

# Vancouver Status of Women



## COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

## GUIDELINES

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# OVERVIEW

## Who is Vancouver Status Of Women?

Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) operates on unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. The organization, founded in 1971, has been committed to working with cis/trans women and gender diverse peoples towards equity in social, political, and economic spheres. Established to implement suggestions produced by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, VSW firmly believes that self-determination is a crucial component to our work towards a more just future. VSW's main activities have included: developing resource materials; research; public education programs; outreach and information; referral services to individual cis/trans women and gender diverse peoples and other organizations; initiating, facilitating, and participating in social justice networks and coalitions; engaging in feminist community building. A complete list of VSW's values can be [found here](#).

VSW, operated by the Coordinating Collective (CC), has shifted to a virtual organization, no longer holding a physical space within the community. This physical transition has allowed VSW the opportunity to contribute to the community in a different way, through the development of Community Action Grants.

## What are VSW Community Action Grants?

Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) has a long history of supporting marginalized communities within the Vancouver Lower Mainland. Given recent shifts in funding allocation, VSW has transitioned from delivering programming to offering an annual grant designed to assist grassroots community initiatives. By investing in the community, VSW hopes to continue their legacy of transformation towards a more equitable future. The Community Action Grants accepted applications for the first time in 2022.

These grants are available to any cis/trans women or gender diverse person seeking funding for a project/initiative that will benefit communities in the Vancouver Lower Mainland. **As of 2024, we expanded the grant program to include applications for projects based anywhere in Canada.** This grant is designed specifically for grassroots projects, small businesses, and community organizations led by individuals or small groups that are underserved by mainstream grants and wealth distribution. Those with underrepresented and marginalized positionalities are encouraged to self-identify in their application.

The total amount of annual funding available is approximately \$50,000 with \$35,000 for the Vancouver Lower Mainland and BC area and \$15,000 nationally. There are two funding streams applicants may apply for: larger grants of \$5,000, and small grants of \$2,000 - 3,000. Applicants may indicate which stream they are applying for, however, VSW reserves the right to determine the total value of the grant distributed to successful applicants.

## FUNDING PROCESS

### When are Applications Accepted?

Grants are allocated once a year through an online application process. The application period will open on February 27th 2026 and run until April 19th 2026. The review process for grant applications will take approximately 2-3 weeks, with funds being allocated at the beginning of May. Applicants are encouraged to leave room for the review process while planning their initiatives.

### How are Funding Decisions Made?

Funding decisions are made by representatives of the Vancouver Status of Women Coordinating Collective (VSW CC), and external community members. Decisions will be made through a consensus-based model, in which all members of the committee bring forth their feedback, agreements, and concerns on every application. Grant value will differ based on the assessed

need of a particular project, with funding ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Although applicants may indicate a preference for the funding stream they wish to be considered for, VSW reserves the right to determine the total amount of funding allocated to applicants.

## How to Apply

The completed application should be submitted online through [this Google Form](#). A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided upon successful submission of the form. As the form must be completed in one go, applicants can download the [application questions](#) to draft their answers. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted. Questions and accommodation requests should be directed to the Vancouver Status of Women CC at [vswwomencentre@gmail.com](mailto:vswwomencentre@gmail.com).

**The application deadline is April 19th 2026 at 5pm PST.**

## Application Review Timeline

Deadline for Completed Applications	April 19th 2026
Application Review & Shortlisting Process	April 22 2026
Final Decisions	April 2026
Applicants Notified (acceptance/decline)	May 2026
Grant Funding Distributed	May 2026

All applicants will be notified regardless of the outcome of their application. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer individualized feedback on unsuccessful applications.

# ELIGIBILITY

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

Any individual, group, or community organization engaged in grassroots work in the Vancouver Lower Mainland, is eligible for a grant valued up to \$5,000. We are excited to be able to expand this grant to other parts of Canada, however, the majority of funding will still be allocated to the Vancouver Lower Mainland. Charitable status or connection to an incorporated non-profit organization is not a requirement. Only applications from self-identified Indigenous, Black, and racialized women, trans, or non-binary individuals will be considered. Past recipients of the Community Action Grant are not eligible for funding in the 2025 round.

Applications from racialized individuals/groups from the following are welcomed:

- A. First Nations, Métis, or Inuit / Indigenous
- B. Black / African
- C. 2SLGBTQ+
- D. With disabilities
- E. Racialized / Mixed race
- F. Refugee, immigrant, or non-status
- G. Living on low incomes
- H. Older/senior
- I. Youth

Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) is committed to being accountable to the communities it serves. Successful and unsuccessful applicants are invited to share their feedback on the grant process with the goal of community building, learning, responsibility, and accountability. Through this discussion, VSW hopes to learn more about the impact of this grant, including the ways in which the organization can adapt to meet community needs.

## What Projects/Initiatives are Eligible for Funding?

As this grant is intended to support grassroots organizing and new/ongoing community initiatives. Applications are accepted from individuals or small groups.

Vancouver Status of Women encourages applications that centre grassroots organising focused on resisting and responding to the multiple genocides currently taking place in the world including Falastine, Lebanon, Sudan, Congo, Kashmir as well as initiatives that focus on building community and the wellbeing of Indigenous, Black, racialised cis/trans women and gender diverse individuals on Turtle Island. We also look forward to supporting projects and initiatives that directly challenge Western imperialism including the sovereignty of Cuba and Venezuela.

Listed below is a sample of projects/initiatives that could be considered for funding. **This list is non-exhaustive, and merely reflects the potential initiatives that would be considered for this grant. All applicants that believe their project fits within the VSW mandate are encouraged to apply.**

- Seed funding for a small business
- Academic mentorship and empowerment of racialized youth
- Translation of health resources into non-official languages of Canada
- Developing a community network to support international students
- Organizing a conference on environmental racism / justice
- Initiatives aimed at improving community health and disability justice
- Healthy relationship programming for teens of all genders
- Seed funding for a community garden to address food insecurity
- Establishing a daycare for low-income parents
- Community art project for queer / trans seniors

## Ineligibility Criteria

- Projects based outside of Canada.
- Federal, provincial, or municipal government agencies and school boards.
- Activities associated with a political party or elections.
- Funding requests for retirement of debts or budget deficits.
- Academic or university research.
- Scholarships or bursaries for further education.
- **Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

To draft your answers, a copy of the questions in the grant application can be found [here](#). Only applications submitted through this [Google Form](#) will be considered.

**Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.**

### Section 1.

- Complete applicant information.
- Applicant self-identifies (ensure you are eligible for this grant).
- Information for secondary contact, if applicable.

### Section 2.

- Provide an overview of the project/initiative.
- Who is/are the organizer(s) of this project? What skills and lived experiences do they bring to this project?
- What are the key objectives and intended impacts of your project?
- What community(ies) is this project designed for? Who are the participants and how does this project meet their needs?
- Indicate which funding stream this application is for.

- Provide a detailed budget proposal.
- Declare other prospective and confirmed sources of funding.
- Provide an intended timeline for this project, including the deadlines for deliverables.
- Are there any other details you would like to provide regarding your project that was not addressed by the questions above? Attach multimedia files if desired.

Section 3.

- Review application and confirm submission.

## CONTACT

For questions and concerns not resolved by these guidelines, the Vancouver Status of Women Coordinating Collective can be reached by email at [yvswomencentre@gmail.com](mailto:yvswomencentre@gmail.com). This email is checked weekly, so ensure there is sufficient time allocated to receiving a response.