



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Active Communities Grant Program

Overview

We are now accepting applications for the Active Communities Grant Program until September 18, 2026.

The Active Communities Grant Program provides grants to Indigenous and local governments to create or expand physical activity opportunities in their communities.

The purpose of the Active Communities Grants Program is to:

1. Support people in BC of all ages and abilities to increase their access to community-based physical activity, sport, and recreation programs and opportunities.
2. Create physical and social environments within communities that encourage regular physical activity and ensure equitable and inclusive access and opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds, particularly those who come from equity-owed groups.

Active Communities Grants of up to \$20,000 are intended to build capacity, create or promote physical activity opportunities, support physical activity planning, and increase participation in physical activity through sustainable, community-level changes.

Some examples of potential projects include policy development and implementation, staff training in adaptive equipment or accessible programming, and engaging community members to create participant-informed inclusive programming. Please refer to our [website](#) for a list of previously funded projects in the Active Communities Grants Program. Note that projects for infrastructure development are no longer eligible for this funding.

The Active Communities Grant program is a successful initiative of [BC's Physical Activity Strategy](#), with previous rounds of grants supporting nearly 100 communities across BC. The current grant program continues to prioritize supporting communities to increase physical activity opportunities, with new emphasis on supporting [BC's Age Forward Strategy](#) through projects aimed at older adults.

Eligibility Criteria

The following local government organizations are eligible to apply:

- First Nations Bands
- First Nations Tribal Councils
- Métis Chartered Communities
- Municipalities
- Regional Districts

Applicants are encouraged to build relationships to improve physical activity in the community. For example, this collaboration could include a partnership between the Indigenous government or local government and the regional health authority. It could also involve other community partners, such as local non-governmental organizations, school districts, businesses, community groups, or community members.

We know that initiatives are often most meaningful and impactful when they are informed by the community. Applicants are encouraged to engage with community members throughout the planning and implementation process of the project.

Active Communities Grant Guidelines:

- Applicant must be based within, and the project must serve residents of British Columbia.
- Applicant is an Indigenous government (First Nation, Tribal Council, Band) or Chartered Métis Community or local government (municipality, regional district). Unincorporated communities are eligible through their regional district.
- Project activities must increase opportunities for physical activity, specifically through improving access, inclusion, and healthy community planning, programs and spaces.
- Grants up to \$20,000 are available to communities. BCAHL may fund a portion of projects with higher budgets if other funding sources are contributing to the project. Alternatively, BCAHL may consider funding one portion of a larger project so long as it aligns with the purpose of the Active Communities Grant Program.
- All proposed activities should be completed, and all funding spent, within 12 months of receiving the funds.
- Projects must include evaluation activities, including the collection of evaluation data.
- Project leads should be willing to participate in BCAHL-led evaluation and knowledge exchange activities.
- Applicants should demonstrate existing or planned collaboration with other community partners over the project timeline.
- Projects are encouraged to demonstrate a link to broader and longer-term local policies, strategies and/or community knowledge and culture.
- Project expenses must be reasonable in relation to proposed activities.
- Infrastructure development projects are not eligible for an Active Communities grant.

Active Communities Grant Application

Indigenous or Local Government Information		
Name of Indigenous or Local Government(s) (list all Indigenous or local governments participating in the project): 		
Lead Indigenous/Local Government (responsible for managing the grant funds and for fulfilling grant requirements): 		
Mailing address: 	City/Town: 	Postal code:
<i>Please ensure the official 'Lead Indigenous/Local Government' name and mailing address for cheque processing</i>		

Key Contact	
Name: 	Position/title:
Phone number: 	Email address:

Secondary Contact	
Name: 	Position/title:
Phone number: 	Email address:

Project Description	
Project name: 	Expected start date:

Project goal(s) and objectives:
Community where the project will take place:
Please check one or more boxes below to describe your project's physical activity focus. Our project plans to: ☐ Increase the number of opportunities available to be physically active ☐ Increase participation in physical activity ☐ Encourage and support physical activity leadership in the community ☐ Build staff/community capacity to help others be physically active ☐ Increase accessibility of physical activity programs/facilities/activities ☐ Adapt physical/built environments to encourage more physical activity ☐ Develop and implement policies to encourage physical activity ☐ Other, please specify:
Provide a description of the project, including: • Key project activities • Partner organizations and their roles • Benefits to the community members • How accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered*

Community Context

Please indicate the group(s) that will be included in the project activities.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Early years (0-5)
- ☐ Children (6-12)
- ☐ Youth (13-18)
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Men
- ☐ Older adults (50+)
- ☐ Families
- ☐ Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
- ☐ New immigrants
- ☐ Persons with disabilities
- ☐ Members of visible minority/racialized groups
- ☐ Members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities
- ☐ People with lower incomes
- ☐ Community members (General Population)
- ☐ Other, please specify:

Describe how community members will be reached by the project.

- How will you communicate with, or engage community members?
- Will community members be involved in the planning and/ or implementation of the project? If so, please describe.

Evaluation and Sustainability

Please describe how you will evaluate your project, including how you will collect data and measure results.

For example:

- Qualitative (stories, opinions) data your project will collect
- Quantitative (numbers) data your project will collect

Explain how this project will be sustained beyond the funding period.

Are you willing to participate in knowledge exchange/knowledge translation activities? (i.e., virtual meeting or webinar to discuss project challenges and successes)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

If no or maybe, please explain:

Please provide any additional information about your project that might be relevant to this application.

Project Budget

Organization

Name of project lead

Email:

Phone:

REVENUE

Active Communities Grant

Other funding source(s) (if any)

Total revenue (a)

\$

EXPENDITURES

Staffing (Program Coordinator, Assistant, contracted service, etc.)

Supplies/Services (Program supplies, room rentals, etc.)

Other (Please specify)

Total expenditure (b)

\$

Total surplus or deficit (a)-(b) =

\$

Budget notes:

Other Funding Sources

Have you applied for or received any funding from other grants for this project?

☐ N/A have not applied for other grants

Grant Name	Amount Requested	Application Status ¹
Vision Zero		
Age-Friendly Communities		
Plan H		
Other(s) Specify		

¹ Submitted, pending, confirmed

Project Timeline

Please describe your project's key activities, timeline, and expected outcomes.

Fall 2026

Activity	Estimated duration	Who is involved	Outcome

Winter 2027

Activity	Estimated duration	Who is involved	Outcome

Spring 2027

Activity	Estimated duration	Who is involved	Outcome

Summer 2027

Activity	Estimated duration	Who is involved	Outcome

Fall 2027

Activity	Estimated duration	Who is involved	Outcome

Application Checklist

Once you have completed the application, please review the checklist below:

- ☐ I confirm that I represent an Indigenous government, Chartered Métis Community or local government, and that I believe that this project is eligible for support from the Active Communities Grant.
- ☐ Yes, I understand there is a requirement to track project data to contribute learning and findings to BCAHL's evaluation of the grants program.
- ☐ Yes, I understand that there is a requirement to complete a final report at the end of the project.
- ☐ Yes, I have only applied for eligible expenses.
- ☐ Yes, I have completed all sections of the application.
- ☐ Yes, I have reviewed my application before submitting

Applications for the Active Communities Grant Program are due at 11:59pm on Friday, September 18, 2026.
Please send your application or questions regarding the application process to:

Carly Pettit, Manager of Physical Activity Programs
cpettit@bchealthyiving.ca

Additional Information

Application Scoring Criteria	
Points	Criteria
10	Project goal(s) and objectives: - Goal(s) and objectives are clearly defined
25	Project plan: - Project activities are appropriate, realistic and feasible for achieving project goals and objectives - Project is based on current evidence and/or best practices, and/or community knowledge and culture - Accessibility, equity, diversity, and inclusion have been addressed in the project plan*
10	Community - Good explanation for how the community will be reached and included - Adequate description provided for how the community will be involved in project planning and implementation
10	Project partnerships: - A clear description of how partnerships will be established and involved
10	Sustainability - Explanation on how the project will be sustained beyond the funding period, including how it might be shared with other communities
10	Project budget: - Detailed breakdown of expenses - Expenses are reasonable and align clearly to the proposed activities. - Administrative expenses are not excessive
10	Evaluation plan: - A clear explanation of evaluation methods and key indicators/measures to be collected
10	Timeline: - The timeline is feasible and reasonable - There are clearly defined activities and outcomes
5	Overall quality of the proposal
/100	TOTAL

* **Accessibility:** The design of products, services, and environments to ensure they are available and navigable for people of all abilities.

Equity: The principle of considering people's unique experiences and differing situations, and ensuring they have access to the resources and opportunities that are necessary for them to attain just outcomes. Equity aims to eliminate disparities and disproportions that are rooted in historical and contemporary injustices and oppression.

Diversity: The variety of identities found within an organization, group or society (diversity is expressed through factors such as culture, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, education, ability, family status or socioeconomic status).

Inclusion: The practice of using proactive measures to create an environment where people feel welcomed, respected, and valued, and to foster a sense of belonging and engagement. This practice involves changing the environment by removing barriers so that each person has equal access to opportunities and resources and can achieve their full potential.