

COVID-19 – Emergency Community Support Fund

Questions and Answers – Post- Launch

1. What is the objective of Emergency Community Support Fund?

The objective of the Emergency Community Support Fund is to improve the ability of community organizations to serve vulnerable populations, such as seniors, youth, Indigenous people, veterans, visible minorities including Black Canadians , women, LGTBQ2S+ people, low-income people, unemployed people, single-parent families or newcomers to Canada or persons with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, living in remote or rural areas or from an official language minority community, during the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Which organizations will the Government of Canada work with to disburse funds?

The Government of Canada will work with the United Way Centraide Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and Community Foundations of Canada, national-level partners that have vast networks and deep reach across the country. Funding could also be used to address specific gaps that emerge in specialized services for particular groups.

3. How will funding be allocated to the intermediary organizations?

The Emergency Community Support Fund has three components:

- funding allocated to three national intermediaries, the Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada and the United Way Centraide Canada, to disburse funds directly to local community organizations that need to adapt their services during COVID-19; and
- complementary support for the Canadian Red Cross to train and equip the volunteers of community organizations and funding to the United Way Centraide Canada to enhance the social services helpline 211

Over the coming weeks, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) will monitor early results of efforts by the United Way Centraide Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and Community Foundations of Canada through reports and weekly calls. The Department will work closely with intermediaries to ensure a clear understanding of which vulnerable groups are served by the organizations being funded and what gaps in coverage, if any, are emerging.

4. How can local charities and non-profit organizations access the funding?

Applications for financial support will open May 19, 2020 for qualified donees (including charities) and non-profits serving vulnerable Canadians amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible community organizations will be able to apply for funds through the national partners or their local entities. Interested community organizations are encouraged to visit intermediary partner websites regularly to learn more about how to apply.

- [The Canadian Red Cross](#)
- [Community Foundations of Canada](#)
- [United Way Centraide Canada](#)

The ESDC website for the Emergency Community Support Fund ([ENG](#)/[FRE](#)) includes information on how to contact each intermediary.

	Canadian Red Cross	Community Foundations Canada	United Way Centraide Canada
Intake Method	National intake through an online portal	National and local intake through an online portal	National web link to local intake through United Way agencies
Eligible Organizations	Non-profits serving vulnerable Canadians	Qualified donees (including charities) serving vulnerable Canadians	Qualified donees (including charities) serving vulnerable Canadians In some cases, non-profits may also be supported through an appropriate trustee relationship with a qualified donee.
Decision-Making	National (with regional and local representatives)	Local (community foundations)	Local (United Way agencies)

5. Who will be eligible to receive funding?

Qualified donees (including charities) and non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations, providing services directly to vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis will be eligible to receive funding. Additional criteria will be used to select organizations. Intermediaries (and local entities) may customize assessment somewhat to reflect local needs and circumstances. Interested community organizations are

encouraged to visit intermediary partner websites regularly to learn more about how to apply.

6. Which vulnerable populations will be supported with the funding?

Community organizations who serve vulnerable populations, such as seniors, youth, Indigenous people, veterans, visible minorities including Black Canadians, women, LGBTQ2S+ people, low-income people, unemployed people, single-parent families or newcomers to Canada or persons with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, living in remote or rural areas or from an official language minority community, will be eligible to receive funding through the Emergency Community Support Fund.

7. How will organizations be selected?

An intermediary will fund a community organization to deliver a project only if the project:

- Addresses a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused by COVID-19, by supplying the necessities of life, supporting activities of daily living, such as through education materials for children in low-income homes, mental health supports for people in crisis and accessibility services to persons with disabilities;
- Serves one or more vulnerable populations during COVID-19;
- Can be carried out in a short timeframe with a reasonable budget; and
- Can attest to not having secured funds to cover the costs of the activities for which they have applied from another intermediary, another federal COVID-19 response program or a different source.

8. What is the size of grants available to community organizations?

The Emergency Community Support Fund will be distributed amongst the three intermediaries to provide funding to community organizations serving vulnerable populations. The size of the grants may vary as the Support Fund has been designed to be responsive to locally identified needs. This could include projects smaller in scope and size (i.e. purchasing education materials for at-risk youth in a rural community) and larger-scale initiatives (i.e. service reorientation for a community organization serving persons with intellectual disabilities in an urban center). More information on the size of the grants will be available on the intermediary partner websites.

9. How quickly will community organizations receive money?

The United Way Centraide Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and Community Foundations of Canada have the granting infrastructure, processes and capacity to be able to rapidly deliver using a rolling decision-making process.

As the needs of communities emerge or change, they will also have the flexibility to deliver responsive support. It is anticipated that funding will become available for qualified donees (including charities) and non-profits in mid-May 2020.

10. What other projects will be funded through this initiative?

The Emergency Community Support Fund has two complementary projects:

- The Canadian Red Cross will train up to 70,000 existing volunteers and staff of community organizations on how to prevent the spread of disease and provide them with a 60-day supply of gloves and masks.
- The United Way Centraide Canada will increase the capacity of the 211 help line to meet demand during the crisis, including establishing a nation-wide 1-800 number to deal with COVID-19 related information needs.

11. How will you ensure funds are being used effectively and efficiently?

The intermediaries will report on the disbursement of funds after four weeks, and update on results every three weeks thereafter, providing a timely source of information on coverage. ESDC will also work closely with other federal departments to identify any emerging gaps.

12. How will we ensure support for vulnerable groups and organizations serving vulnerable populations?

The intermediaries will adopt a Gender Based Analysis Plus approach on grant making decisions. Through their application and selection processes, intermediaries will collect data on the vulnerable groups supported through the Fund. For example, data collected could provide insights on organizations supporting members of the LGBTQ2 community receiving funding, organizations serving rural/remote areas, and/or organizations serving specific populations i.e., children, newcomers, racialized minorities – such as Black Canadians, etc.