



## Community Safety and Well-Being Fund: Application Guidelines

### Background

The Regional Municipality of Durham Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan was adopted by Durham Regional Council on November 26, 2025, in accordance with legislative amendments to the [Community Safety and Policing Act](#). The goal of the CSWB Plan is to support safety and a strong sense of belonging among residents of Durham Region; and address needs related to education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression. The CSWB Plan establishes a collaborative framework for integrated service delivery, working with community partners to encourage an upstream approach in addressing the priority risk factors to community safety and well-being in Durham Region.

For more information, visit the [CSWB Information Hub](#).

### About the CSWB Fund

Durham Region recognizes that not-for-profit groups and other community partners, including emerging (small, grassroots) and youth-led groups, are uniquely positioned to address complex community safety and well-being challenges, given their nuanced understanding of community needs and expertise delivering services to specific populations. The goal of the CSWB Fund is to assist not-for-profit groups and other community partners in developing and implementing projects that identify and respond to the needs of residents of Durham Region.

The CSWB Fund supports the implementation of Durham Region's CSWB Plan and contributes to the objectives found in the [Region of Durham 2025–2035 Strategic Plan](#) under Direction 1: Connected and Vibrant Communities, Direction 3: Healthy People, Caring Communities, and Direction 5: Strong Relationships.

### CSWB Fund

The CSWB Fund supports the development and implementation of community-based violence prevention and intervention initiatives. The program addresses community violence and youth justice involvement by supporting sector resilience, bridging service gaps, and encouraging resident engagement and leadership development.

## Priority areas and populations

The priority populations for this grant include justice-involved, street-and-gang-involved, and gang-associated youth residing in Durham Region priority neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup> and/or geographies with a high number of critical violent incidents. The grant also supports children and youth experiencing one or more risk factors for involvement in serious violence and crime<sup>2</sup> including, but not limited to, those that are residing in Durham Region priority neighbourhoods and/or geographies with a high number of critical violent incident. Funded initiatives will utilize trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches to promote positive youth and community development.

## Funding streams

### Stream One: Directive Intervention Fund

This stream supports established youth serving community organizations in delivering services that address the needs of children and youth experiencing one or more risk factors for involvement in serious violence and crime. Funded initiatives will utilize trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches to promote positive youth and community development.

**Applications open:** April 27, 2026, at 9 a.m.

**Applications close:** May 22, 2026, at 5 p.m.

**Program period:** June to December 2026

**Notice of decision:** Within 30 days after application is submitted

**Amount:** Up to \$150,000 per calendar year, subject to program performance.

Applicants must request only the funds needed within eligible cost categories to deliver the project.

**Eligibility:** Youth-serving non-profit organizations in Durham Region with revenues of \$500,000 or more are eligible to apply.

### Priority projects include, but are not limited to:

- Initiatives that directly address and intersect with youth engaged in or exiting the criminal justice system, including those previously or actively involved with street or gang level violence.
- Programming to improve access to protective factors, such as equitable and sufficient access to community services, supports, programming, opportunities and employment, family support, adequate and appropriate physical and mental health care, positive relationships with mentors and peers.

<sup>1</sup>Durham Region priority neighbourhoods are Downtown Ajax, Downtown Whitby, Lakeview – Oshawa, Gibb West – Oshawa, Downtown Oshawa, Central Park – Oshawa, Beatrice North – Oshawa. For more information, see: [Health Neighbourhoods - Region of Durham](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Youth gang involvement: What are the risk factors? Public Safety Canada](#).

## Guidelines for the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund

- Examples include:
  - Programming that directly addresses and intersects with youth engaged or exiting the criminal justice system because of street-or-gang-level violence.
  - Youth employment and/or life skills-based programming.
  - Youth employment services for high school students.
  - Youth hubs or safe spaces.
  - Youth transition programming.
  - Youth programming with outreach components.
  - Other forms of child, youth, and family programming that reduce or eliminate systemic barriers, promote and improve youth safety and well-being.

### **Stream Two: Community Strengthening Fund**

This fund supports youth-serving non-profit organizations in Durham Region to build capacity and deliver initiatives for the purpose of promoting youth safety and well-being.

Priority projects will work to improve equitable access to services, programs, opportunities, especially for groups and locations who face barriers (including access/awareness) and intersecting risk factors. Applications should highlight how the proposed initiative will provide culturally responsive supports, involve people with lived experience, and establish inclusive, welcoming and user-friendly service experiences.

**Applications open:** April 27, 2026, 9 a.m.

**Applications close:** May 22, 2026, at 5 p.m.

**Program Period:** June to December 2026

**Notice of decision:** Within 30 days after application is submitted

**Fund Amount:** Maximum of \$25,000 per project

#### **Priority projects include, but are not limited to:**

- Organizational capacity-strengthening (e.g., database development, office supplies and equipment).
- Training for staff and volunteers to support program operations and delivery (e.g., Mental Health First Aid training, data management and record-keeping, financial management, project management, program evaluation and impact assessment).
- Strengthening intergenerational and peer support networks.
- Community-based youth mental health initiatives.
- Education and awareness activities.
- Eliminating user fees for youth seeking access to protective services, programs and opportunities (e.g., no-cost summer or winter break camp, life skill or employment training, legal advice, counselling).

- Other forms of child, youth, and family programming that reduce or eliminate systemic barriers, promote and improve youth safety and well-being.

### **Stream Three: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Fund**

This fund supports organizations' ongoing initiatives that address intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender-based violence (GBV) through activities including prevention, intervention, survivor support and systemic change. The fund aligns with the Region of Durham's declaration of IPV as an epidemic.

**Applications open:** April 27, 2026, 9 a.m.

**Program Period:** June to December 2026

**Applications close:** May 22, 2026, at 5 p.m.

**Notice of Decision:** Within 30 days after application is submitted.

**Amount:** Maximum of \$20,000 per project.

**Eligibility:** GBV responding agencies and non-profit organizations who provide supports and services to persons experiencing IPV and GBV in Durham Region. Priority will be given to organizations who submit initiatives that advance the Regional Council approved [GBV and IPV Action Plan](#), including:

- Public education and awareness campaigns/initiatives.
- Providing information, training, and tools to front-line staff/service providers.
- Increasing prevention programming to address harmful attitudes and behaviours and help children, youth and young adults learn how to foster healthy relationships.
- Engaging boys, male youth, and men in IPV and GBV awareness, education and allyship strategies.
- Strengthening focused outreach with diverse and priority populations (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQI+, Black and racialized women, newcomers/immigrants/refugees, women with disabilities, senior women, young women/girls/youth, women living in rural and remote communities, etc.) in collaboration with community organizations and leaders.
- Building the capacity of culturally responsive organizations and community leaders to address intersectional needs, increase awareness of the warning signs of GBV and IPV, and connect individuals to available services/supports.

### **General eligibility and sustainability**

A diversity, equity and inclusion lens will be used to consider how funding allocations will be tied to communities and their needs, particularly the needs of youth. Applications may support new or existing initiatives. All applicants to the CSWB Fund must first meet the general eligibility requirements as outlined in this document. Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee that applicants will receive funding.

Specific intent and consideration will be given to initiatives that address the intersecting needs of youth within equity-deserving groups, including but not limited to the following:

- Indigenous Peoples.
- Black and other racialized populations.
- Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer (or questioning) and intersex (2SLGBTQI+) communities.
- Newcomers.
- People living with disabilities.
- Residents living with low income.

### **Eligibility for organizations**

- The organization shall be located in the Region of Durham.
- The services provided by the organization shall be targeted to the residents of the Region of Durham, with the exception of services being delivered by off-reserve Indigenous-led organizations that yield direct benefits for the Indigenous communities of the Region of Durham.
- It is further understood that applications from Indigenous-led organizations may be prioritized to receive funding.
- The organization must be in good financial standing with the Region of Durham and must not be in default of the terms and conditions of any agreements, including any previous community investment agreements, with any department of the Region of Durham. This includes any outstanding reporting requirements of previous investment agreements.
- The organization must operate in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- The organization shall demonstrate an understanding of risk factors identified in the Region of Durham's CSWB Plan.
- The organization demonstrates the ability to build on existing community strengths, such as volunteers, and have collaborative relationships and referral pathways with other community and health service providers in Durham Region.
- The organization has the willingness to work in close collaboration with the Region of Durham on the implementation of the initiative.
- The organization must have the ability to commit to delivering the project in a timely and responsive manner.
- The organization must hold and provide evidence of effective financial and program management experience.
- The organization must be able to demonstrate the ability to manage the service (administrative oversight, processes and procedures, including budget management and reporting, and capacity to offer oversight to staff/volunteers, including training and supervision).

## Guidelines for the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund

- The organization shall submit a completed application and any supplementary documents required to determine eligibility. Failure to provide necessary documentation by the deadline may result in disqualification.
- The organization shall verify that all information included in the application is true, and the application must be signed by an authorized signature of the organization.
- The organization shall not use project funds for the purpose of deficit reduction.

### **Applicants to Stream One: Direct Intervention Fund:**

- Must have a proven track record of service delivery and client engagement within Durham Region.
- Organizations with revenues greater than \$500,000 are eligible to apply.
- Successful applicant(s) will be required to submit two of their most recent fiscal years of audited financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant.
- Must be incorporated as a non-profit organization and registered as a charity under the Canada Income Tax Act.
- Must be governed by a volunteer board of directors that is democratically elected, active and representative of the community it serves. The board must have a minimum of three members not related by blood or marriage.

### **Applicants to Stream Two: Community Strengthening Fund:**

- Demonstrate new but effective organizational impact to parts of the Region of Durham.
- Youth-serving non-profits in Durham Region are eligible to apply.
- Successful applicant(s) with revenues between \$100,000 to \$499,999.99 will be required to submit two of their most recent fiscal years' financial statements that have been subjected to a review engagement by a licensed public accountant.
- Successful applicant(s) with revenues less than \$100,000 will be required to submit internally prepared financial statements that include a statement of revenues and expenses and a balance sheet for the two most recent fiscal years. The statement must be verified as accurate by two signing officers of the organization.
- Must be incorporated as a non-profit organization and be registered as a charity under the Canada Income Tax Act (with or without charitable status) or unincorporated community organizations may apply under financial sponsorship of a registered charitable organizations that meets all eligibility criteria.
- Must be governed by a volunteer board of directors that is democratically elected, active and representative of the community it serves. The board must have a minimum of three members not related by blood or marriage.

**Applicants to Stream Three: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Fund:**

- Must have a proven track record of service delivery and client engagement in Region of Durham.
- Gender Based Violence responding agencies and non-profit organizations that provide supports and services to persons experiencing IPV and GBV in Durham Region are eligible to apply.
- Successful applicant(s) with revenues greater than \$500,000 will be required to submit two of their most recent fiscal years of audited financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant.
- Successful applicant(s) with revenues between \$100,000 to \$499,999.99 will be required to submit to of their most recent fiscal years' financial statements that have been subjected to a review engagement by a licensed public accountant.
- Successful applicant(s) with revenues less than \$100,000 will be required to submit internally prepared financial statements that include a statement of revenues and expenses and a balance sheet for the two most recent fiscal years. The statement must be verified as accurate by two signing officers of the organization.
- Must be incorporated as a non-profit organization and be registered as a charity under the Canada Income Tax Act.
- Must be governed by a volunteer board of directors that is democratically elected, active and representative of the community it serves. The board must have a minimum of three members not related by blood or marriage.

**Eligible use of funds**

Eligibility with respect to the use of funds will be based on the fund parameters set out by the Region of Durham and will aim to be flexible and responsive to community needs. Please view tabs three and four of the provided budget sheet for full list of eligible and ineligible expenditures.

Examples of the eligible use of funds for project activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Salaries and wages.
- Equipment rental.
- Program supplies (e.g., food, supplies).
- Promotion and publicity (e.g., flyers, posters).
- Purchased services (e.g., web design, translation, catering, printing).
- Accessibility supports (e.g., American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation).
- Administrative costs related or required for the delivery of your project (e.g. partial rent for office space, partial staff cell phone costs, photocopies).

## Guidelines for the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund

- Small capital cost expenses (e.g., equipment to support virtual activities).
- Space rental (not including space rental for pre-existing programs).
- Transportation to and from project activities by youth leaders, participants, staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer honorarium and expenses.
- Caretaking costs for participants and volunteers to support participation in project activities (e.g., for children, dependents).

### **Ineligible use of funds**

Examples of the ineligible use of funds includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- Debt repayment or deficit funding.
- Fundraising events.
- Salaries and wages that exceed 60 per cent of the total project value.
- Overrepresented professional services and consulting costs (organizations are required to deliver programming in kind to the best of their ability).
- High-liability activities (e.g., fireworks).
- Projects and activities outside of Durham Region.
- Amortization.
- Interest charges or costs of borrowing.
- Core or ongoing operating expenses.
- Goods and services that, in the opinion of the Government of Canada, are normally provided by the First Nation community or by the federal, provincial, territorial or local municipal government.

### **CSWB Fund application instructions**

Applicants must submit the following supporting documents to [cswb@durham.ca](mailto:cswb@durham.ca) by the application deadline.

1. Grant application form
2. Budget sheet
3. Year-to-date financial (YTD) statements

In addition to the above, applicants to the CSWB Fund Program must submit YTD financial statements with their applications. The following additional documents must be submitted depending on the size of the applicant organization:

- Agencies with a revenue greater than \$500,000 must submit the two most recent years of audited financial statements.
- Agencies with a revenue between \$100,000 to \$499,999.99 must submit the two most recent fiscal years' financial statements that have been subjected to a review engagement by a licensed public accountant.

## Guidelines for the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund

- Agencies with a revenue less than \$100,000 must submit internally prepared financial statements that include a statement of revenues and expenses and a balance sheet for the two most recent fiscal years. The statement must be verified as accurate by two signing officers of the organization.
- All agencies must also submit YTD financial statements.

### **Selection process**

An application review committee composed of Region of Durham staff will support the application review processes using an equity framework. Committee members will indicate any conflict of interest with an applicant or project. Those with a declared conflict of interest will not participate in the assessment or the discussion of those applications or may be removed from the committee. Final grant decisions will be made in accordance with the Region of Durham's terms and conditions.

Applicants will be notified of the selection results through direct communication and posting on relevant Durham Region websites.

### **Review criteria**

1. Project quality and relevance (30 per cent)
2. Anticipated impact of the project (25 per cent)
3. Budget and financial feasibility (20 per cent)
4. Organizational capacity (25 per cent)

### **Durham Region logo use and communications protocol**

Communications products designed by organizations that wish to include the Durham Region logo must be submitted to the Region of Durham for approval. Organizations must submit a Use of Logo form and a sample of the proposed material, including the exact placement of the logo, to the CSWB Secretariat. The CSWB Secretariat will liaise with the Region of Durham's Communications and Engagement Division to assess, review and approve all communications materials.

### **Region of Durham right to revise**

The Region of Durham reserves the right to:

- Revise the call for application schedule.
- Revise the call for applications and/or to issue amendments to the call for applications.
- Not award the full amount of the funding requested.
- Reject, cancel or reissue the call for applications in whole or in part, without penalty, before an agreement is executed, if it is in the Region of Durham's best interests.

### **No Region of Durham obligation**

This call for applications does not commit the Region of Durham to select an application, enter negotiations, or award an agreement. The Region of Durham reserves the right to reject all applications or end the process at any time.

### **No contract**

By applying and participating in the process as outlined in the call for applications, applicants expressly agree that no contract for any kind is formed under, or arises from, this call for applications until a formal funding agreement is signed.

### **Funding agreements**

Grant recipients will sign a written agreement, with the Regional Municipality of Durham. The agreement will outline funding conditions such as expected results, timelines, reporting requirements, evaluation criteria, payment schedule, clear provisions for use of funds or program changes, risk assessment and monitoring, dispute resolution, contract termination and the obligations of both parties.

### **Conflict of interest**

Applicants must disclose in their application any potential, actual or perceived conflicts of interest and any business relationships with the Region of Durham, its elected or appointed officials, representatives, employees, funded agencies, or funders.

A Relationship of Close Proximity is defined as a relationship between any employee, director, officer or volunteer of the applicant(s) and the Region of Durham where they are, or have been, a director, a family member, a past employee, or a known future employee. The Region of Durham may rely on this disclosure.

### **Confidentiality**

All submissions will be held in confidence by the Region of Durham unless otherwise required by law. The Region of Durham is subject to the Ontario [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(MFIPPA\)](#). Applicants acknowledge that the terms of the call for applications or of any resulting funding agreement entered into between an applicant and the Region of Durham pursuant to this call for applications, including the name of the applicant, the consideration, term and details of the agreement, may be subject to disclosure under *MFIPPA*.

To avoid disqualification, all applicants are expected to ensure the confidentiality of this call for applications. Applicants agree that outcome reports and stories of impact may be used in communications material and future reports to Council to promote program success and guide program development.

### **Property of the owner**

All materials submitted in response to this call for applications will become the property of the Region of Durham and will not be returned. Portions of an applicant's written response may become part of the agreement.

### **Licensing**

Upon award, the applicant must follow all federal, provincial, and municipal codes, by-laws and obtain all required permits and licenses.

### **Safety codes and regulations**

Upon award, the applicant must follow all safety rules, regulations and labour codes in each jurisdiction where work is performed.

### **Indemnity and insurance**

The applicant agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Region of Durham for any claim demand arising out of the performance by the applicant of the contract.

The applicant agrees to obtain and maintain adequate insurance coverage relating to the operations and liability assumed under the contract in form and substance satisfactory to Region of Durham and, if so requested, deliver copies of such insurance policies or certificates evidencing the same to Region of Durham.

The applicant agrees to maintain Workers Compensation coverage in accordance with the requirements of the [Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act](#), if required, and provide evidence of compliance with the *Act* as may be requested at any time Region of Durham.

### **Accessibility**

Accessibility supports (e.g., documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters) are available as required to reduce barriers to participation. For accommodation requests, please contact [cswb@durham.ca](mailto:cswb@durham.ca).

## **Applicant's expenses**

Applicants are solely responsible for their own expenses in preparing and submitting applications and for any costs incurred in meetings, negotiations or discussions with the Region of Durham and its representatives relating to, or arising from, this call for applications.

The Region of Durham and its representatives, agents and advisors will not be liable to any applicant for any claims, whether for costs, expenses, losses, damages, or for any other matter whatsoever, incurred by the applicant in preparing and submitting an application, or participating in negotiations for an agreement, or other activity related to or arising out of this call for application.

## **Contact information**

If you have any questions or require more information about the CSWB Fund, please get in touch with:

Community Safety and Well-Being  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
[cswb@durham.ca](mailto:cswb@durham.ca)

## **Additional Resources**

- Risk and Protective Factors for Crime and Victimization:  
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/rsk-fctrs-en.aspx>
- Risk and Protective Factors for youth gang involvement:  
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yth-gng-nvlvmnt/index-en.aspx>
- Public Safety Canada Overview of Direct Intervention Programs to Address Youth Gangs and Youth Violence:  
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2018-ddrss-yth-gngs-vlnc/index-en.aspx#s3>
- Youth Gang prevention Fund Projects: What did we learn about what works in preventing gang involvement:  
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd/index-en.aspx>