



Neighbourhood Small Grants



What is the Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program?

Neighbourhood Small Grants is a program that was started in Vancouver and has now spread throughout British Columbia. It provides up to \$500 to groups of neighbours to do local projects together that focus on building community and making their neighbourhoods better places to live. The program is based on a simple but powerful idea—that everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share. In the North Okanagan, funding for these grants is provided by a co-funding partnership with the Community Foundation North Okanagan and Vancouver Foundation.

How do you apply?

You can apply online at www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca. If you need help with your application, please contact the local Program Coordinator Lisa Deargle, at lisa@cfno.org.

Who can apply?

Anyone from the North Okanagan is eligible to apply for a grant up to \$500. We encourage people of all ages, especially youth to get involved. Projects can be carried out by individuals and/or family members or in partnership with a neighbour.

Charities, businesses, and service clubs are not eligible to apply.

How are the decisions made about who gets funding?

One of the core values of Neighbourhood Small Grants is that residents know what is best for their community. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds and life experiences are organized in Neighbourhood Grant Committees (NGC) according to their community or regions across the province to review the applications and make grant decisions. If you are interested to volunteer for a NGC in your area, please contact your local NSG Coordinator.

What kinds of ideas get funded?

Lots of different ideas are funded, with a focus on those that build connections. In the past the program has funded block parties; emergency preparedness workshops; art-making projects and art shows; community garden projects; book exchange boxes or little community libraries; music, harvest and lantern festivals; cultural celebrations; sports days; and much more!

How can organizations be involved in projects?

Although organizations cannot apply for these grants, we encourage them to spread the word to the members of their programs! When members of programs at an organization are funded, applicants are encouraged to do their projects outside of regular program activities and to open them up to people not already linked to the program. Staff are able to provide support and mentorship for a project, but the applicants are encouraged to plan, implement and take leadership in their projects.

What is the timeline?

Applications will be open on April 1st, 2022 and the deadline for applying is May 16th, 2022, unless we still have money left to grant, then we will extend the deadline to June 1st, 2022. Retroactive funding is not available, so projects can start once the applicants have been notified that their application has been approved, which will happen 1-2 weeks after the deadline. Project activities can continue longer, but grant money must be used by November 2022.

What are the other guidelines for projects?

- Applicants must live in the community they apply to and do the project in that community.
- Any product, service, or event created with the support of a Neighbourhood Small Grant must be offered for free or by a small donation. The small donation should be optional and not a requirement for someone to participate in your project.
- Except for community gardens, projects involving infrastructure building or upgrading or purchasing of large equipment such as computers are not eligible.
- Projects involving therapy and counselling support are not eligible.
- Applicants may not profit financially from the project.
- Registered organizations and businesses are not eligible to apply. These grants are specifically for small volunteer-based neighbourhood/community groups.
- A portion of the grant money may be used to pay people for services (also called honoraria) to help with the project. An example may be a carpenter or face painter. Total honoraria may not be more than \$350 per project.
- Festival-style events are expected to focus on a specific neighbourhood or community with a range of 100 to 300 attendees. Projects that are part of festivals must demonstrate an activity within the event that helps neighbours to develop or strengthen relationships.
- If a project is going to take place on neighbourhood streets, public spaces or parks, applicants will need to follow municipal by-laws and obtain appropriate permits and liability insurance prior to their project start date.



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Have a question?

Connect with the Regional Coordinator
Lisa Deargle at lisa@cfno.org

To apply & find out more:

www.cfno.org
www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca

This is a co-funding partnership between:



Neighbourhood Smalls Grants North Okanagan
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