

Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Fund Micro-Grant Program

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB)?

Durham Region's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is focused on helping people in Durham feel safe and connected while addressing needs like education, health care, food, housing, income and opportunities for social and cultural expression. It's a team effort—bringing together community partners to work collaboratively, taking a proactive approach to address the priority risk factors affecting safety and well-being across the region.

The CSWB Plan was first adopted by Regional Council on November 24, 2021, with an updated version adopted on November 26, 2025, following updates to Ontario's Police Services Act.

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

What is the purpose of this funding opportunity?

The Community Micro-Grant program is one of five funding programs under the Region of Durham Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Fund.

The purpose is to support not-for-profits and community groups, including small and emerging groups, to lead projects in their communities that aim to reduce violence and support positive youth development.

What are the 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 factors for serious violence and crime and enhance protective factors. 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.

Who can apply for this funding?

Emerging non-profit organizations/groups and resident-led/grassroots groups eligible to apply. These 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 for this funding opportunity are outlined in the CSWB Fund: Community Micro-Grant Program funding guidelines. The guidelines can be found online at Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund.

Are first-time grant writers eligible to apply?

Yes. Individuals new to grant or proposal writing are encouraged to apply. Coaching support is available during the application process.

Can past successful applicants reapply?

No, applicants who were previously successful cannot apply again this year.

When is the deadline for application?

The deadline for application is August 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Are there any restrictions on how funds can be used?

Yes. There are restrictions on how funds can be spent. Please refer to the program guidelines for full details.

Eligibility with respect to the use of funds will aim to be flexible and based on community and equity needs.

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

- Equipment rental
- 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 – related / required for 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).
- Stipends for project leaders, up to a maximum of \$1,200.
- Transportation to and from project activities by project leaders, participants, staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer honorarium and expenses.
- Caretaking (e.g., of children, elders, etc.) costs for participants and volunteers to support participation in project activities.

What are the ineligible uses of funds?

Ineligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to, the following:

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

Is there a start and end date for the project?

Yes, all projects must have a defined start date and end date. Projects will be funded for up to six months. The program implementation period is October 2026 to March 2027. Project leaders may leverage their own resources to continue their projects beyond this timeframe.

How much funding is available?

Funded projects will be awarded up to a maximum of \$5,000. All funds must be spent within the implementation period.

Can I apply if I live outside of Durham Region?

Lead applicants must live within Durham Region. The majority of team members on the project must be residents of Durham Region.

Can projects target residents outside of Durham Region?

Projects must target residents of Durham Region, except for projects delivered by off-reserve Indigenous-led organizations or treaty partner communities that yield direct benefits for Indigenous communities within Durham Region.

What type of projects have been funded in the past?

We are proud of all the projects that have been funded in the past. Some examples of previously funding 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 and inclusive space for meaningful conversations centered 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.

How can funded projects reach their target audience?

Projects can reach their target audience through appropriate outreach and engagement methods, partnerships and trusted networks, social and community events. Funded projects should clearly promote their activities so children, youth, and community members know about their projects and can take part in project activities.

What is the evaluation process?

Using a diversity, equity and inclusion framework, applications will be screened and reviewed by an advisory committee and Region of Durham CSWB staff.

Final funding decisions will be made by the CSWB Secretariat in accordance with the Region of Durham's funding terms and conditions.

How do I apply?

Please submit a completed application to cswb@durham.ca. A confirmation email will be sent to you once your application has been received.

Applicants will be informed of outcomes directly and through posting on relevant Region of Durham websites.

Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback on their application.

Can more than one application be submitted?

No, eligible organizations or groups can only submit one application.

Do I need to submit a vulnerable sector check (VSC)?

It is not a requirement to submit a VSC with your application. If your project is selected, you must submit a VSC before starting project activities. This process can take up to five weeks. For more information on how to complete your VSC, visit the

[Durham Regional Police Service website.](#)

Is there support available to applicants?

CSWB Secretariat staff are available to provide guidance on completing your application. Coaching support will be provided to funded projects during project delivery.

To reach the CSWB Secretariat staff, please send us an email: [cswb@durham.ca.](mailto:cswb@durham.ca)

How can I learn more about the Micro-Grant Program?

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.](http://Durham.ca/CSWB-Fund)

If you have questions or need more information about the Community Micro-Grant Program, 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