

**City of Vancouver  
2019 SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT (SIP) GRANTS  
Call for applications**

The City of Vancouver is seeking applications for the 2019 Social Innovation Project Grants program. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, August 16, 2019.**

**PLEASE NOTE: this call is for City of Vancouver funding only.**

The **Healthy City Strategy** is Vancouver's foundational plan for social sustainability, equity and inclusion: **a healthy city for all**. It sets out 13 goals reflecting social determinants of health, each with targets and indicators for tracking the overall health of the city. To learn more about the Healthy City Strategy please visit [www.vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy](http://www.vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy). Achieving systemic change requires different ways of thinking and acting to significantly make progress on complex issues.

**2019 SIP Grants:**

There are two key areas of focus this year.

- 1) Vancouver's efforts to become an age-friendly city; and,
- 2) Dignity & Healthy Food in Vancouver's Food System

Proposed projects may focus on one or both focus areas. If applying for both, you may submit a separate proposal for each focus area, or one proposal that addresses both.

**Focus 1: SUPPORTING VANCOUVER TO BECOME AN AGE-FRIENDLY CITY**

The primary focus of this year's SIP grant program is supporting Vancouver's efforts to become an age-friendly city.

City staff and partners convened a Solutions Lab to map the behaviours, mindsets and systems that are reproduced in policy and practice. The Lab was rooted in a number of current data sources including:

- Existing City policy, such as the Healthy City Strategy and the Age-Friendly Action Plan.
- The Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors (SILAS) report prepared by the City of Vancouver's Seniors Advisory Committee in 2018.
- Current demographic data from the census and other sources.
- Ethnographic research conducted in late 2018 to understand the lives of a number of local seniors in more depth.

These materials and other documentation from the lab are posted on the City's website at <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/solutions-lab.aspx>, and applicants are encouraged to use these sources to inform development of their proposal.

Participants in the Solutions Lab identified points of intervention that support systems-changing work toward an age-friendly city. Examples of creative questions asked in the Lab include:

- How might we encourage people from different age groups in the LGBTQ communities to share mutually enriching wisdom so that they can increase their perception of contributing, and create real connections based on significant emotional and intellectual exchange?
- How might we make transportation access/choices a priority for all organizations that provide transportation services to seniors so that they can enable seniors to have control and agency over their lives?
- How might we improve connections, communication, coordination and collaboration for community-based seniors' services providers so that they can share knowledge, improve service delivery, and advocate for increased resources for the sector?
- How might we shift mindsets of VPL front line staff about older adults, particularly those with mobility/access challenges, so that they can be consistently treated with respect and dignity?
- How might we develop and promote volunteer infrastructure so that seniors' workers and agencies can more fully integrate older adult volunteers as integral team members?
- How might we energize ourselves as staff to test, push, and implement accessible design in transportation infrastructure on a day-to-day, front of mind basis?
- How might we create equitable access to community centre spaces for seniors in instances where the Park Board system has created barriers to access these spaces, so that they can feel like they socially belong and are connected to their community?
- How might we extend our knowledge base for understanding aging in Vancouver so that City staff can use it to prioritize City investments in seniors' facilities, programs and organizations that will result in more equitable, consistent and evidence-based supports?

Applicants are encouraged to consider their proposals in the spirit of these questions. All applications will need to demonstrate commitment to social innovation, iteration, experimentation and learning.

## **Focus 2: PROMOTING DIGNITY & HEALTHY FOOD IN VANCOUVER'S FOOD SYSTEM**

The City affirms the connection between food security and income security. Acknowledging that a sustainable and adequate income is key to achieving food security for all Vancouverites, the City is working through other mechanisms to positively influence personal incomes. However, as this process will take time, the City recognizes an interim need to ensure that people currently living in deep poverty can access healthy food in a dignified way.

Our recognition of this need is informed by the City's recently released *Poverty Reduction Plan: What We Heard Report*, which highlighted that significant food access challenges are a part of residents' lived experience of poverty. These challenges include: time poverty resulting from accessing food in the charitable system; lack of choice, healthfulness and dignity in charitable food access; lack of facilities to prepare meals; restrictive food provision policies; limited transportation options to access food; and others. One of the eight "What We Heard" report recommendations focused on the need to support Vancouver's charitable food system to better promote dignity and access to affordable, healthy food. For further reading about the types of issues raised by those living in deep poverty, with reference to intersectionality and the inclusion of systematically excluded voices, see: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/poverty-reduction-plan-phase-one-engagement-what-we-heard.pdf>

Within this context, a second focus of this year's SIP grant call is to support socially innovative changes of practice that improve dignified and healthy food access for people living in deep poverty. This practice advocates for good food as a fundamental right of all citizens, and that one's experience should reinforce deservedness, dignity and welcome. This includes: nutritionally complete, quality food with a focus on health, taste and presentation; access to traditionally and culturally appropriate foods; easily and often available meals and provisions; and, food delivered in

a manner that respects and provides the option choice, dietary requirements, enjoyment and inclusivity. Additionally, and in consideration of the context of deep poverty, efforts must focus on the guiding principles of Client Centered, Build Capacity, Peer Engagement & Employment, Harm Reduction, Trauma Informed, and Food Safe. For further reference, see Vancouver Coastal Health Food Standards: <http://vancouverfoodnetworks.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/VCH-Food-Standards-2018-Final.pdf> as an example of food standards that incorporate these elements.

Using a socially innovative approach, project proposals can:

- Scale up and/or scale out existing innovations;
- Propose pilot projects or new ideas to prototype; and/or
- Work collectively to address systemic changes.

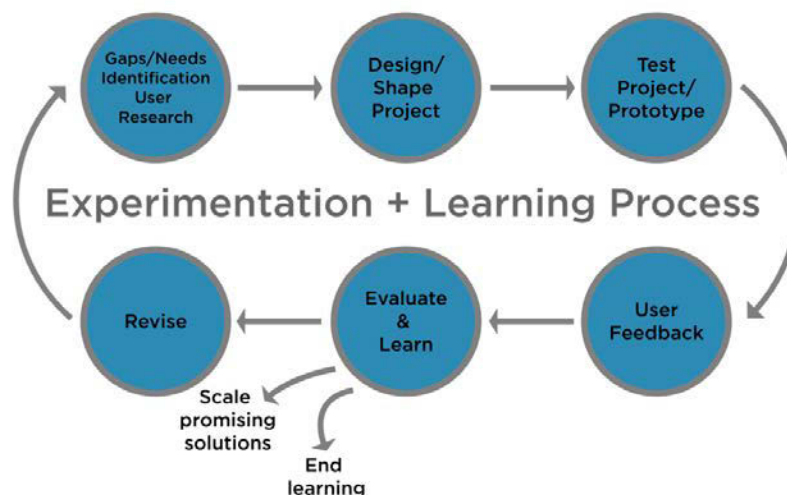
### **What Does the City Mean By the Term “Social Innovation”?**

There is no universally-agreed upon definition of social innovation but, in general, a socially innovative approach:

- Addresses social issues through learning, testing and/or experimenting with new strategies to positively affect change;
- Impacts broader social, political and/or economic contexts in relation to an issue(s);
- Explores what might work to trigger longer term systems change, rather than implementing “program models” with known actions and clear end points; and
- Recognizes that, while the long-term goals of a social innovation might be defined, the path to achieving those goals may be much less clear.

Particularly in the context of Indigenous communities, “innovation” may more often take the form of looking back to old traditions or cultural knowledge and rediscovering how those teachings show both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities the way forward.

An ongoing learning process is a key component of the Social Innovation Project grants. The diagram below shows how the lifecycle of a project is informed by continuous experimentation and learning:



### **What is the Amount of a SIP Grant?**

The total budget for the 2019 SIP grant streams in \$200,000, of which \$168,000 is allocated to age-friendly social innovation, and \$32,000 is dedicated to food systems innovation.

The number of projects we will fund — 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.

For example, in 2018 the Social Innovation Project funded four projects at \$30,000, \$32,000, \$38,000 and \$100,000. You can find details of the funded projects in the report presented to City Council in December 2018: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20181218/documents/a2.pdf>.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. The Lead Organization is 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 a registered charity, in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency: OR a First Nations band.
2. The Organization has an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. No staff member can be a voting member of the Board or Executive.
3. The Organization's by-laws must have provisions preventing Board members from being remunerated for serving as directors.
4. The organization 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.
5. The Organization shall not act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to, other groups or organizations.
6. The Organization must have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient financial resources to deliver the services or programs for which funding is sought.

### **Projects Must:**

- Be one-time only (1 to 2 years duration);
- Advance City priorities and strategies;
- Focus on innovation;
- Be prototype or start up initiatives;
- Target gaps and emerging needs;
- Leverage additional resources from other funders and/or institutions; and,
- Demonstrate partnerships with other community organizations.

### **Application Package**

The application consists of four forms:

1. Standard organizational information form
2. Application for Social Innovation Project grant
3. Program budget form
4. Organizational budget form

### **What Will the City Be Looking For When Reviewing Your Application?**

- A clear focus on systems change.

- Clarity of description and approach to evidence for the social issue you want to address, including how and why you believe the project you are proposing will make a difference.
- A clear and concise description of the approach and activities your project will take to achieve its goals.
- Evidence of how you have and will continue to engage people who will be most impacted by the project.
- Evidence that the lead organization has the capacity to manage the project.
- Openness to changing work culture, structures and activities based on learnings through the project.
- Strategies for documenting process/change/results and learning.
- Documented demonstration of strong community partnerships.
- Openness to collaboration and learning with others.
- Leveraged cash and in-kind resources from other funders and/or institutions.

### **Are There Types of Projects/Activities That The City Will Not Consider Funding?**

- Existing ongoing projects/programs and/or those seeking replacement of funding cuts from another source.
- Projects that are clearly wholly or primarily within the mandate of another level of government or funder (e.g., medical system, employment training).

### **How to Submit Your Application:**

- Forms are available on the City's website at <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/social-innovation-project-grants.aspx>
- **Email** an electric copy of all forms to: [socialpolicygrants@vancouver.ca](mailto:socialpolicygrants@vancouver.ca) no later than **4:30pm on Friday, August 16, 2019.**
- **MAIL or DELIVER** one **PRINTED COPY** of all forms by **4:30pm on Friday, August 16, 2019** to:  
Social Policy and Projects City of Vancouver  
501 - 111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4
- All four forms must be submitted at the same time.

### **What Happens Next?**

Applications will be reviewed by City staff in August 2019. City staff will bring recommendations forward to City Council in October. *Note: City of Vancouver SIP funds must be spent within 2 years of the date the grants are approved by City Council.*

### **Questions?**

#### **Age-Friendly Proposals**

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#### **Food System Proposals**

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