

Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

Applicant Guidelines for Community Service Organizations Seeking ECSF Funds from United Way Niagara

COVID-19 is top of mind for everyone and it is affecting the ways we support those who are vulnerable in our communities. This pandemic has created an increase in demand for local services, shortages in supplies, and disruption in service.

The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) is a \$350 million investment made by the Government of Canada, through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), to support vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of COVID-19.

The Government of Canada has partnered with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross to distribute the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) across the country. United Way Centraides (UWCs) are working locally to support community service organizations to aid vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document summarizes guidelines for community service organizations seeking ECSF funds through United Way Niagara.

Where Should Community Service Organizations Seek ECSF Funds?

United Way Centraides

Local United Way Centraides will manage ECSF processes for charities, other qualified donees, and nonprofits.
<https://unitedwayniagara.su.bmittable.com/submit/631c45fb-bb1c-4965-b7f5-91e2d6cfa285/emergency-community-support-fund-ecsf-application>

Community Foundations

Community Foundations of Canada and their network of local community foundations across Canada will accept funding applications from qualified donees.
communityfoundations.ca

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross will manage a granting stream for non-profits and a Preventing Disease Transmission Training & Equipment Program for registered charities, qualified donees and non-profits through a national online portal.
redcross.ca/communityorganizations

About our United Ways/Centraides

United Way Niagara works locally to raise funds and invest in programming that improves lives in our community. Our goal is to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action. What does that mean? United Way invests funds into pre-determined priority areas that were deemed to have the most need nationally. We invest in solutions to real, local social problems.

As the largest non-governmental supporter of social services in the region, we're dedicated to creating the opportunities people need to improve their lives and build a better future. Our work is fuelled by research and powerful partnerships, which allow us to identify gaps and responsibly mobilize volunteer and financial resources for the most direct impact: effecting positive and lasting change, right here where we all live, work and raise our families.

Timelines

Launch of the ECSF:

May 19, 2020 Visit <https://www.unitedwayniagara.org/how-we-help/apply-for-funding> to access ECSF Fund information and resources as well as a link to the ECSF Application.

Direct Link to the ECSF Application:

<https://unitedwayniagara.submittable.com/submit/631c45fb-bb1c-4965-b7f5-91e2d6cfa285/emergency-community-support-fund-ecsf-application>

May 19, 2020 – July 19, 2020 Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from May 19, 2020 to July 19, 2020. Applications will be reviewed every three weeks during the weeks of June 8, June 29 and July 20, 2020 and decisions made at each review period. Applications received by 11:59 p.m. on the Sunday prior to a scheduled review week will be reviewed during that week. All others will be reviewed at the next scheduled review date. Funding decisions will be made at each scheduled review week with notifications made throughout the rolling intake process. All funding allocations will be made public on or before July 31, 2020.

Eligibility

United Way Niagara funds charities and other qualified donees. Non-profit community organizations delivering front-line services may be supported through a qualified donee that is acting as a trustee. In certain circumstances, United Way Niagara may support delivery of services through a Non-profit under an agent agreement. If you are interested in partnering to respond to local needs, you are welcome to apply.

Examples of Qualified Donees include:

- Registered charities
- Registered Canadian Municipalities
- Registered municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada

Organizations may seek ECSF funds acting alone, or as part of a partnership. Organizations may also seek funds for more than one service. Separate requests should be completed for each service.

Community Services

The ECSF will provide financial support for community services that:

- Address a pressing social inclusion or wellbeing need caused or worsened by COVID-19,
- Serve one or more vulnerable groups (defined below),
- Will be carried out with a reasonable budget before March 31st, 2021.

Community Service Organizations seeking ECSF funds will be asked to provide details including a budget, the services and activities they propose, the vulnerable populations these services will reach, and whether the services will be delivered in urban, rural, or remote communities.

Types of Activity, as defined by ESDC, include:

- Community outreach and engagement
- Delivering or developing new models, tools, programming, services or resources
- Disseminating information and knowledge
- Volunteer engagement and recruitment
- Other

Types of services, as defined by ESDC, include:

Food Security	prepared meals; delivery service; hampers/baskets
Financial Wellness	financial literacy or coaching; access to income supports
Home Care or Personal Support	for seniors, Elders, and persons with disabilities
Health & Hygiene	health info.; medication; personal hygiene & medical supplies
Information & Navigation	providing information; navigating supports
Legal Support	tools & resources; legal clinics, etc.
Mental Health & Wellness	peer support; crisis support
Shelter	housing; crisis support
Personal Safety	info.; violence & abuse support; violence & abuse prevention
Social Inclusion & Learning	friendly conversation; social activities; learning
Transportation	access to safe transport to essential appointments and errands
Other	

Vulnerable Populations, as defined by ESDC, include:

- Marginalized Communities, including:
 - Racialized communities*
 - Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit, and Metis
 - Official Language Minority Communities
 - Other linguistic minorities
 - Newcomers: all, permanent residents (immigrants and refugees), temporary residents, and international students
 - Women and girls
 - LGBTQ2S+ communities

**South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, groups not otherwise specified*

- Children, Youth, and Elderly, including:
 - Children and youth: all, ageing out of care, ages 0 to 18, and ages 19 to 29
 - Post-Secondary Students
 - Seniors and Elders: not in care, and living in care

- Workers Who are Vulnerable, including:
 - Essential Workers
 - Temporary Foreign Workers
 - Workers in the informal labour market
 - Caregivers

- Populations Requiring Specific Care or Supports:
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People with low income or living in poverty
 - People living with mental illness
 - People struggling with addiction
 - Persons with disabilities
 - People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence
 - People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)
 - Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)
 - Veterans

Eligible Expenses for ECSF:

All budget items must be project-related and incurred by March 31, 2021.

Eligible expenses include wages and benefits, professional fees, travel and accommodations, materials and supplies, printing and communication, equipment rental/lease/maintenance, administration costs, capital costs, and disability support for staff. Purchase of lands or buildings, and any expenses that are covered by another funding source, are ineligible.

ECSF Fund Commitments:

In order to seek ECSF funds, community service organizations will be asked to confirm that they:

- are eligible to receive ECSF dollars
 - i.e. the community service organization is a qualified donee or nonprofit
- maintain a volunteer Board of Directors that meets regularly
- host a public Annual General Meeting

- have financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant or, for those with annual revenues less than \$100,000, a financial review.
- commit to providing eligible supports to one or more groups of vulnerable people, as defined by ESDC, with funding used in full by March 31, 2021
- have not already received funding for the same activities from the Government of Canada or other source, including Community Foundations, Canadian Red Cross, or United Way Centraide
 - i.e. the same dollar of expense is not funded twice
- will not receive funding, for the activities proposed, in excess of 100% from government sources, including the ECSF
 - i.e. combined funding from all government sources does not total more than the expenses of the community service during the eligible period
- grant permission for application/proposal details and contact information to be shared with CFC, and CRC for funding consideration in order to coordinate funding

In addition, these additional requirements must be adhered to access and receive ECSF funding:

- Meet the Eligibility Criteria as prescribed above;
- Complete the online funding application (link above);
- Deliver the project as outlined in the application to the citizens of the Niagara region;
- Agree to use the funds only for the approved project; and
- Provide ongoing and final reports to United Way Niagara as requested, including financial and outcomes data.

If you have questions or need support in completing this application, please contact:
Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, Director of Community Impact
E: tamara@unitedwayniagara.org
P: 905-688-5050, Ext. 2109

Funded by the Government of Canada.

The word "Canada" is written in a large, black, serif font. A small Canadian flag is positioned above the letter 'a'.