

The Emergency Community Support Fund

Funding via Intermediary Organizations

Objectives

To improve the ability of community organizations to serve vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. To achieve this, intermediary organizations will:

- 1) Focus on the most pressing social inclusion and wellbeing needs of vulnerable populations.
- 2) Ensure funds reach all provinces and territories and all vulnerable populations.
- 3) Move money to community organizations as quickly as possible.
- 4) Put decisions in local hands where possible and allow flexibility to respond to local needs.
- 5) Avoid funding project costs already funded by another source.

Eligible Organizations

Qualified donees (including charities) and non-profit organizations, including faith- based organizations, serving vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Distribution of Resources

Three national intermediaries – the Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada and the United Way Centraide Canada – will disburse funds to community organizations.

	Canadian Red Cross	Community Foundations Canada	United Way Centraide
Method	National intake through an online portal	National and local intake through an online portal	National website linking to local intake by United Way Centraides
Decision-Making	National (with regional and local representatives)	Local (community foundations)	Local (United Way Centraides)
Type of Organization	Non-profit organizations serving vulnerable populations	Qualified donees (including charities) serving vulnerable populations	Qualified donees (including charities) serving vulnerable populations. In some cases, non-profits may also be supported through an appropriate trustee relationship with a qualified donee.

Each intermediary will allocate funding across provinces and territories according to population (2016 Census) and make any adjustments necessary to account for regional, local or population needs or for

the number of applications from community organizations. Funding will become available in mid-May and decisions will be made either at a point in time or on a rolling basis.

Selection Criteria

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.

Each intermediary (and each local entity) may customize assessment somewhat to fit its context.

Ensuring Reach and Equitable Distribution

To ensure that funds reach all regions and vulnerable populations, ESDC will require each intermediary to:

- Allocate funds to every province and territory according to population and adjust if necessary by need and by the number of applications from community organizations;
- Make funding available to all vulnerable populations; and
- Reach out to community organizations beyond its regular partners.

ESDC will work with other federal departments to promote the funding opportunity to community organizations in the networks of those other departments.

Applying for Funding

Community-based organizations from across the country will be able to apply for funding to support a variety of activities that address a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused by COVID-19.

As of May 19, 2020, 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 Departmental website for the Emergency Community Support Fund ([ENG/FRE](#)) will include information on how to contact each intermediary.

Complementary Projects

The Emergency Community Support Fund will also fund two complementary projects:

- the Canadian Red Cross to 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; and
- the United Way to offer pan-Canadian access to helpline support by activating a 1-800 line will in regions where 211 services is not offered to meet rising demand during the crisis

To find more information please visit:

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