

2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund – FAQs

1. What is the purpose of the 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund?

The 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund will provide one-time funding to eligible non-profit and community-based organizations to strengthen organizational capacity and support community-led projects that advance selected Safer Together collaborative actions. Through investments aligned with Safer Together, the funding will help organizations build the skills, systems, partnerships, and capacity needed to respond to community safety and wellbeing needs.

Eligible projects must align with one of the priority Safer Together collaborative actions identified for this funding call. Applicants should select the one collaborative action that best reflects the primary purpose of their project.

2. How does this funding align with Safer Together?

This funding supports Safer Together by investing in community-based capacity that contributes to safer, more connected, and more supportive communities. Eligible projects must align with one selected Safer Together collaborative action identified for this funding call and should demonstrate how the project strengthens social connection, community belonging, wellbeing, resilience, coordinated partnerships, or organizational capacity to respond to local safety and wellbeing needs. Safer Together priorities and collaborative actions can be reviewed here: <https://www.calgary.ca/major-projects/community-safety/safer-together.html>

3. How does this funding align with Indigenous priorities?

The funding supports Indigenous-led and Indigenous-serving projects that strengthen community capacity, cultural connection, wellbeing, and Truth and Reconciliation initiatives. Projects may build organizational readiness, strengthen Indigenous community priorities, support culturally grounded approaches, or improve access and participation for Indigenous communities.

4. How is this fund relevant for organizations receiving Seed of Change funding?

Seeds of Change funding is expected to end in 2027 and this funding opportunity is intended to help community organizations build sustainability around existing work because.

Organizations are encouraged to assess how their existing organizational capacity, previously developed tools, training modules, and knowledge from current or prior Seeds of Change projects could transfer to the new funding opportunity.

5. What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Eligible projects are clearly defined, one-time capacity-building projects that strengthen an organization's ability to contribute to community safety and wellbeing for Calgarians. Examples may include governance and strategic planning, digital systems improvements, data and evaluation tools, staff and volunteer development, community engagement, knowledge sharing on Truth & Reconciliation, equity, partnership development, and financial readiness projects. Applicants must explain how the proposed project supports the fund's purpose and aligns with the one Safer Together collaborative action selected in their application.

6. What are some examples of eligible projects?

Examples of neighbourhood connections include researching or engaging communities to identify needs, evaluating existing neighborhood work, and developing tools, partnerships, or coordination processes.

Emotional well-being projects could, for example, support staff who work with traumatized community members through resilience workshops, knowledge sharing, or collaboration with community organizations to identify resources for staff and participants. Projects could also create reusable systems or workshops that continue supporting staff, volunteers, and other users beyond the one-time funding period. Emotional well-being projects could also include sharing information about community resources, Indigenous-led service capacity building, and developing tools, training resources, or engagement approaches for organizations and partner groups.

Eligible domestic and gender-based violence prevention projects could potentially include staff and volunteer training, research on barriers and prevention opportunities, and referral pathways grounded in equity, cultural safety, and trauma-informed approaches.

A community engagement framework could be developed as an eligible one-time capacity-building project if it produces a reusable resource, such as a toolkit, approach, or curriculum. The project could include a workshop or engagement session with another organization or community members, align with equity, anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation principles, or use funding to hire a consultant to help create the resource.

Applicants are not limited to these examples and could propose projects responding to their own community needs.

7. How can organizations advance the Safer Together guiding principles of Equity, Truth & Reconciliation, and Anti-Racism through the one-time project?

Organizations can advance equity, Truth & Reconciliation, and anti-racism by embedding equitable and anti-racist practices into policies, procedures, governance, service approaches, hiring, engagement, and decision-making.

Eligible projects may help advance Safer Together priorities by reducing barriers, improving access, strengthening culturally responsive practice, and creating conditions where equity-deserving communities can participate, lead, and thrive.

8. How can organizations support Truth and Reconciliation efforts?

Organizations can support Truth and Reconciliation by strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities, incorporating Indigenous knowledge and community priorities in respectful ways, building cultural learning and organizational readiness, and supporting Indigenous-led or Indigenous-serving projects. `

9. How much total funding is available through the 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund?

Approximately \$2.4 million is available through this funding call. Eligible organizations can apply for up to \$80,000 for one clearly defined, one-time project. Projects must align with the fund's purpose and the one Safer Together collaborative action selected in the application. Where applicable, projects should also support Indigenous community priorities, Indigenous inclusion, Truth and Reconciliation, equity, and anti-racism through community-led or Indigenous-informed approaches.

10. Can an organization apply under more than one collaborative action?

Each organization may submit one application for one project. Applicants must select one Safer Together collaborative action that best reflects the primary purpose of the project. If a project connects to more than one area, the application should focus on the strongest and most relevant alignment.

11. What is the maximum funding amount per organization?

Organizations can apply for up to \$80,000 for a clearly defined, one-time project that aligns with the fund's purpose and the one Safer Together collaborative action selected in the application. Requests over \$80,000 will be considered ineligible.

12. Is there a minimum funding request?

No. There is no minimum funding request. Applicants may request any amount up to the maximum funding limit of \$80,000.

13. Can the total project cost be more than \$80,000?

Yes. The total project cost may be more than \$80,000. However, the amount requested from this fund cannot exceed \$80,000. Applicants must clearly identify any additional funding sources that will support project expenses above this limit. The application review process is competitive, and the City could potentially provide partial funding based on application strength and alignment with the funding goals.

14. What is the difference between a project and a program?

A project has a clear beginning and end, defined activities, and specific deliverables. A program is an ongoing service or activity delivered by an organization. Capacity-building funding is intended for projects, not ongoing programs.

Eligible work is intended to strengthen the capacity of members and member organizations to deliver services, create resources, or support community members; client management, direct interventions, and staff recruitment extending beyond the project timeline are not eligible through this fund.

15. Are collaborative projects permitted?

Yes, collaborative projects are permitted, as long as only one organization serves as the main applicant, receives the funding, and is responsible for the project delivery and reporting.

Applicants should clearly describe each collaborating organization's role in the project, including the activities or expenses they are responsible for.

16. How should applicants show project-related expenses for collaborating organizations in the budget?

Applicants are advised to describe fund transfers to collaborating organizations as project-related expenses. For example, a one-time consultant hired by a collaborating organization could be listed as a project consultant expense with the amount and the relevant project activity.

17. Can funding be used for staff wages or consultant fees?

Yes. Staff wages or consultant fees may be eligible if they are directly tied to completing the proposed one-time project. Funding cannot be used to create or sustain permanent positions beyond the approved funding term.

18. Are administrative or overhead costs eligible?

Administrative costs may be included when they are reasonable, directly related to the project, and do not exceed 15% of the funding request. General operating costs that are not tied to the project are not eligible.

19. Are technology costs eligible?

Yes. Technology costs such as hardware, software, database improvements, or system upgrades may be eligible if they directly support the capacity-building project. Applicants should explain how the technology will strengthen organizational systems, improve service readiness, support data collection, or improve the organization's ability to respond to community needs.

20. Are capital projects, renovations, land, or major asset purchases eligible?

No. Capital projects, facility construction, renovations, land purchases, major asset purchases, and similar expenses are outside the scope of this funding call.

21. Are direct client support expenses eligible?

No, direct client support expenses such as cash, food, and shelter, etc., are not eligible. However, honoraria for participants may be considered differently if they are provided to compensate members or participants for their time and contribution to a project-related focus group. Other project expenses, such as supplies, travel, and parking, are also eligible.

22. Are food and refreshments eligible expenses?

No, food, refreshments, and other perishable items are not eligible expenses.

23. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants must be registered/incorporated non-profit organizations that operate within Calgary city limits and have an elected volunteer Board of Directors. Organizations must be registered under one of the following:

- The Alberta Societies Act;
- The Alberta Companies Act;
- The Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act; or
- The Canada Business Corporations Act.

Community-led organizations, including smaller organizations, are encouraged to apply. These organizations may include those with:

- an annual operating budget of less than \$250,000
- and/or four or fewer full-time equivalent staff positions

Organizations must be in good standing with The City of Calgary. Organizations with a previous, or existing, funding agreement must have fulfilled all reporting and other contractual requirements or have no other conditions that would disqualify them from additional funding.

24. Can an organization with an operating budget exceeding \$250,000 apply for this funding?

Yes. Organizations with operating budgets above \$250,000 may apply if they meet the organizational, application, and project eligibility criteria. The funding call is intended to improve access for community-based and smaller organizations, but larger organizations may also be eligible where the project aligns with the funding objectives.

25. Can a nonprofit with multiple locations across Alberta apply for a project specific to its Calgary operations?

Yes. Non-profit organizations with multiple locations outside of Calgary may apply if the proposed project is specific to Calgary operations and benefits Calgary communities.

26. Can organizations that receive other City funding apply?

Yes. Organizations receiving other City funding may apply if the proposed project is distinct from existing funded work, meets the eligibility criteria, and does not duplicate activities already funded through another agreement.

27. Can a previously funded organization apply again?

Yes. Organizations that previously received capacity-building funding may apply for a different project, provided they have met all reporting and contractual requirements, and the new project meets the eligibility criteria.

28. Can an organization submit more than one application?

No. Only one application may be submitted per organization. Applicants should submit one application for one project.

29. What documents are required with the application?

Applicants should ensure their organization profile in FIMS is up to date and upload the following required documents:

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Organizational Bylaws

- List of current Board of Directors

If you are unsure what to submit, or you do not have an annual return, please contact us via email: fundingproposals@calgary.ca.

30. Can organizations submit Articles of Association instead of bylaws?

Yes. Organizations registered under the Companies Act are not required to have bylaws, but they do require Articles of Association, which serve a similar purpose. Articles of Association will be accepted in place of bylaws for these organizations.

31. Do I need a business license to register in FIMS?

No. A business license is not strictly required to register in FIMS. However, organizations need a business MyID account and a business ID number to access FIMS. For more information on registering for FIMS, visit <https://calgary.ca/fims>.

32. What if an organization experiences barriers accessing FIMS?

Organizations should contact fundingproposals@calgary.ca as early as possible if they experience barriers accessing FIMS or submitting an application. The City will provide guidance where possible, but applicants remain responsible for submitting complete applications by the deadline.

33. How should organizations handle financial reporting requirements?

Funded organizations are required to submit project financials for the funded project. These financials do not need to be audited, but they must show project revenues and expenses and be signed by two officers of the organization with signing authority, as outlined in the funding agreement.

34. What insurance is required if an application is successful?

Successful applicants will be required to obtain adequate liability insurance, including Commercial General Liability insurance of at least \$2 million, with The City of Calgary listed as an additional insured. Insurance costs may be included in the project budget if they are required for the funded project.

35. Will funded organizations need to provide project and financial reports?

Yes. Funded organizations will be required to complete a project-end report and a financial report. The reports are due April 1, 2028.

Project-end Report

Successful applicants will need to complete a project-end report including details on project activities, outputs, outcomes, partnerships, success stories, use of funds, and community impact. Applicants will be asked to describe how the project contributed to at least one Safer Together priority and the selected Safer Together collaborative action identified in their application.

Financial Reporting

To ensure funds are expended as approved, organizations must report on how funds were utilized in the following ways. Failure to meet reporting requirements may result in termination of the funding agreement and impact future funding eligibility.

- Submit an unaudited project financial statement by April 1, 2028. This must include project revenues and expenses and be signed by two officers of the organization with signing authority.

Audited organizational financial statements are not required for this funding call. Failure to meet reporting requirements may result in termination of the funding agreement and may affect future funding eligibility.

36. When must projects be completed?

Projects must be completed and all approved funds must be spent by December 31, 2027. Applicants should provide a realistic timeline and ensure that all activities and spending can be completed by the deadline identified in the funding agreement. An eligible one-time project needs a defined start date, end date, specific activities, and a deliverable-to-outcome connection, with completion required by December 31, 2027.

37. How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed based on eligibility, alignment with the fund's purpose and selected Safer Together collaborative action, project design, intended outcomes, budget clarity, organizational context, and the applicant's ability to complete the project within the funding timeline.

38. Are incomplete or late applications assessed?

No. Incomplete applications will not be assessed. Late applications will also not be accepted unless an extension is approved at least two business days before the application deadline.

39. When will applicants be notified?

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by late November to early December 2026.

40. What happens after approval?

Successful applicants may be asked to revise and resubmit their funding application in FIMS if the approved amount differs from the amount requested. If returned for revisions, applications must be resubmitted within three business days. Successful applicants will also receive a funding agreement that must be signed and returned with documentation of adequate liability insurance. Detailed reporting requirements will be provided with the funding agreement.

41. What if my application is not successful?

Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback on why the application was not successful and what could be done differently in the future. Requests for feedback should be sent to fundingproposals@calgary.ca.

42. Who can applicants contact with questions?

Applicants can contact fundingproposals@calgary.ca for questions about eligibility, project fit, FIMS access, required documents, or application requirements.

43. Is the fund intended to support capacity building within the applicant organization specifically, or should a project be aimed at capacity building more broadly across the sector?

The 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund supports organizations in building their own capacity to advance the selected Safer Together collaborative action through a one-time project. Collaborative projects may be eligible for funding if they are submitted by only one organization, demonstrate alignment with the fund's intent, and focus on

strengthening knowledge, practices, and capacity.

44. Can the application for the proposed project include multiple activities?

A clear one-time capacity-building project that advances a single Safer Together collaborative action may include multiple project-specific activities.

45. Are there webinars, office hours, or opportunities to speak to a staff member to ensure our application is on the right track and our project aligns well with the Safer Together priorities?

Several resources are available on the Funding Proposals webpage, including the Applicant Guide, application template, and budget template. There is also a pre-recorded information session, and we encourage all applicants to review it. Any further questions can be sent by email at fundingproposals@calgary.ca

46. Are religious organizations eligible to apply to the fund?

To be eligible for the 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund, organizations must be registered under one of the following acts:

- The Alberta Societies Act;
- The Alberta Companies Act;
- The Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act; or
- The Canada Business Corporations Act.

47. Are recurring classes, workshops, support groups, or other services delivered on a one-time basis eligible for funding?

These activities would be considered programs rather than one-time projects and would not be eligible for funding. In contrast, a project that develops a new curriculum, creates a training toolkit, establishes a partnership framework, develops policies and procedures, implements a new data collection system, or creates resources that can be used long after the funding period would be more consistent with a capacity-building approach.

When framing the project, focus on:

- How it creates lasting organizational capacity beyond the funding period.
- How it strengthens your organization's ability to advance one specific Safer Together collaborative action.
- How equity, anti-racism, and Truth and Reconciliation are embedded in the project's design, partnerships, policies, and organizational practices.

A strong application demonstrates that the project leaves behind sustainable tools, knowledge, relationships, or systems that improve the organization's long-term contribution to community safety and wellbeing. If the primary activity is the ongoing delivery of classes or services, it would likely be considered a program and will not be eligible for this funding.

If the primary activity is creating resources, systems, partnerships, or organizational improvements that enable future delivery and impact, it is more likely to align with the intent of a one-time capacity-building project.

48. Can an established organization and a grassroots organization submit a joint Capacity Building application, with the established organization receiving funding? If so, can the grassroots organization also submit a separate application for other capacity-building needs? Would a mentorship initiative between the two organizations be eligible for funding?

Applications for the 2026 Safer Together Capacity Building Fund must be submitted by a single eligible organization. Joint applications with multiple co-applicants are not eligible.

The established organization could apply for funding to lead a one-time mentorship project that supports a grassroots organization in strengthening its administrative capacity. If approved, the lead organization would receive and manage the funding and be responsible for project delivery and reporting.

This type of mentorship initiative could be considered eligible provided it aligns with one of the three eligible Safer Together collaborative actions, incorporates equity, Truth and Reconciliation, and anti-racism considerations, and meets all other fund requirements. As this is a unique project concept, applicant should clearly demonstrate how the mentorship activities will build capacity and contribute to the selected collaborative action.

With respect to the grassroots organization's ability to apply separately, participation in the mentorship project would not prevent them from submitting their own application to the Capacity Building Fund. If they are an eligible applicant, they may submit a separate stand-alone project that meets the fund criteria. Each application would be assessed independently against the fund requirements and evaluation criteria.