



2009-2010 Community Initiatives Program

The promised revised application and guidelines for the Community Initiatives Program appeared on Tuesday, October 13 on the Government of Alberta website. To aid your organization in your application process, here are some answers to questions you may have. Volunteer Alberta is interested in how these new funding solutions impact your organization – please feel free to contact Volunteer Alberta at 780-482-3300 or projects@volunteeralberta.ab.ca.

FAQ

What's going on?

Budget 2009 made changes to granting programs – particularly the Quarterly Grants Program and the International Development Program, which were run by the Wild Rose Foundation. Those programs were collapsed. In light of this, the Alberta government has made changes to the Community Initiatives Program (CIP).

How does CIP now look?

The CIP is now comprised of three streams of funding: the Project-based Grants, Community Operating Grants and International Development Grants:

- The **Project-based Grants** are the larger stream, and is essentially a continuation of the original CIP. It supports project-based initiatives in areas such as libraries, arts and culture, sports, education, health and recreation.
- The **Community Operating Grants** are a smaller stream of money that has been set aside for community-based, human services organizations. It is essentially designed to replace the Quarterly Grants that was previously administered by the Wild Rose Foundation (WRF).
- The **International Development Grants** are replacing the International Development Programs (IDP) funding previously administered by the WRF.

How big is the CIP?

Budget 2009-2010 allocates \$28 million for the total entire CIP. (This is down from the amount allocated in Budget 2008-2009, of \$29.171 million and approximately \$6 million for granting programs within the WRF.) Minister Blackett has committed that funding levels previously available through WRF grants will be recognized in this new formula.



What about the scope of CIP and maximum grants available?

The maximum grant available under the Project-based Grants is \$75,000 per project per year. However, there is now a \$10,000 cap for travel-related applications; and a \$50,000 cap for school technology projects. These caps reflect the fact that some organizations can access other funding sources in addition to CIP.

The maximum grant available under the Community Operating Grants is \$75,000 per project per year, while the International Development Grants have a maximum grant of \$25,000 per project per year.

Other limits on funding include:

- Travel funding capped at \$10,000 per grant (effective July 1, 2009)
- Technology funding capped at \$50,000 per grant (effective July 1, 2009)
- Municipalities (effective Oct. 1, 2009) will no longer be able to access CIP funding, but will be directed to the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP).
- CIP will no longer examine applications for playground projects (effective July 1, 2009).
- Community Operating Grants – FCSS and Municipal funds are considered governmental and are not eligible to be used as matching dollars.
- FCSS funds are eligible to be used as matching dollars only for Project-based Grants.

Are there matching requirements?

Matching requirements remain in effect for applications to the Project-based Grants.

Significantly, there are no changes to the matching requirements for the Community Operating Grants. This is very good and welcome news! The former WRF Quarterly Grants and IDP did not require full matching, and Alberta Culture and Community Spirit staff should be commended for listening to sector concerns and continuing this practice.



Can our organization apply for both the Community Operating Grants and the Project-based Grants in the same year?

No. Organizations can not access both grants. This is a change for community-based, human service organizations and international development organizations.

Previously, these organizations could access WRF funding programs for Quarterly Grants and IDP, and also access CIP funding for projects. Since everything is in the CIP, this is not possible.

Sports, Park, Recreation and Arts organizations can still access both CIP and their respective foundations for funding, as long as it is not for the same project (however, different aspects of the same project may be funded).

Organizations are limited to one CIP grant per year for non-capital purposes and one capital grant per year from either CIP or CFEP (effective July 1, 2009).

What about the application process?

Both CIP and CFEP are moving to quarterly application deadlines to produce a shorter application turnaround. Financial deadline to be considered in the 2009-2010 fiscal year is December 31, 2009.

Guidelines, application forms and contact information for the Community Initiatives Program are available online at Culture and Community Spirit's website: www.culture.alberta.ca/cip.

Visit www.culture.alberta.ca/ca.cfep for information on the Community Facility Enhancement Program.