

Provincial Health Services Authority COVID-19 Relief Funding for Community-Based Organizations - Guidelines 2020/21

Total amount available: \$700,000

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) is offering one-time funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) in British Columbia to support their response to COVID-19. PHSA acknowledges that CBOs face various challenges to offering programming and services during a pandemic. This funding is intended to respond to these challenges and support the CBO sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 Relief Funding is meant to support organizations who serve people who are at increased risk during a pandemic, including people who are unsheltered, people who use drugs, Indigenous people, other racialized people and communities, and others.

Some examples of eligible relief fund expenses include:

- Providing funds for safer smoking supplies that are not provincially funded (i.e. crack and meth pipes)
- Providing funds for personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e. face and eye protection, gloves, respiratory protection)
- Increasing food security for people who usually pay with cash, who rely on food banks, etc.
- Other – you tell us what your organization needs!

Guidelines:

- Funds are for fiscal year 2020/21
- The maximum amount awarded per application is \$20,000
- Funding must not be used for rent, capital expenses or activities not related to COVID-19 relief
- Organizations should draw from existing staffing if possible. Funding can be used to enhance staffing related to delivering COVID-19 relief only if required. Staffing budget should not exceed 5% of total application
 - For example, an organization may need staffing funds to extend their food program hours to the weekend
- The applicant must be a [Pacific AIDS Network \(PAN\) member organizations](#) or member of the PAN/PHSA Collective Impact Network (CIN)
 - Partnership with organizations outside of the PAN membership and CIN are encouraged. For example, a PAN member organization could include a request for 1000 crack pipes on behalf of a harm reduction site
 - If your organization is not part of the PAN network, please see the list of [current members](#) to determine who you may be able to partner with
 - It is the responsibility of organizations to facilitate partnerships
- Funding decisions will be communicated by **June 26, 2020**
- Any questions about the process should be directed to Lauren.Allan@bccdc.ca

Safer Smoking Supplies

- Organizations seeking funds for safer smoking supplies must have the ability distribute these supplies
- PHSA will purchase safer smoking supplies directly through the supplier on behalf of all successful applicants. Safer smoking supplies refer to crack and meth pipes. Other harm reduction supplies are available at no cost through the [BCCDC Harm Reduction Supply program](#)
- See the Safer Smoking Supply Order Form for prices

Personal Protective Equipment

- PHSA recognizes that there are currently barriers to obtaining PPE in the province. Organizations applying for PPE should indicate if they have an existing way of order it. Otherwise, PHSA has identified a way for organizations to order PPE through a central supplier
- An available PPE inventory list will be available on the [PAN COVID-19 Relief Funding webpage](#). See this list for items and prices
- PPE for frontline staff will be prioritized over PPE for community distribution
- [WorkSafeBC](#) has directions for various sectors around creating a Safe Work Plan

Food Security

- PHSA recognizes that access to food during the COVID-19 pandemic may be challenging for people who typically use cash, who rely on food banks and/or who are otherwise food insecure
- An eligible expense for this funding is digital payment methods for people to purchase food (e.g. gift cards)

Other

- Access to safer smoking supplies, PPE and food has consistently been flagged as a challenge. Connecting people to safer supply overall is also an ongoing issue. There may be other ways that financial relief could benefit your organization, your members/clients and your communities. Please use “other” category to apply for other types of relief

Deadlines:

- Applications due: June 19, 2020
- Funding decisions communicated: June 26, 2020

Application and Review Process:

Applications

- Applications must be submitted to lauren.allan@bccdc.ca by **June 19, 2020**
- Applications must be submitted using the application template

Evaluation of Applications

- Applications will be reviewed by at least four people, including two people with lived or living experience
- Applications are considered confidential and all reviewers will be required to sign a confidentiality form
- Applications will be evaluated using the following principles:
 - Equity amongst population groups
 - Geographic coverage
 - Meaningful involvement of people with lived and living experience, utilizing peer engagement best practices
 - Other existing support (i.e. if regional health authority is also providing)
 - Collaboration and number of people reached
 - Impact on protection of immediate wellbeing