

Homelessness Community Action Grants

ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE

This initiative provides one-time funding for local planning and collaborative initiatives designed to better respond to the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Funding through this initiative supports community-based action including demonstration projects, partnerships, research and other collaborative efforts to respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

NATURE OF THE FUNDING

This funding is in the form of a one-time grant that can be used to support specific planning and collaborative initiatives including:

- Partnerships designed to respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports for those who are homeless including initiatives related to the prevention of homelessness as well as initiatives designed to provide for increased stability for those who are experiencing repeated episodes of homelessness;
- Initiatives that build community capacity and expand the evidence base of promising practices at the individual and systems level;
- Initiatives that improve monitoring and reporting on outcomes as well as the creation of local data in cases where it does not already exist;
- Initiatives that leverage local resources, knowledge, innovation and community connections and that can be scaled and replicated elsewhere;
- Initiatives that build increased public awareness and support to help change the narrative about homelessness and that highlight individual and community-level success stories.

KEY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The funding provided through the Homelessness Community Action Grants can be used for activities with a geographic focus (i.e. funding for planning or collaboration in a local community) or demographic focus (i.e. funding that respond to the needs of specific vulnerable and 'at risk populations').

The funding is available to support projects of varying sizes, types and complexity including projects designed to:

- Build a deeper understanding of existing and emerging needs at the community level;
- Understand or address specific needs for distinct populations experiencing homelessness;
- Respond to gaps in the current spectrum of services and supports available to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
- Build capacity at the local level to better understand and respond to existing and emerging needs;
- Support local innovation designed to foster positive outcomes at the individual and community level; and,
- Address other needs or opportunities as identified by the community.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Development of local and regional homelessness plans, strategies and service models;
- Collaborative activities designed to better understand existing and emerging needs among those who are homeless;
- Conferences or collaborative events designed to highlight local successes, support innovation as well as provide opportunities for shared learning while helping to create new pathways forward;
- Initiatives that build on local successes and that support the development of new ways for working together;
- Action research or demonstration projects that support local innovation, respond to gaps in the existing system of services and supports and that support the creation of promising practices;
- Community-based research to better understand local needs in cases where local data gaps exist.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Funding available through this initiative is one-time and is not intended to be on-going or core funding. Similarly, capital projects are not eligible for this funding under this initiative.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Projects of varying sizes, types and complexity will be considered including:

- **Smaller projects:** Projects requiring a small one-time investment of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and that are likely to be completed within 6 to 12 months;
- **Mid-size projects:** Projects requiring an investment of between \$10,000 and \$25,000 and that are likely to be completed within 12 to 18 months; and,
- **Larger scale projects:** Established partnerships and projects that have demonstrated results and that have achieved impact and where an additional investment of \$25,000 to \$50,000 over 12 to 24 months would allow for greater impact.

► **Note:** Applicants are not restricted to only one (1) proposal.

Applicants are not restricted from applying for additional funding for an extension to their project based on demonstrated results. The request can be made as part of the “Outcome Report” to be provided at the conclusion of the initial project, provided there are funds still remaining in the program.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND RECIPIENTS

Funding through this initiative is available support to local, regional and province-wide collaborative approaches for addressing homelessness.

Eligible organizations or recipients could include local, regional and First Nations governments, community-based agencies including housing and service providers, as well as demonstration projects and initiatives proposed by persons with lived experience.

Groups currently undertaking collaborative projects with their own resources or receiving funding through other funding sources are eligible to apply for funding under the Homelessness Community

Grant Program with the additional funding being viewed as a way to complement and support existing efforts as well leverage existing resources and actions to achieve greater impact.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Funding for the Community Homelessness Action Grant initiative is provided by the Province of BC and administered by SPARC BC (the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.).

Funding will be disbursed through an application process with SPARC BC providing the necessary administrative and project management support.

Results from the different demonstration projects and initiatives launched under the Homelessness Community Action Grant initiative will be published on SPARC BC's website.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

The grant application form is available on SPARC BC's website. All completed application forms should be submitted to homelessgrant@sparc.bc.ca

Successful applicants will be asked to enter into a Project Agreement and will receive 75% of the requested funding once the Project Agreement has been signed.

The Project Agreement will set out the specific information to be tracked and reported through the process with the results being reported in an "Outcomes Report" at the conclusion of the project.

The final 25% of funding will be disbursed by SPARC BC once the final "Outcomes Report" has been received.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact:

Lorraine Copas, Executive Director, SPARC BC at 604.718.7736 or lcopas@sparc.bc.ca

Jayd Ursulak, Executive Assistant, SPARC BC at 604.718.7745 or jursulak@sparc.bc.ca

KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER

One of the goals of this initiative is to create opportunities for shared learning and action.

To this end, project reports and key results generated through this initiative will be published on SPARC BC's website.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIONS

Participants will also be invited to participate in a "community of practice" that will be organized by SPARC BC. Through these "communities of practice" the goal is to bring people and groups together to share their stories of success and to learn from others about the type of promising practices and initiatives that have been adopted and implemented elsewhere. By working, learning and acting together we believe that homelessness is solvable.

Thank you for your interest and participation.