



Background

The EIRC Grant Program contributes to the City of Edmonton's value "I want to BELONG and contribute". It supports grassroots immigrant and refugee communities who are in the process of settling and integrating. For newcomers, immigrants and refugees, the barriers to full inclusion in the community are often significant and tend to be complex, intersectional, and almost always systemic.

Grant Overview

In 2024, total funds awarded to various organizations was \$455,569.75. This included \$75,000 directed to support Out of School (OST) programming through the OST Collaborative (REACH Edmonton is the backbone organization) and \$20,000 provided to Action for Healthy Communities for a 2022 evaluation project that was paid in 2024. The remaining \$360,569.75 was allocated towards community programs across the 4 funding streams.

Space Subsidy (Maximum request \$5,000 for commercial space and \$6,000 for not-for-profit space)

The EIRC Space Subsidy Grant assists immigrant and refugee communities with the cost of renting space for their programs and/or organization based on a calendar year of January to December.

Seed (Maximum request: \$4,000)

This funding will support short-term/one-off projects/programs that will help ethnocultural community groups/organizations to identify community needs and try different approaches to address these needs.

Community Impact (Maximum request \$7,000)

This funding will support successful projects/programs that were tried with the Seed grant and found to be successful. These funds will address broader community needs.

Community Special Project (Maximum request \$20,000)

This funding will support larger projects/programs focused on addressing more complex settlement and integration challenges.

EIRC Grant Expected Program Goals

Programs funded through the EIRC grant are expected to address one or more of the following grant program goals:

- Support immigrant and refugee community groups and organizations in creating and delivering projects that address the needs and opportunities identified within their communities

- Strengthen the feeling of belonging, foster connections and support communities
- Increase ethnocultural communities' participation in political, social, economic and cultural life in Edmonton
- Support the growth and development of community groups to best serve their communities

2024 EIRC Grant Changes

As part of the Community Investment efforts at continuous improvement, the 2024 EIRC Program was further strengthened based on feedback and observations.

Improvement #1: Limit the number of grants that an organization could receive in one fiscal year. This enhancement was implemented after noting that some grant recipients would receive multiple grants for different projects and the budget would be allocated before other groups had an opportunity to apply. In 2024, an organization could receive one grant from a program stream and one space subsidy grant. 70 unique organizations applied for funding of 97 programs. Of those 59 applications were approved for funding. 19 (27%) of the unique organizations applied to the space subsidy and one other stream of funding.

Improvement #2: Organizations with budgets that exceeded \$200,000 were deemed ineligible. In order to allocate the EIRC budget to smaller organizations, organizations with operating budgets greater than \$200,000 were ineligible.

Improvement #3: Increasing the maximum award for the Seed and Community Impact Streams. Grant recipients and community groups shared challenges they were experiencing due to inflation and the increasing costs for programming. As a result, the maximum grant award for the Seed grant increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 and for the Community Impact grant the maximum award increased from \$5,000 to \$7,000. In 2024, the Seed funding stream experienced a 300% increase in groups accessing this funding, demonstrating the support for this change.

2024 EIRC by the Numbers

	Requested	Awarded	Success Percentage (%)
Total Funding	\$847,823	\$455,569.75	54
Total Program Applications	97	59	61
Total Unique Organizations	70	47	67
Space Subsidy	\$162,880	\$112,963.75	69
Seed	\$58,000	\$24,000	41
Community Impact	\$164,946	\$130,806	79
Special Projects	\$366,997	\$92,800	25
Other	\$95,000	\$95,000	100

Breakdown of Successful Applications

A total of 97 applications were submitted, with 59 being successfully awarded. Here is a breakdown by grant type.

Type of Grant	Total Applications	Successful Applications	Success Percentage
Community Impact	28	20	71.4%
Special Projects	20	6	30.0%
Space	32	25	78.1%
Seed	15	6	40.0%
Other	2	2	100.0%

Financial overview of successful applications

Type of grant	Amount Award	Overall percentage of total awarded
Community Impact	\$130,806.00	28.71%
Special Projects	\$92,800.00	20.37%
Space	\$112,963.75	24.79%
Seed	\$24,000.00	5.27%
Other	\$95,000	20.86%
Total	\$455,569.75	100.0%

37 programs were not funded for various reasons including: the organization was not eligible for funding, they were not in good standing with the City of Edmonton, the application was incomplete and/or the grant program was fully awarded.

The distribution and range of the funding between successful organizations looks as followed:

Range of Awarded Grants	Number of Organizations
\$0-\$4999	15
\$5000-\$9999	36
\$10,000-\$14,999	2
\$15,000-\$19,999	5
\$75,000.00	1

The lowest amount awarded was \$1,266, while the highest amount awarded was \$75,000. The most frequent awarded amount was \$5000.

EIRC Impacts

Final reports are received at various times throughout the year based on project timelines. The chart below is based on the data available.

Total Number of Participants	2,297
Total Number of Volunteers	278
Total Number of Volunteer Hours	11,708.5

Organizations were assessed on their programs' ability to address the following priorities and principles:

Grant Priorities

- Support immigrant and refugee community groups and organizations in creating and delivering projects that address the needs and opportunities identified within their communities.
- Strengthen the feeling of belonging, foster connections, and support communities.
- Increase ethnocultural communities participation in political, social, economic, and cultural life in Edmonton.
- Support the growth and development of community groups to best serve their communities.

EIRC Grant Principles

- *Interculturalism*: An exchange of knowledge and mutual learning for transformation
- *Empowerment*: Focus on developing growth and confidence
- *Community Input*: Inviting community members to be a part of the conversation
- *Relationship-Building*: Building trust amongst ethnocultural organizations and between these organizations and City of Edmonton, authentically engaging to build trust.

Priority #1: Support immigrant and refugee community groups and organizations in creating and delivering projects that address the needs and opportunities identified within their communities.

The six organizations that were funded provided educational classes in helping specific communities learn constructive strategies, in turn bolstering their participation in their neighbourhoods, and their sense of inclusion. For example, Employment training for New Immigrant Men focused on essential working skills like computer literacy, hands on experience in the trades and cooking, in order to bolster their employability. Many of the programs offered looked at increasing feeling of belonging, such as improving health literacy for immigrant families, or managing stress and mental health resources, and youth mentorship programs which helped develop healthier relationships to their devices through a variety of day camps offering swimming, cooking classes, animation shows, circle time discussions and Gala events. The funding allowed many of the groups to extend both the frequency of the programs offered, and take on more participants. The heightened demand highlights the popularity of the programs, as well as the effectiveness of the programs. There was a total of 64 volunteers, contributing 3022 hours and serving 590 participants.

Priority #2: Strengthen the feeling of belonging, foster connections, and support communities.

Six organizations, aided by 49 volunteers who contributed 1183 hours, successfully funded and served 195 participants through innovative short-term programs. Projects included swim lessons, a digital information and networking platform for new immigrants, and cultural promotion and preservation efforts for Kuku and Newa cultures.

Priority #3: Increase ethnocultural communities participation in political, social, economic, and cultural life in Edmonton.

Twenty organizations successfully secured funding that was necessary to scale up successful projects and programs in order to meet community needs. A total of 1387 participants were served, with 150 volunteers dedicating 7128.5 hours. Programs included improving mental health strategies for families, or stress management for newcomers. Multiple programs heavily focused on youth, with subjects ranging from teaching hygiene and sexual health, mentorships in STEM and IT (robotics, web design, coding) for job experience, as well as support groups providing advice for transitioning from high school to University. There were programs focusing on financial literacy and self-development for newcomers, as well as female empowerment courses (where free childcare was offered in order to reduce barriers to participation).

Priority #4: Support the growth and development of community groups to best serve their communities.

The Space Subsidy grant played a pivotal role in Priority 4, as it provided necessary funds needed for organizations to establish a physical presence in the community, as well as a location to provide multiple services and programs for participants. A physical space will be fundamental in helping communities grow, as it is a focal point for services.

Summary & Recommendations

Based on the final reporting received to date, the grant funding through the 2024 Edmonton Immigrant and Refugee Grant has advanced the four priorities and principles with the help of 278 volunteers who dedicated 11,708.5 hours to support 2,297 program participants.

Feedback and observations were implemented to the 2024 EIRC Granting process resulting in successful improvements. By adopting a limit on amount requested, it allowed for a higher volume of smaller, unique organizations to receive funding (a 300% increase in Seed applicants, as well as community impact), in turn increasing diversity and volume of impact.

For 2025 no further changes will be made to the EIRC grant program, to allow for a full 2 year cycle implementing the new changes.

Success Story

Youth Mentorship Program

One of our most memorable moments came during a circle time session at the day camp. A 14-year-old participant shared how he used to spend hours gaming online but felt isolated despite playing with

friends. After attending the board gaming sessions and participating in team-based physical activities, he realized how much more rewarding it was to connect face-to-face.

By the end of the program, he said, "I didn't even miss my console this week. I had too much fun being here with everyone." His words perfectly reflected the program's success in helping youth find balance and build meaningful relationships.

Overall, the project reached its objectives and was met with enthusiasm from participants and their families. The variety of activities ensured that everyone found something they enjoyed, and the inclusive environment fostered a sense of community and belonging among the 160 participants.

Moroccan Society in Alberta

Success Story

Employment Training and Support for New Immigrant Men Project

One of the standout successes of the Employment Training and Support for New Immigrant Men Project is the story of Leta, a newcomer from South Africa with a background in plumbing.

During the program, we recognized Leta's skills and experience and connected him with a private construction company. His strong work ethic, dedication, and expertise impressed the employer so much that they not only hired him but also expressed a commitment to hiring up to five more newcomers from our program this coming summer.

This success highlights the impact of our program in bridging employment gaps for skilled newcomers. By fostering connections with local businesses, we are creating sustainable employment opportunities that not only benefit individual participants but also open doors for future program graduates.

Leta's success is a testament to how targeted support, skill recognition, and employer connections can lead to long-term economic empowerment for newcomers. This kind of impact reinforces the importance of our work and motivates us to continue expanding these opportunities within the community.

Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton

2024 EIRC Grant Recipients

Space Subsidy	
Organization Name	Approved Amount (\$)
African Canadian Performing Arts Foundation	3,600
Alberta Chinese Cultural Education Society	6,000
Bafut Development Manjong Association Edmonton	2,304
Cameroonian Association of Edmonton	2,592
Garacad Development Society	5,000
Generational Development Society	5,000
Gradual Rising of Women (G.R.O.W.) Foundation	6,000
Haitian Organization of Edmonton	2,150
International Students FeelAtHome	4,400
iPhase Centre	5,000
Moroccan Society In Alberta	5,000
Multicultural Diaspora Society	6,000
Newa Cultural Society of Alberta (NCSA)	1,266
Partners for Humanity Foundation	5,000
Ribbon Rouge Foundation*	4,480
Somali Bantu Jareer Weyne Society Of Alberta	2,851
Somali Canadian Arts Club	6,000
Somali Canadian Parents & Youth Association	5,000
South Sudanese Canadian Community Association in Edmonton	5,000
Stable Family Development Centre	5,000
The Alberta Society of Islamic Fellowship	4,320
The Hellenic Academia Institute of Edmonton	6,000
Towunmi Coker Initiative	5,000
Towunmi Coker Literary Initiative Foundation	5,000
Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton	5,000
Total Space Subsidy Funding	112,963
<i>*These project applications were received in 2023 but funded in 2024</i>	

Seed		
Organization	Project Name/ Description	Approved Amount (\$)
15635683 Canada Association	<i>Action Equal Assistance: Assistance for new refugees. This program will provide new refugees with information that will support them in accessing services in Edmonton such</i>	4,000

	as economic and health care.	
Alberta Chinese Cultural Education Society	<i>ACCESible Swimming for Every Kid</i> : This is a swim program for youth in the community to allow them to learn to swim in a dedicated environment.	4,000
African Canadian Performing Arts Foundation	<i>Rap Tournament - Artist Self-Esteem Workshop</i> : Working with Promoter Berry, the African Canadian Performing Arts Foundation will host a rap tournament with 8 participants.	4,000
Canadian Islamic Organization	<i>Digital Connect Hub</i> : A website redevelopment project to ensure the community can access resources	4,000
Kuku Community in Edmonton	<i>Rediscovering Our Path</i> : This project will impart knowledge and bridge the growing gap between older adults and young adults within the KuKu community..	4,000
Newa Cultural Society of Alberta	<i>Preserving Newa Culture, Traditions and Heritage through Collecting Ethnic Musical Instruments</i>	4,000
Total Seed Funding		24,000

Community Impact		
Organization	Project Name/ Description	Approved Amount (\$)
AfricanShift Mindset Institute	<i>Building Self-Confidence through Dual Identity</i> : Reinforce the awareness regarding their identity, boost their self-esteem and self-confidence of young Afro Canadians	7,000
Alberta Institute of Mahayoga	Himalayan Heritage for Well-being: The continuous practice of traditional meditation combined with yogic exercise to promote social, mental and physical well-being for these communities.	7,000
Alberta Uyghur Association*	<i>Heritage Days</i> : one-time funding is available to new cultural groups for setting up a booth at Heritage Days.	6,860
Aspire Hub	Tech Savvy: An opportunity for youth to learn digital safety and awareness.	7,000
Communauté des Tchadiens de L'Alberta	Edmonton Tour - Introduce members of the community to everything that Edmonton has to offer through tours of the capital and the various amenities.	7,000
Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage (CCACH)*	<i>AfroQuiz</i> : an opportunity for black youth to take pride in their culture through a fun engaging program about their culture and history.	5,000
EconomicHER*	<i>EconomicHER</i> : A program to help young women increase their financial acumen.	5,000
Foundation Of Oromo Women's Hiremilki (FOHM)*	<i>Hope Shine</i> : A culturally aware mental health program for women involved or recovering from abuse.	7,000
Infinity Safety Awareness	R Community-Weekly Food Hamper Program: Provide a safe platform where they can come and collect the food hamper	6,000

Izwi Lethu	<i>World Music Camp</i> : Through the universal language of music, specifically the marimba, provide a platform for cultural exploration, collaboration, and empowerment.	7,000
Liberian Friendship Society of Canada	<i>Project Renaissance: Nurturing Growth and Confidence</i> : Workshops to work on issues identified by the community.	7,000
Students FeelAtHome	<i>Boost Students' Mental Health through a cultural engagement & mentorship approach.</i>	7,000
The Employment Action Table	An opportunity to address employment issues directly related to immigrants and refugees, including but not limited to job opportunities, employment rights and assistance for applications.	6,987
The Hellenic Academia Institute of Edmonton	<i>Greek Language and Culture</i> : Adding programs to the existing school to allow for programs to assist the Greek immigrant population	7,000
The Resilient Immigrant Foundation (TRIF)*	<i>Youth Activation Program</i> - an opportunity for youth to gather and learn about leadership	5,000
The Resilient Immigrant Foundation (TRIF)*	<i>Men's Walking Group</i> : A mental health group for men to gather, talk and go for walks	5,000
Towunmi Coker Initiative*	<i>EmpowerHer</i> : A program to empower young women through art, literature and entertainment.	7,000
Towunmi Coker Literary Initiative Foundation	<i>I Know I Can</i> : This program aims to support immigrant and newcomer community groups through targeted programs in financial management, holistic wellness, and mentorship.	7,000
Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton*	<i>Managing Immigration Stress Session</i> : The program is designed to provide crucial support and resources to Canadian newcomers.	6,959
We and The World	<i>Bridging Milestones</i> : BriM recognizes the barriers to integration that immigrant families face due to cultural differences and a lack of familiarity with Canadian post-secondary environments	7,000
Total Community Impact Funding		130,806
<i>*These project applications were received in 2023 but funded in 2024</i>		

Special Projects		
Organization	Project Name/ Description	Approved Amount (\$)
Engage Global Health Ltd	<i>The Refugee and Immigrant Health Literacy Program (RI-HELP)</i> will serve to increase the health literacy levels of refugee and immigrant community members.	15,000
Haitian Organisation of Edmonton	<i>Navigating Success for Edmonton's Haitian Newcomers</i> : This program expansion is the result of an increased need for targeted support for newcomers through cultural orientation sessions, French language support workshops,	15,803

	job readiness programs, and community connection events.	
iPhase Centre	<i>Harmony Hub: Cultivating Bonds and Empowering Young African Families through Inclusive Community Building:</i> The Harmony Hub project aims to enhance cultural unity and inclusion among African immigrants in Edmonton	20,000
Moroccan Society In Alberta	<i>Youth Mentorship Program</i> This youth program aims to provide guidance, support, and positive role modeling to young individuals within the community.	12,000
The Mosquers	<i>Artistic Bridges: Mosquers' Initiative for Intercultural Understanding:</i> This project will expand the Mosquers impact and enhance the inclusivity of the Muslim and Indigenous creative sector, particularly for immigrant and newcomer BIPOC and Muslim upcoming youth artists	10,000
Urji Women Association of Edmonton	<i>Pathways to Prosperity: Empowering Newcomer Men through Employment Training and Support:</i> This project will foster a sense of belonging, build connections, and support communities to actively participate in political, social, economic, and cultural life in Edmonton.	19,997
Total Special Projects Funding		92,800

Other		
Organization	Project Name/ Description	Approved Amount (\$)
REACH - OST funding for 2024	Funding for the Out of School Time initiative	75,000
Action for Healthy Communities	2022 Funding for Evaluation	20,000
Total Other Funding		95,000