in order to meet this requirement.
- Have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. The bylaws must have provisions that no staff member can be a voting member of the board or executive.
- Have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient resources to deliver the programs or work to which the City is being asked to contribute.
- 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, underrepresented 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.
- Be in compliance with the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and the [British Columbia Human Rights Code](#);
- Deliver the funded program in Vancouver to Vancouver residents or to Vancouver based non-profits.

PRIORITIES

The City is committed to embedding Reconciliation and equity principles in the City's approach to grant decision making. Building a more equitable system of support for social non-profits and commitment to Reconciliation means acknowledging the disproportionate impacts of systemic discrimination and proactively identifying ways to better support organizations with programs, services and spaces for populations facing social injustice and multiple barriers because of intersectional identities.

Social policy community service grants including Neighbourhood House Grants align with City policy priorities and emerging social issues, which shift over time. Applications will be reviewed upon their ability to support the following priorities:

- Align with the [Social Policy Grants Statement of Intent](#);
- Reinforce or support the listed strategies, with a specific program focus on their following mandates:
 - [Vibrant Vancouver](#)
 - 1 – Vibrant and Diverse
 - 5 – Safety and Security
 - 7 – Healthy, Inclusive, and Equitable
 - 8 – Reconciliation
 - [Healthy City Strategy](#) (2022-2026)
 - 1 – [A Good Start](#)
 - 4 – [Healthy Human Services](#)
 - 5 – [Making Ends Meet and Working Well](#)
 - 6 – [Being and Feeling Safe and Included](#)
 - 7 – [Cultivating Connections](#)
 - 13 – [Collaborative Leadership for a Healthy City for All](#)

CORE FUNDING

Core funding is financial support that covers the essential “core” organizational and administrative costs of providing services. This could include salaries and benefits of staff, administrative services, program expenses, governance costs, office space, marketing and communications, and accounting services. Organizations will

have the flexibility to spend 100% of their grant dollars across the organization in support of their work as needed, with no cap on administration and without program restrictions, except for the restrictions noted below (see Ineligible Expenses/Activities). Eligible expenses also include costs related to core programming such as family programs, youth programs, and senior programs.

WHAT EXPENSES/ACTIVITIES ARE INELIGIBLE?

The following activities or expenses are not eligible for Neighbourhood House Grants:

- Those which fall wholly or primarily within the mandate of other government departments, e.g. (but not limited to):
 - Direct healthcare programs (such as medical treatment, maintenance or rehabilitation programs)
 - Employment or educational training leading to certification
 - Initial settlement programs
- Housing
- One-on-one counselling with licensed psychologists, social workers or registered clinical counsellors
- Travel and transportation 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
- Using grant funds to act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to any other individual, group or organization.

Exceptions to the above may be approved at the discretion of the Managing Director of Social Policy & Projects.

CITY OF VANCOUVER CORE FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Social Policy operating funding has been streamlined over the last couple of years to ensure organizations only access one **unrestricted core operating grant** from the City. Organizations can only access one of the following core funding supports:

1. Core Multi-Year Funding (MYF)
2. Core Support Grants (CSG)
3. Neighborhood House Grants (NHG), or
4. Cultural Operating Funding (COF)

Please note that the City of Vancouver's Core Support Grant (CSG) eligibility criteria has been updated to align with the Neighborhood House Grants eligibility. As such:

- NHs will be ineligible to apply for CSG program grants starting Spring 2026 intake and onwards.
 - NHs may still be eligible to apply for one-time project grant for a specific project such as [Social Responsibility Fund \(SRF\) Community Grant Program](#), or [Hastings Legacy Fund \(HLF\) Community Grant Program](#), in accordance to the grant program eligibility and guidelines, and subject to funding availability.
- Note existing program-based CSG applications from neighbourhood houses that have been submitted in the Fall 2025 intake will be assessed in the context of the Social Policy grants budget (2026).

For more information about CSG, please visit the Core Support Grant website and info guide: [Core Support Grants | City of Vancouver](#)

TERM OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE GRANTS

The term of a Neighbourhood House Grant is one calendar year from Council approval. Typically, grants are disbursed immediately following Council approval in March, unless specific conditions are placed on the grant.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION INTAKE

Applications open: November 17, 2025

Applications close: January 5, 2026

Applications are submitted through [VanApply](#).

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are reviewed and assessed by a committee. Committees include staff from across City departments. Staff present recommendations to City Council where final funding decisions are made.

Applicants are notified via email of staff recommendations in writing prior to the Council meeting at which Council considers the grant recommendations. Following the City Council meeting, applicants will be notified of City Council's decision. The report will be available on the City's website on the [Council Meetings page](#).

ANNUAL REPORT BACK

Grantees are required to report back on the work completed in the last 12 months from the date when the grant is received, which means the annual report back generally takes place in January/February in the following year. Staff will notify grantees of report back deadline.

Any subsequent Social Policy Grants funding will be released upon receipt and satisfactory review of the annual grant impact report back to City staff, subject to Council approval.

Report backs will be:

- Submitted on [VanApply](#)
- Can include site visits, and/or additional communications.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications will be submitted through our online system called VanApply. For more information on how to get started with [VanApply](#), you can find resources here: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/vanapply-online-grant-application-system.aspx>.

Note: before registering a new account, please confirm your organization does not have an existing account

In alignment with the City's ongoing work in reconciliation, equity, and accessibility, we are available to support you in the application process. Should you require this support, please reach out to a social planner via phone or email listed below.

Please see the table below for information on the general application questions you can expect and the list of supporting documents required.

The application consists of following sections:

Application Tasks:	Content:
Pre-Application Questionnaire	Determines your eligibility for the Social Policy Grants.
Organization Information	Basic information about your organization.
Outline of Work	Specific questions about the work for which you are seeking funding. • Organization Description • Support the goals of the Healthy City Strategy • Proposed program activities for the coming year Responsiveness: methods used to design and gain input into the effectiveness of your work • Partnerships • Funding request and rationale • Extreme Heat Supplementary Funding • Fairness and Equity: describe how you apply an equity lens internally to your own organization, or how you apply equity principles when designing your programs or when engaging with equity-seeking groups • Statistics: number of individuals served by your Neighbourhood House and approx. percentage of people served who identify in one or more of the population groups listed • Changes in your neighbourhood (Optional) • Additional organization budget information (Optional) • Stories of Change (Optional)
Supporting Documents Required	• Financial statement: audited financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year. • Annual operating budget • List of Board of Directors. • Minutes of the most recent AGM. • Minutes of the most recent Board Meeting. • Organization's By-laws/Constitution (New Org Only or significant changes since last submitted). • Incorporation Document (New Org Only) • Organization's Policy on Diversity • Annual Report
Agreement	At least one person who has the legal authority to sign documents on behalf of your organization must sign the application.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to the social policy grants team:
socialpolicygrants@vancouver.ca.