



Community Safety and Well-Being Fund Community Micro-Grant Program guidelines

Background

The Regional Municipality of Durham Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan was first adopted by Regional Council on November 24, 2021, with an updated version adopted on November 26, 2025, in accordance with legislative amendments to Ontario's [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#). 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 their own projects which 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 priorities

Funding applications should be in alignment with and further the goals and implementation of the Durham Region CSWB Plan and the Durham Region Strategic Plan. Initiatives must address one or more of the following community safety and well-being priority risk factors:

- Criminal involvement
- Experiences of racism

- Homelessness and basic needs
- Mental health
- Social isolation
- Substance use
- Victimization

CSWB funding programs

The CSWB Fund includes multiple funding programs, aimed at addressing specific components of the CSWB Plan's implementation. Five programs operate under the CSWB Fund:

1. Direct Intervention Fund
2. Community Strengthening Fund
3. Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response Fund
4. Community Micro-Grant Program
5. Community Healing Program

The remainder of this document provides information regarding the Community Micro-Grant Program. For additional information regarding the Direct Intervention Fund, Community Strengthening Fund, Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Fund, and the Community Healing Program, please visit Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund.

CSWB Fund: Community Micro-Grant Program

This program supports not-for-profits, and community groups (including small and emerging groups) to lead projects in their communities. These micro-grants will fund projects that reduce violence and support positive youth development.

General eligibility

The CSWB Fund: Community Micro-Grant Program supports emerging non-profit organizations/groups and resident-led/grassroots groups, in addressing youth violence and justice involvement by enhancing child and youth well-being and encouraging resident engagement and leadership development.

Emerging non-profit organizations/groups and resident-led/grassroots groups are defined as follows:

Emerging non-profit organizations/groups: Registered or non-registered non-profit organizations that are new to the non-profit sector with limited or no previous revenue.

Resident-led/grassroots groups: (e.g. neighbours, parents, classmates) for a greater cause, at a local level, and largely on a volunteer and not-for-profit basis.

Additional Eligibility Criteria

- The organization or group shall be located in the Region of Durham, and the majority of members must be residents of Durham Region.
- The services provided by the organization or group shall be targeted to the residents of the Region of Durham, with the exception of services being delivered by off-reserve Indigenous-led organizations or treaty partner communities that yield direct benefits for the Indigenous communities of the Region of Durham.
- It is further understood that there may exist unique considerations for applications from Indigenous led organizations.
- The applicant 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.
- Only groups with a combined operating budget and revenue of \$10,000 or less will be considered.
- Eligible groups may submit a maximum of one application under this program.
- The applicant shall submit a completed application and any supplementary documents required to determine eligibility.
- The applicant shall verify that all information included in the application is confirmed true and the application must be signed by an authorized representative.
- Awarded groups must submit vulnerable sector checks to the Region of Durham for all members and volunteers over the age of 18.
- Funds shall not be used for the purpose of deficit reduction.
- Recipients of these funds for the 2025 program are not eligible to apply.
- The applicants must operate in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

CSWB Fund: Community Micro-Grant Program funding priorities

Funded projects will utilize strengths-based approaches to promote positive development of children, youth and communities through social development and violence prevention activities.

Priority projects include, but are not limited to, initiatives which address the following:

- **Social development:** Programs for the general child and youth population will aim to prevent the development of risk factors¹ for serious violence and crime and enhance protective factors.² Programming can include, but is not limited to, after-school drop-in programs and general life skills development programming (e.g., leadership development workshops, financial literacy workshops, mental health workshops, youth lounges, etc.).
- **Violence prevention:** Programs for youth that experience more than one risk factor for involvement in serious violence and crime that aim to reduce these risks. Programming can include but is not limited to conflict mediation/resolution, conflict management workshops and stress management workshops.

Examples of previous funded projects include:

- A collective of individuals teaching youth sport skills and the importance of staying away from bad influences.
- A group of parent volunteers providing mentorship, cultural learning and career exploration opportunities for students in grades six to eight.
- A hair-braiding workshop series teaching foundational braiding techniques while providing a safe, inclusive space for meaningful conversations centred on building self-esteem, strengthening personal identity and exploring future career goals.
- A group of fathers creating a safe space to support one another as they navigate the challenges of raising children.

Eligible use of funds

Eligibility for use of funds is based on parameters set by the Region of Durham. It will be applied flexibly to reflect community and equity needs.

Examples of eligible project expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Equipment rental related to the delivery of your project.
- Program supplies (e.g., food, supplies, etc.).
- Promotion and publicity (e.g., flyers, posters, etc.).
- Purchased services (e.g., web design, translation, catering, printing, etc.).
- Accessibility supports (e.g., American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation).
- Administrative costs required or related to the delivery of your project (e.g., partial rent for office space, partial staff cellphone costs, photocopies).
- Short-term space rental (not including space rental for pre-existing programs).

¹ [Youth gang involvement: What are the risk factors? Public Safety Canada. 2007.](#)

² [Risk and protective factors. Public Safety Canada. 2015.](#)

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- Stipends for project leaders, up to a maximum of \$1,200.
- Transportation to and from project activities for project leaders, participants, staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer honorarium and expenses.
- Caregiving costs (e.g., for babysitting, childcare, and eldercare, etc.) to enable project participants and volunteers to take part in project activities.

Ineligible use of funds

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

- Debt repayment, deficit funding or interest charges.
- Salary-related costs.
- Fundraising events.
- High-liability activities (e.g., fireworks).
- Projects and activities outside of Durham Region.

Award amounts and timelines

Funding applications will be accepted for projects of up to six months, to a maximum of \$5,000 for short-term, innovative projects. Projects will be implemented between October 2026 and March 2027.

Selected projects require intentional outreach and promotion to ensure community members are aware of and able to participate in project activities.

Selected projects should plan outreach and engagement in advance, including methods, networks, or partners needed to reach intended participants, particularly those most impacted by the issue the project addresses.

Selection process

1. A diversity, equity and inclusion lens will be used to consider how funding allocations align with communities and their needs.
2. Initiatives shall not duplicate existing services, unless it can be demonstrated that such duplication is required.
3. All applicants to the CSWB Fund Community Micro-Grant Program must first meet the general eligibility requirements as outlined in this document. Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee that applicants will receive funding.
4. Specific intent and consideration will be given to initiatives that address the intersecting needs of individuals within equity-deserving groups, including but not limited to the following:
 - Indigenous, 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.
5. An Advisory Committee will support the application review processes, using an equity framework. Advisory committee members must indicate where they have a conflict of interest with an applicant or project.
 6. Final grant decisions shall be made by the CSWB Secretariat, in accordance with the Region of Durham's funding terms and conditions.
 7. Applicants will be notified of the selection results through direct communication and posting on relevant Durham Region websites. Unsuccessful applicants may seek feedback on why their application was not funded and areas for improvement.

Terms and conditions

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 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 either the Regional Municipality of Durham or a trustee agency. The agreement will outline the funding conditions, such as expected results, timelines, reporting requirements, evaluation criteria, payment

schedule, clear provision for use of funds or program changes, risk assessment and monitoring, dispute resolution, contract termination and the obligations of both parties. Grant recipients must obtain vulnerable sector checks for themselves and for any individuals affiliated with their projects who will work with children, youth or other vulnerable populations.

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.

Trustee agency

A trustee agency will support grant recipients with financial administration of their projects, including disbursement of funds. The trustee agency will also extend insurance coverage to grant recipients.

Durham Region logo use and communications protocol

Communications products designed by organizations or groups that wish to include the Durham Region logo must be submitted to the Region of Durham for approval. Organizations or groups 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. This process can take two weeks or more for approval.

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.

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.

Accessibility

Accessibility supports (i.e., documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, etc.) are available as required to reduce barriers to participation, including submitting applications in alternative formats. For accommodation requests, please contact cswb@durham.ca.

Information sessions

Information sessions will be held prior to the application deadline to answer questions and provide details. Sessions will be offered in-person and virtually. Applicants are encouraged to attend before applying. Additional details regarding the information sessions will be posted at Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund.

Coaching support

Coaching support will be available to applicants who are new to grant and proposal writing. Coaching will also be available during project delivery.

Important timelines

- Grant applications open: August 2026. Visit Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund to access the application form.
- Information sessions: August 2026. Visit Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund for session dates and times.
- Results announced: October 2026.
- Project implementation period: October 2026 to March 2027.

Contact information

If you have questions or need more information about the CSWB Fund, visit Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund, or contact:

Community Safety and Well-Being
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
cswb@durham.ca