

Local Community Accessibility Grants

About this initiative

Under the *Accessible BC Act*, local governments and organizations are required to develop a feedback mechanism, Accessibility Committee and Accessibility Plan.

This initiative provides one-time funding for local governments and libraries of up to \$25,000, to support the implementation of projects or priorities identified in their Accessibility Plan or in partnership with their Accessibility Committee.

Who can apply?

All local and regional governments and eligible libraries in British Columbia can apply provided you meet the conditions of Part 3 of the *Accessible BC Act*. If a local government has already received this funding, they cannot reapply.

Funding Details

Eligible organizations can apply for funding **up to \$25,000**.

1. All projects must be completed by the end of the grant program, which ends on March 31, 2029.
2. All projects should be completed within a 12-month period.
3. Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report to SPARC BC at the end of the grant.
4. Applications should include confirmation or verification from the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Board or Council Resolution indicating support for the project.

Examples of Projects that You Might Want to Consider:

The Built Environment	
• Designing or building ramps • Adding elevators or lifts • Making washrooms and other facilities more accessible	• Making entrances more accessible including adding automatic door-openers • Adding audio signals, tactile strips, hearing loops and other features
Education and Awareness	
• Participating in anti-bias training to develop knowledge of conscious and subconscious bias	• Training workplaces in service delivery to enable employees to meet a broader range of needs
Policies and Programs	
• Development of local policies (parking, housing, building standards, bylaws) • Funding for legal and consulting advice	• Development and implementation of local recreation or other types of programs
Modelling Inclusive Practices	
• Training to review and amend interview processes • Including ASL interpreting for events	• Accessibility audit of workflow • Remuneration for Accessibility Advisory Committee etc.
Communication and Engagement	
• Creating job task checklists in pictorial form • Creating wayfinding signage in braille • Creating an ASL version of information, training materials or policies	• Application forms accessible to screen readers • Reprinting hardcopies of material in large font • Update web pages for accessibility, etc.
The Use of Technology	
• Purchasing software that enables production of accessible documents • Flashing fire alarms for deaf employees • Specialized headsets	• A tablet for communication • Laptops for remote working • Buying specialized tools for workplaces

Council/Board and Accessibility Support

The project that is to be funded through this grant program, must be part of your local Accessibility Plan and must have the support of the local Council/Board and Accessibility Committee. Please supply a letter of support from your Accessibility Committee. Council/Board support can be shown in the form of a formal council or Board resolution, or in the form of a letter of support from the designated signing authority for the local/regional government or library.

How to Apply

Proposals must be completed using the Local Community Accessibility Grant Program Application Form which you can find on SPARC BC's website.

The Province has allocated five million dollars to support local communities, regions, and libraries. Applications will be received and approved on a rolling basis.

Please ensure to provide a current e-mail address as ALL correspondence and documentation will be forwarded via this e-mail address.

Applications will be reviewed by SPARC BC and representatives from the Accessibility Directorate at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. All applicants will be notified about the status of their application within three weeks of their submission to accessibility@sparc.bc.ca.

Compliance Questions

For questions related to compliance with the Accessible B.C. Regulation please contact: engageaccessibility@gov.bc.ca

Thank you for your interest in the Local Community Accessibility Grants Program. If you have questions, please contact:

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