



City of Nanaimo Social Planning Grants

Guidelines & Criteria

2021 Deadline:

Monday, December 7, 2020 (4:00 pm)

**For more information, please contact Community Planning
at 250-755-4464 or socialplanning@nanaimo.ca**

Introduction

The City of Nanaimo recognizes the importance of fostering a socially sustainable community that nurtures a caring, healthy, inclusive and safe environment, and which empowers all of its citizens to realize their aspirations. The Social Planning function, housed within the Community Planning section, has a mandate to support initiatives and actions that further the community's social objectives.

Purpose

The purpose of the Social Planning grant program is to assist organizations in responding to issues of a social nature with initiatives that enhance social cohesion, address the root causes and effects of poverty, contribute to the vitality of our community and foster social inclusion and social equity.

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations applying for funding must be based in Nanaimo and/or be proposing a project that primarily serves Nanaimo residents.

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply:

- A non-profit society incorporated under the BC Provincial Societies Act or federally designated as a registered charity;
- A recognized religious group with ongoing activities and a congregation; or,
- A neighbourhood association recognized by the municipality.

Strategic Priorities

The City of Nanaimo's strategic funding priorities for the Social Planning Grant program are as follows:

- Social Equity (e.g. Projects addressing issues related to poverty or social inclusion)
- Community Diversity (e.g. Projects that support an inclusive and equitable community)
- Community Wellness (e.g. Projects addressing the social determinants of health)
- Vibrant Neighbourhoods (e.g. Projects that build community by enhancing social connectivity)

Project proposals should respond to one or more of the above categories. Overall projects should support the "Livability" theme within the City's Strategic Plan including supporting "a City in which all people live, work, play, create and learn in a safe and connected community" and/or "support the provision of affordable and accessible housing for all community needs."

COVID-19 Response

Given social distancing requirements, applicants must demonstrate how projects can be safely delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Wellness and Substance Use Response

For 2021, an additional \$30,000 is available for Social Response Grant projects that provide support to individuals with or are overcoming drug or alcohol addiction. Project may include:

- Detox and treatment programs
- Counselling and support
- Peer support and employment programs
- Harm reduction/overdose prevention, including:
 - needle exchange services (with Island Health approval)
 - education and outreach programs
 - safe ride programs

Grant Categories

There are two categories of Social Planning Grants, which are allocated on an annual basis:

- **Social Response Grants**
Intended for initiatives and projects of a more significant scope. The total budget available for this category is \$60,000; individual applications for up to \$60,000 will be accepted. For 2021, an additional \$30,000 is available within this category for projects that meet the Community Wellness and Substance Use Response criteria. Applications that meet both the Social Response Grant and Community Wellness and Substance Use Response criteria may apply for up to \$90,000 in funding.
- **Community Vitality Grant**
Intended for projects of a smaller scale. The total budget available for this category is \$25,000.

Ineligible Projects

Funds from the Social Planning Grants may not be used for the following purposes:

- Ongoing operational expenses incurred during the normal course of business;
- Projects occurring outside the City of Nanaimo; or
- Payment of pre-existing debts.

Projects will not be funded for more than two consecutive years in a row; however, an organization may submit an application for a separate project.

Ineligible Organizations

- Groups or organizations with outstanding balances owed to the City of Nanaimo.
- Organizations may not be eligible for Social Planning Grant funding if they have received other funding assistance through the City of Nanaimo within the same grant year period.

Please contact socialplanning@nanaimo.ca with any questions you may have.

Application Review Criteria

30% - Merit

Proposal quality, project alignment with organization's mandate, community support

40% - Relevance/Feasibility

Does project reflect the City's Strategic Priorities?

What is the capacity and demonstrated ability of the applicant?

30% - Potential Impact

How many will be impacted? How great the impact? How critical is the issue being addressed?

Grant Process

Applications will be received and reviewed by the Social Planning section, and recommendations will be forwarded to the Finance and Audit Committee and then to Nanaimo's City Council for approval. Once disbursed, funding must be spent within the next twelve (12) months and a report provided at project completion or at the end of the twelve month period, whichever comes first. If the applicant chooses to submit an application for the following year, a report regarding the previous project funding grant must be received prior to the submission of the new grant.