FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

APPLICANT GUIDE

BLACK IDEAS GRANT 2.0

2024

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About the Foundation for Black Communities

Black communities have been calling for a new approach to philanthropy. The Foundation for Black Communities (FFBC) was established to fulfill this call and to ensure all Black people and communities can thrive and have agency in defining their own futures. Founded in 2020 with a mission to transform communities, FFBC is Canada's philanthropic foundation dedicated to ensuring that Black-mandated, Black-led and Black-serving organizations have the sustained resources needed to make a meaningful impact.

Black Ideas Grant 2.0, 2024

FFBC's Black Ideas Grant 2.0, 2024, is a significant investment of $9.5 million to acknowledge and support solution-oriented initiatives led by Canada's Black communities. This program will fund some of Black communities' immediate and direct needs and provide valuable insights for future funding programs.

This grant stream provides one-year flexible funding to increase the capacity of Black-mandated, Black-led, and Black-serving charitable and non-profit organizations and groups as they combat anti-Black racism and improve social and economic outcomes for Black communities.

Applications open on October 1, 2024, and must be submitted by November 8th, 2024, at 11:59 PM PT.

Our Approach

FFBC is a first-of-its-kind institution, and our goal is to understand, recognize and celebrate solutions-making in Black communities. But first, we must look to communities to help inform future funds and programs. We need the voice and expertise of all Black communities. FFBC emphasizes the importance of community, adopting the belief that we are all interconnected. By improving the conditions for those around us, we also improve the conditions for ourselves.

This approach places significant emphasis on the knowledge, creativity, experiences,

[1] *"physical community spaces" refers to a designated area, building, or facility where members of the local Black community can gather, interact, and engage in various activities. It serves as a hub for social, cultural, educational, or recreational purposes, fostering connection, collaboration, and inclusivity among the community".*

and ideas of those closest to the desired outcome of programming. All applications will be reviewed by Black community members. This Places trust, justice and agency at the center of its philosophy, and FFBC uses this approach to disrupt and democratize philanthropy.

FFBC also recognizes that there is historic and important work supporting communities that face the highest barriers and least access to funding in climate justice, disability justice and gender justice. This includes 2SLGBTQI+, women and girls, trans community members, those living on low incomes, those living with disabilities, those who are deaf, newcomers, migrants, those who were formerly incarcerated and those who are food insecure. FFBC is committed to supporting intersectional, anti-oppressive, decolonial, justice-oriented approaches that bridge and build a future where all Black communities thrive.

B.I.G. 2.0, 2024 has been shaped by community input. However, we recognize that this is an ongoing process, and we look forward to developing future multi-year funding initiatives based on insights from this second round of funding.

Eligibility

Only eligible organizations can apply to Black Ideas Grant 2.0, 2024 To be eligible, organizations must:

- **Be Black-led, Black-mandated, and Black-serving (B3)**

  » **Black-led organization:** These organizations are led and governed primarily by Black individuals. At least 2/3 of their leadership, including their executive team and board of directors, must be Black.   Leadership here implies that decisions, policies, and strategic direction reflect the lived experiences and priorities of Black people.

  » **Black-Mandated organization:** These organizations permanently and primarily serve Black communities, addressing issues and providing particularly relevant services to Black people. Their programs and   initiatives are designed to address challenges that disproportionately affect Black communities.

  » **Black-serving organization:** These organizations services, supports and resources are design and dedicated to supporting Black communities, ensuring that their services and programs meet the needs of Black individuals, even if their service beneficiaries include other groups.

- **Be a registered charity, incorporated non-profit, or an unincorporated non-profit or group working with an incorporated partner.** Unincorporated groups could include Black collaboratives, Student Unions, Affinity Groups, etc.

- **Be located in Canada.**

Eligible Initiatives

When completing your application, you will have the opportunity to share your proposed initiative. Only eligible initiatives will have the opportunity to receive funding.

To be eligible, initiatives must:

- **Address at least one of the three Focus Areas:** Combatting Anti-Black Racism, Improving Social Outcomes and Improving Economic Outcomes.

- **Address one or more of the** Sustainable Development Goals **and** Social Determinants of Health.

- **Can be implemented in the proposed timeline and with the available funding,** ensuring funds are spent by March 31, 2026.

Not include any of the ineligible activities outlined below:

- **Unincorporated Non-Profits, Collaboratives and Groups:** Unincorporated non-profits, collaboratives and groups must partner with incorporated non-profits and charities to access FFBC funding. If your organization does not have an incorporated partner at the time of application, you will not be eligible for funding. Please note that FFBC will require a collaborative agreement between the unincorporated non-profit or group and their incorporated partner, which outlines the details and purpose of the collaboration.

If you have any further questions about your eligibility, please contact grants@ forblackcommunities.org.

Ineligible Organizations

The following organizations are ineligible for funding:

- Organizations that are not Black-mandated, Black-led, and Black-serving;

- For-profit organizations or corporations;

- Individuals;

- Business institutions, including business associations, chambers of commerce and condominium associations;

- Provincial/territorial entities, including hospitals, medical centres, schools, private schools, universities, colleges, health authorities, public health authorities, educational institutions, and health/social services institutions;

- Municipalities and entities controlled by a municipality, including municipal governments, regional governments, and regional districts, and;

- Organizations primarily engaged in political activity supporting or opposing any political party, elected representative, or candidate for public office.

General Ineligible Activities

Please note that each grant stream has additional specific ineligible activities. The following activities are not eligible for FFBC grants:

- the financing of deficits;

- the purchase or sale of alcohol or cannabis, financing related licenses or permits, or capital renovations or repairs to facilities or spaces used for the purpose of selling alcohol or cannabis;

- political activities supporting or opposing any political party, elected representative, or candidate for public office;

- activities which are religious or include a requirement to participate in any dimensions of faith (for example: church running a community-based kitchen can apply for supplies and staffing costs are eligible but not primarily religious activities);

- capital renovations or repairs of premises used for the purpose of religious observance or practice;

- general fundraising drives or capital campaigns;

- activities, programs or services which do not provide a benefit to Black communities in Canada;

- activities, programs or services carried out or provided outside of Canada, and;

- activities completed, or costs incurred, before the start date specified in an FFBC grant contract.

Canada

Resourcing Black Communities

Funding Streams

The Black Ideas Grant 2.0, 2024 will accept applications from eligible B3 organizations at various stages of implementing projects or programs that positively impact Black communities. There are three funding streams. Please select the funding stream that reflects your organization or group's current needs, please note that your organization or group is allowed to only apply for one grant stream.

The three funding streams are:

- **Core Stream** for funding up to $30,000 to address core and operational needs unrelated to programming;

- **Catapult Stream** for funding up to $80,000 to invest in new or expanding the existing programs and services, and;

- **Community Spaces Stream** for funding up to $200,000 to invest in capital projects and social infrastructure.

CORE STREAM | UP TO $30,000

Description

To support the long-term sustainability and health of applicant organizations by providing funding for fixed costs such as overhead[1] and capacity building to improve and strengthen the organization's operations.

Objectives

The Core Grant Stream Program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance organizational capacity and operational efficiency

- Support long-term sustainability of Black-led, mandated and serving organizations

- Strengthen organizational capacity and core functions

[1] *"Overhead" refers to the ongoing administrative and general expenses necessary for the organization to operate but not directly tied to specific programs or services. These expenses include costs related to management, fundraising, accounting, rent, utilities, office supplies, and other general operational expenses.*

- Enable organizations to better achieve their missions and meet community needs

Eligible Applicants

- Be a registered charity in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), OR Be a non-profit organization incorporated under federal or provincial legislation OR Unincorporated Black-led, mandated and serving group or collective.

- Be Black-led, Black-mandated, and Black-serving at all levels of the organization, including governance and operations

  » At least two-thirds (2/3) of the organization's leadership, staff and board must identify as Black

- Demonstrate a clear need for capacity building or operational support

Eligible organizations and groups can apply up to $30,000 to address core funding needs. This stream will fund core activities related to the operational success of the organization or group.

Types of Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Communications improvements

- Financial management systems or training

- Fundraising capacity development

- Office furniture and equipment

- Governance enhancement activities

- Professional development fees

- Rent and utilities

- Strategic planning processes

- Technology and software upgrades

- Other capacity-building activities (subject to approval)

Types of Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Program delivery costs

- Capital expenses (e.g., building purchase, major renovations)

- Debt retirement or deficit funding

- Expenses incurred prior to grant approval

- Political or religious activities

NOTE: *This is not an exhaustive list of all eligible expenses.* **This core stream is for general operating costs, not for expenses related to programming/service delivery.**

Examples

- An organization needs to hire an Executive Director to help oversee the day-to-day operations.

- A group of Black youth applies for funding to hire a consultant to develop their governance structure.

- A charitable organization requests funds to buy new office furniture.

- A B3 organization purchases information technology and hardware/equipment.

FFBC provides the full grant application questions to help you prepare your application before your final submission in the application portal. You can use the questions to draft your answers in advance, gather all required documentation, and plan with your team.

Core Grant Stream Application Questions are accessible here

CATAPULT STREAM | UP TO $80,000

Description

To support the design and/or delivery of projects [2], programs, and/or services that directly benefit Black communities in Canada.

Objectives

The Catapult Grant Stream Program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Support existing or new initiatives that address specific needs within Black communities

- **New ideas and/or approaches:** Organizations and groups building or launching new programs, projects or services, testing new approaches, or exploring and experimenting may apply for this grant.

- **Expanding programs or services**: Organizations and groups that plan to grow or sustain existing programs, projects or services may apply for this grant. Organizations must describe the existing program or service in their application.

- Enhance program design and service delivery

- Increase availability and access to relevant community services that improve:

- Socio-economic conditions

- Arts and cultural engagement

- Health and wellness

- Community engagement

- Efforts to address anti-Black racism

[2] *"Project" refers to an initiative that is not directly delivering a service to a community but involves activities such as convening a group of people to develop a strategy or plan of action. Projects are typically focused on planning, organizing, or preparing for broader initiatives.*

Eligible Applicants

- Be a registered charity in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), OR be a non-profit organization incorporated under federal or provincial legislation OR An unincorporated group or community collaborative?

- Be Black-led, Black-mandated, and Black-serving at all levels of the organization, including governance and operations

  » At least two-thirds (2/3) of the organization's leadership, staff, and board must identify as Black

- Proposed initiatives must be located within Canada and serve Black communities within Canada

- Show a clear connection to and understanding of the Black communities they serve

- Provide evidence of community support for the proposed initiative

- Eligible organizations and groups can apply up to $80,000 to explore new or existing ideas or approaches to improving socio-economic well-being in Black communities, including the research, design, piloting, and evaluation of initiatives.

Types of Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Staff salaries and benefits directly related to the initiative

- Program materials and supplies

- Equipment necessary for program delivery

- Rent and utilities for program space

- Marketing and outreach costs

- Professional development related to the initiative

- Evaluation and reporting expenses

- Travel costs directly related to program implementation

- Administrative costs

Types of Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Capital expenses (e.g., building purchase, major renovations)

- Debt retirement or deficit funding

- Expenses incurred prior to grant approval

- Political or religious activities

- Initiatives that do not directly benefit Black communities

- Costs covered by another funding source

NOTE: this catapult stream is **for only programming and service delivery costs (program related administration costs may be covered).**

Examples
- A charity plans to purchase a new fridge for a new cooking club.

- A non-profit plans to run a workshop or summer camp for youth.

- A non-profit organization that operates several programs and services wants to produce high-quality videos as part of their communication strategy.

- A food bank needs to retrofit their facility and purchase a vehicle to meet demand from elderly clients.

- A shelter purchases winter coats for youth in their transition home.

- A B3 organization undertakes a feasibility study for a new youth recreation program in their community.

- A B3 community service organization plans to conduct seminal research that

impacts Black migrant workers.

- A community-based organization conducts a robust evaluation of an existing program.

- A group of Black parents would like to explore the creation of non-profit organizations to support food security for Black Elders in the community.

FFBC provides the full grant application questions to help you prepare your application before your final submission in the application portal. You can use the questions to draft your answers in advance, gather all required documentation, and plan with your team.

Catapult Stream Application Questions are accessible here

COMMUNITY SPACES STREAM | up to $200,000

Description

To support the acquisition, construction, renovation, and maintenance of physical community spaces [3] and gathering places that directly benefit or serve Black communities in Canada.

Objectives

The Community Spaces Grant Stream aims to achieve the following objectives by helping to increase existence, sustainability and/or access to Black-led, owned and operated Community Spaces that:

- Foster a Sense of Belonging and Connectivity

- Enhance Community Health and Well-being

- Support Economic and Social Inclusion

[3] *"A community physical space" refers to a designated area, building, or facility where members of the local Black community can gather, interact, and engage in various activities. It serves as a hub for social, cultural, educational, or recreational purposes, fostering connection, collaboration, and inclusivity among the community".*

Eligible Applicants

- Be a registered charity in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), OR be a non-profit organization incorporated under federal or provincial legislation

- Be Black-led, Black-mandated, and Black-serving at all levels of the organization, including governance and operations At least two-thirds (2/3) of the organization's leadership, staff, and board must identify as Black

- Proposed projects must be located within Canada and serve Black communities within Canada

- Have been operating in Canada for a minimum of three (3) years prior to the application date

- Must provide externally produced financial statements for the past one (1) year. Acceptable financial statements include audited statements or notice to reader reports

- Show a clear connection to and understanding of the Black communities they serve.

- Provide evidence of community support for the proposed project.

- Be able to provide proof of ownership or long-term lease

Eligible organizations and groups with bold and big ideas that advance the social and economic infrastructure that benefit Black communities. Organizations can apply for up to $200,000 to scale programs, services or commercialization initiatives. Funding is intended to invest in organizations that are indispensable to their sector or community, contribute to a stronger ecosystem for Black communities, and lay the groundwork for transformative change.

Types of Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Acquisition of property or facilities such as purchase of land or existing buildings

- Legal fees and closing costs directly related to property acquisition

- Construction and renovation. New construction of community-owned or community-operated spaces

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- Renovation or expansion of owned facilities or long-term leased properties

- Architectural and engineering fees

- Building permits and related costs

- Materials and labour for construction or renovation

- Accessibility upgrades:

- Installation of ramps, elevators, or lifts

- Modification of bathrooms, doorways, or other spaces for accessibility

- Signage and wayfinding improvements

- Equipment and furnishings:

- Purchase of essential equipment for community space operations

- Furniture and fixtures directly related to the community space function

- Operational costs (limited to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total grant):

- Utilities and maintenance for the first year of operation

- Staff salaries directly related to facility management

- Insurance costs for the facility

- Project management fees [limited to ten percent (10%) of total grant] directly related to construction, renovation or operation of the community space

Types of Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for funding under this grant program:

- Consulting services related to space planning and community engagement

- Capital costs incurred before the approval of the Community Building Fund – Capital stream grant application

- Non-fixed equipment

- Any costs covered by another funding source

- Religious or Political Activities

NOTE: Organizations should have demonstrated the initiative through a feasibility/ needs /viability assessment or similar method to demonstrate that the approach works, could be scaled, and could have the potential for replicability.

Examples

- A B3 organization requests funding to advance plans to establish a long-term care home for Black seniors.

- A Black-led non-profit organization seeks funding to purchase and renovate buildings to create a community space focused on empowering Black youth.

- A community-based organization applies for funding to renovate a long-term leased spaces into a food cooperative to serve as a gathering space and marketplace for Black farmers and local food vendors.

- A community-based organization applies for funding to advance an affordable housing initiative.

- A group of women-centered organizations uses funding to retrofit a center to provide a multi-disciplinary integrated model of care for survivors of human trafficking.

- A B3 organization provides infrastructure support for migrant and refugee organizing and movement building for justice.

- A non-profit organization in rural or northern communities will open a shared co-working space for Black entrepreneurs, micro-businesses, and self-employed individuals.

FFBC provides the full grant application questions to help you prepare your application before your final submission in the application portal. You can use the questions to draft your answers in advance, gather all required documentation, and plan with your team.

Community Spaces Grant Stream Application Questions are accessible here

Selection Process

All applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed and selected by Black community members. Eligible organizations include Black-mandated, Black-led, and Black-serving charitable and non-profit organizations and groups in Canada. All applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application in February 2025.

Community Selection Circles

Applications will be selected by Community Selection Circles, which will make funding recommendations to other selection levels all the way to the FFBC Board of Directors. The Community Selection Circles will be made up of the wider Black community members. This participatory method aims to bridge communities, fund programs and leaders working in proximity with the communities identified, build and strengthen trust, and support Black-serving community-based change-making.

Selection Criteria

Decisions will be made based on the extent that the proposed initiative by eligible B3 organizations:

- Meet the eligibility criteria for initiatives by

    » addressing at least one of the three Focus Areas

    » addressing one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals and Social Determinants of Health

    » ensuring the initiative is implemented in the proposed timeline and with the available funding

    » not including any of the ineligible activities.

- Have a positive outcome for Black communities in Canada.

Reporting Requirements

Organizations approved for funding must sign a Funding Agreement before receiving their grant payment. As per the funding agreement, recipients must participate in two reporting stages. Our goal is to enable us to continue to learn from funding recipients, bridge and build partnerships, support communities and iterate our funding approach.

- **A mid-term check-in:** Halfway through a grantee's initiative, grantees will be asked to complete a mid-term/interim report (both narrative and financial) on their initiative. This can be in form of high-level updates, challenges and successes faced so far. There will be an opportunity to report verbally and FFBC staff will contact grantees for their preference and schedule accordingly.

- **Final report:** once a project has finished its funded activities, on or no later than March 31, 2026, recipients will be asked to complete a final report (both narrative and financial) on their initiatives.

Information gathered in these reports may be shared with the Government of Canada or used in the work of the Foundation for Black Communities. Please note that FFBC will not share any personal information with the Government of Canada.

How to Apply

We encourage interested applicants to first read carefully this guide and well as application questions available here. You are advised to draft your application offline before transferring your answers to the application portal. When you are ready to apply, please complete and submit your application through our online application portal. The application will be available in other formats on the website, and we suggest you draft your responses and collect all attachments before entering your application on the portal. You can save and review your responses before submitting your application.

The application is available both in French and English.

We are offering limited spots for applicants required to submit an oral application. If this is of interest, you must book an oral application or your submission will not be reviewed. Spots are available between **October 28 and November 8, 2024**.
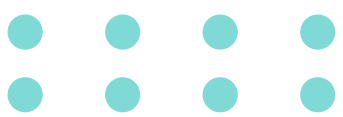
If, for any other reason, you are unable to submit your application via the portal, please contact FFBC staff at grants@forblackcommunities.org before the application deadline. We will support you as best we can.

You can register for the information sessions for the following dates:

- Webinar in English: October 8, 2024 at xxxx

- Webinar in French: October 9, 2024 at xxxx

In case you feel you need a specific coaching session; you can book a coaching call with one of our program managers. **Coaching sessions will be available during the period of October 10 to October 25, 2024.**

Applications open on October 1, 2024, and must be submitted by November 8, 2024, at 11:59 PM PT.

Timeline

Application Opens	**October 1, 2024**
Application Closes	**November 8, 2024, at 11:59 PM PT**
Applications Reviewed	November 2024 - January 2025
Applicants Notified	February 2025
Grants Awarded	March 2025
Implementation Period	April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026