



2026 Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations Program Guide

Edmonton

Grant Overview

Edmonton City Council approved funding of \$1,000,000 for the Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations to support the Reconciliation Pillar of the **Community Safety and Well-Being Framework**.

This Operating Grant provides funding for Edmonton's Indigenous-Led, not-for-profit organizations. The total operating grant budget is \$1,000,000 and grant awards may be up to a maximum of 25% of eligible operating expenses or \$50,000 and is based on the number of eligible applications.

If you have questions about any of this information please contact the Grants Office at grants@edmonton.ca or 780-496-4933.

Grant Priorities

The Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations will help support Indigenous groups in their efforts to achieve the following:

- Promote the resurgence of Indigenous Peoples' culture, language, identity and ceremony.
- Ensure safe, inclusive, and healing spaces.
- Provide education, training, employment, and economic security for Indigenous Peoples.

Eligibility

Applicant:

To be eligible for the Grant, the applicant must:

- Be a not-for-profit organization registered for at least one year, and be in good standing with the City of Edmonton. This means that the organization does not have any outstanding final reports and is not in arrears of payments to their City of Edmonton accounts.
- Be Indigenous-led, which means they **must** have:
 - Majority (minimum of 50%) of the board, management, and staff/volunteers identifying as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
 - Indigenous cultures central to history and development of the organization, its governance and daily operations
 - Provide programs and services that reflect the cultures and traditions of the First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis communities that call Edmonton home
- Be based in the Edmonton Area and have a minimum of 75% of its participants residing in Edmonton
- Have a mandate that aligns with one or more of the grant priorities.



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- Not receive operating funds allocated by any other City of Edmonton source including City Council, Committees of City Council or operating grants administered by the Edmonton Arts Council or Edmonton Heritage Council.
- Organizations that have 2 years or more of unrestricted cash reserves or restricted but available for operating expenses, may not be considered for an operating grant.

Ineligible Expenses

- Capital projects (including: significant maintenance or repairs to buildings such as an addition or a new roof)
- Fundraising expenses (e.g. bingo and casinos).
- Expenses associated with income generating operations not directly associated with programs and services of the Organization (e.g. public food sales/catering/banquet services, facility rental)
- Depreciation/Amortization (Decreases the value of capital assets over time).
- Debt Repayment or Debt/Credit Interest - Expenses related to a line of credit, mortgage, credit card, overdraft or other debt, or the principle and interest on any credit or debt.
- In kind expenses.

Grant Assessment

Applications are assessed based on the following:

- Organizational eligibility
- Alignment to grant priorities
- Eligible operating expenses
- Most recent year-end financial statements

Grant awards are determined by a formula based on the above criteria and the number of eligible applications. Awards amounts for the grant are a minimum of \$2,500 to a maximum of \$50,000.

Operating funding will be provided for 2026.

Grant Timelines

(The timelines below are subject to change)

November 26, 2025 - Application deadline

November 27, 2025 to February, 2026 - Review applications

By end of February 2026 - Applicants will be notified of funding decisions

Final Reporting

Successful applicants will be responsible for reporting on how operating dollars supported them in advancing their mandate, and:



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- How the organization addressed one or more of the grant priorities
- Examples of the programs offered that supported each of the priorities selected
- Number of people who attended or participated in the programs identified
- The priority areas in which the organization had the largest impact

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, November 26, 2025 by 1:00 pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.

The following required documents must be included in the online Application:

- 2024 audited year-end financial statements (see Financial Statement Example), signed by 2 Board members **OR**
- 2024 internally generated financial statements (those that are not presented either as a notice to reader, a review or an audit) signed by 2 Board members and must include a bank reconciliation and bank statement as at the fiscal year-end
- Grant Financial Information Form

For more information about the Grant contact: Grants@edmonton.ca

Disclaimers:

Whether to provide a grant will be a purely discretionary decision on the part of the City. The City may refuse to issue a grant for any reason. In addition, grants are always subject to funding approval, and grants may no longer be issued if funding is no longer available or if there is a question of whether there is sufficient funding remaining in the program. There is no appeal from any decision on whether to provide a grant.

The City reserves the right to make decisions and award funding to projects in its sole discretion. Decisions are final, and the amount of funding commitment by the City may vary in the City's sole discretion.

Please note, at minimum and without limitation, the City reserves the right to withhold payment of grant funding where:

- The Applicant has made any material misrepresentation or provides any materially false or materially misleading information to the City;
- The Applicant or any associate or affiliate entity of the Applicant is in arrears on any payment or reporting obligation to the City under the terms of any other agreement made with the City;
- The Applicant has outstanding amounts owing to the City due to property taxes that are past due or in arrears;
- The Applicant is in litigation with the City over any matter;
- The Applicant is or becomes bankrupt, insolvent, commits an act of bankruptcy, makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, has a receiver or trustee appointed, or ceases to function as an active legal entity under the laws of Alberta; or,
- The Applicant is or becomes the subject of a Canada Revenue Agency judgment or tax lien