



**FOUNDATION  
FOR BLACK  
COMMUNITIES**



# Applicant Guide

**BLACK IDEAS GRANT: BRIDGE AND BUILD**

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2023



Funded in part by the  
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Philanthropic Endowment Fund

**Canada**

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# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

Black communities have been calling for a new approach to philanthropy. [The Foundation for Black Communities](#) (FFBC) was established to fulfill this call and to ensure all Black people and communities can thrive and have agency in defining their own futures. Founded in 2020 with a mission to transform communities, FFBC is Canada's philanthropic foundation dedicated to ensuring that Black-led, Black-serving, and Black-focused organizations have the sustained resources needed to make a meaningful impact.

## BLACK IDEAS GRANT: BRIDGE AND BUILD 2023

FFBC's [Black Ideas Fund: Bridge and Build 2023](#) is a significant investment of \$8.9 million to acknowledge and support solution-oriented initiatives led by Canada's Black communities. This inaugural program will fund some of the immediate and direct needs of Black communities and give valuable insights for future funding programs.

The Bridge and Build Fund provides one-year flexible funding to increase the capacity of Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving charitable and non-profit organizations and groups as they combat anti-Black racism and improve social and economic outcomes for Black communities.

Applications open on **December 18, 2023** and must be submitted by  
**February 1, 2024 (11:59 PM PT)**

## OUR APPROACH



FFBC is a first-of-its-kind institution, and our goal is to understand, recognize, and celebrate solutions-making in Black communities. But first, we must look to communities to help inform future funds and programs. We need the voice and expertise of all Black communities. The importance of community is why FFBC adopts a participatory grantmaking approach. Our participatory grant making process is based on the idea that we are interconnected, and we can improve the conditions for ourselves by improving the conditions for those around us.

This approach places significant emphasis on the knowledge, creativity, experiences, and ideas of those closest to the desired outcome of the programming. All applications will be reviewed by Black community members, including applicants. Our approach places trust, justice and agency at the center of its philosophy, and FFBC uses this approach to disrupt and democratize philanthropy.

FFBC also recognizes that there is historic and important work supporting communities that face the highest barriers and least access to funding in climate justice, disability justice, and gender justice. This includes 2SLGBTQI+, women and girls, trans community members, those living on low incomes, those living with disabilities, those who are d(D)eof, newcomers, migrants, those who were formerly incarcerated, and those who are food insecure. FFBC is committed to supporting intersectional, anti-oppressive, decolonial, justice-oriented approaches that bridge and build a future where all Black communities thrive.

The Bridge and Build Fund has been informed by the community. However, we recognize this is an iterative process and look forward to building future multi-year funding initiatives informed by this pilot.





# ELIGIBILITY

## Eligible Organizations

Only eligible organizations can apply to the Bridge and Build Fund. To be eligible, organizations must:

- ✓ **Be Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving (B3).** This means that the majority of organizational leadership at all levels are Black. The organization's primary goal is to meaningfully support and engage Black communities, and a significant portion of program activities prioritize serving Black communities.

The Foundation for Black Communities takes a community-informed, iterative, and learning-focused approach to the definition of Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving. Applicants will be asked to describe how the organization and/or proposed initiative are Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving.

- ✓ **Be a registered charity, incorporated non-profit, [other qualified donee](#), or an unincorporated non-profit or group working with an incorporated partner.** Unincorporated groups could include Black collaboratives, Student Unions, Affinity Groups, etc.
- ✓ **Be located in Canada.**



## Eligible Initiatives

When completing your application, you will have the opportunity to share your proposed initiative. Only eligible initiatives will have the opportunity to receive funding. To be eligible, initiatives must:

- ✓ **Address at least one of the three Focus Areas** of the Bridge and Build Fund: Combatting Anti-Black Racism, Improving Social Outcomes, or Improving Economic Outcomes.
- ✓ **Address one or more of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and [Social Determinants of Health](#).**
- ✓ **Can be implemented in the proposed timeline and with the available funding**, ensuring funds are spent by **March 31, 2025**.
- ✓ **Not include any of the ineligible activities outlined below.**
- ✓ **Unincorporated Non-Profits, Collaboratives, and Groups**

Unincorporated non-profits, collaboratives, and groups must partner with incorporated non-profits and charities to access FFBC funding. If your organization does not have an incorporated partner at the time of application, you are still encouraged to apply. Please note that FFBC will require a collaborative agreement between the unincorporated non-profit or group and their incorporated partner, which outlines the details and purpose of the collaboration. The collaborative agreement will be made available in the application.

To receive funding, all **unincorporated non-profits, collaboratives and groups** will need an incorporated partner by **February 1, 2024**. If you have any further questions about your eligibility, please contact [fund@forblackcommunities.org](mailto:fund@forblackcommunities.org).

## Ineligible Organizations

The following organizations are ineligible for funding:

- ✗ Organizations that are not Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving;
- ✗ For-profit organizations or corporations;
- ✗ Individuals;
- ✗ Business institutions, including business associations, chambers of commerce, and condominium associations;
- ✗ Provincial/territorial entities, including hospitals, medical centres, schools, private schools, universities, colleges, health authorities, public health authorities, educational institutions, and health/social services institutions;
- ✗ Municipalities and entities controlled by a municipality, including municipal governments, regional governments, and regional districts, and;
- ✗ Organizations primarily engaged in political activity supporting or opposing any political party, elected representative, or candidate for public office.



## Ineligible Activities

The following activities are **not eligible** for FFBC grants:

- ✗ the financing of deficits;
- ✗ the purchase or sale of alcohol or cannabis, financing related licenses or permits, or capital renovations or repairs to facilities or spaces used for the purpose of selling alcohol or cannabis;
- ✗ political activities supporting or opposing any political party, elected representative, or candidate for public office;
- ✗ activities which are religious or include a requirement to participate in any dimensions of faith (for example: church running a community-based kitchen can apply for supplies and staffing costs are eligible but not primarily religious activities);
- ✗ capital renovations or repairs of premises used for the purpose of religious observance or practice;
- ✗ general fundraising drives or capital campaigns;
- ✗ activities, programs, or services which do not provide a benefit to Black communities in Canada;
- ✗ activities, programs, or services carried out or provided outside of Canada, and;
- ✗ activities completed, or costs incurred, before the start date specified in an FFBC grant contract;
- ✗ purchase of land or buildings.







# RESOURCING BLACK COMMUNITIES

## Funding Streams

The Bridge and Build Fund will accept applications from eligible B3 organizations at various stages of implementing projects or programs that positively impact Black communities. There are three Funding Streams. Please select the funding stream that reflects your organization or groups current needs. The three Funding Streams are:



**Core Stream** for funding up to \$40,000 to address core and operational needs unrelated to programming;



**Catapult Stream** for funding from \$40,000 to \$100,000 to invest in new ideas or expand existing programs and services, and;



**Community Capital Stream** for funding up to \$250,000 to invest in capital projects and social infrastructure.



## Core Stream | up to \$40,000

*Core and operational needs unrelated to programming*

Eligible organizations and groups can apply for up to \$40,000 to address core funding needs. This stream will fund core activities related to the operational success of the organization or group. Applicants can submit proposals for staffing, non-staffing, and administrative costs. This core stream is for general operating costs, not for expenses related to programming/service delivery.



### Examples

- A B3 organization requests funding to specifically hire staff to carry out programming that supports Black communities.
- A group of Black youth applies for funding to hire a consultant to develop their governance structure.
- A charitable organization requests funds to buy new office furniture.
- A B3 organization purchases information technology and hardware/equipment.

## Catapult Stream | \$40,000 to \$100,000

*Investing in new ideas or expanding existing programs or services*

Eligible organizations and groups can apply for \$40,000 to \$100,000 to explore new or existing approaches to improving socio-economic well-being in Black communities, including the research, design, piloting, and evaluation of initiatives.



- **New ideas and approaches:** Organizations and groups building or launching new programs or services, testing new approaches, or exploring and experimenting may apply for **\$40,000 - \$75,000**.
- **Expanding programs or services:** Organizations and groups that plan to grow or sustain existing programs or services may apply for **\$40,000 - \$100,000**. Organizations must describe the existing program or service in their application.

### Examples

- A charity plans to purchase a new fridge for a new cooking club.
- A non-profit organization that operates several programs and services wants to produce high-quality videos as part of their communication strategy.
- A food bank needs to retrofit their facility and purchase a vehicle to meet demand from elderly clients.
- A shelter purchases winter coats for youth in their transition home.
- A B3 organization undertakes a feasibility study for a new youth recreation program in their community.
- A B3 community service organization plans to conduct seminal research that impacts Black migrant workers.
- A community-based organization conducts a robust evaluation of an existing program.
- A group of Black parents would like to explore the creation of non-profit organizations to support food security for Black Elders in the community.

## Community Capital Stream | up to \$250,000

### *Investing in capital projects and social infrastructure*

Eligible organizations and groups with bold and big ideas that advance the social and economic infrastructure of Black communities. Organizations can apply for up to \$250,000 to scale programs, services, or commercialization initiatives.

Funding is intended to invest in organizations that are indispensable to their sector or community, contribute to a stronger ecosystem for Black communities, and lay the groundwork for transformative change.

Funding is for organizational, community, or physical infrastructure needs that serve Black communities nationally or multi-regionally (minimum of two provinces). Organizations should have demonstrated the initiative through a feasibility / needs / viability assessment or similar method to demonstrate that the approach works, could be scaled, and could have the potential for replicability.



**Applicants must submit two years of financial statements, the organization's annual operating budget and documentation demonstrating their work to date.**

### Examples

- A B3 organization requests funding to advance plans to establish a long-term care home for Black seniors.
- A community-based organization applies for funding to advance an affordable housing initiative.
- A group of women-centered organizations uses funding to retrofit a centre to provide a multi-disciplinary integrated model of care for survivors of human trafficking.
- A B3 organization provides infrastructure support for migrant and refugee organizing and movement building for justice.
- A group of Black farmers and producers plan to purchase equipment and machinery for shared communal use to advance local food justice, food insecurity initiatives, and commercial food kitchens.
- A non-profit organization in rural or northern communities will open a shared co-working space for Black entrepreneurs, micro-businesses, and self-employed individuals.

# SELECTION PROCESS

All applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed and selected by Black community members. Eligible organizations include Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving charitable and non-profit organizations and groups in Canada. All applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application in **March 2024**.

## Community Selection Circles

Applications will be selected by Community Selection Circles, which will make funding recommendations to the FFBC Board of Directors. The Community Selection Circles will be made up of 50% applicants and 50% wider community members. Applicants will have the opportunity to self-identify during their application if they would like to be part of a Community Selection Circle. This participatory method aims to bridge communities, fund programs and leaders working in proximity with the communities identified, build and strengthen trust, and support Black-focused community-based change-making.

## Selection Criteria

Decisions will be made based on the extent that the proposed initiative by eligible B3 organizations:

- Meet the eligibility criteria for initiatives by
  - addressing at least one of the three Focus Areas
  - addressing one or more of the **Sustainable Development Goals** and **Social Determinants of Health**
  - ensuring the initiative is implemented in the proposed timeline and with the available funding
  - not including any of the ineligible activities.
- Have a positive outcome for Black communities in Canada.



## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Organizations approved for funding must sign a Funding Agreement before receiving their grant payment. As per the funding agreement, recipients must participate in two reporting stages. Our goal is to enable us to continue to learn from funding recipients, bridge and build partnerships, support communities and iterate our funding approach.

- 1 A short mid-term check-in:** Halfway through a recipient's initiative, FFBC staff will reach out to discuss high-level updates, challenges, and successes. These sessions will be held virtually through video conference or phone.
- 2 Final report:** once a project has finished its funded activities, on or no later than **March 31, 2025**, recipients will be asked to complete a final report on their initiative and its results.



Information gathered in these reports may be shared with the Government of Canada or used in the work of the Foundation for Black Communities. Please note that FFBC will not share any personal information with the Government of Canada.

## HOW TO APPLY

When you are ready to apply, please submit your application through our online application portal. The application will be available in other formats on the [website](#), and we suggest you draft your responses and collect all attachments before entering your application on the portal. You can save and review your responses before submitting your application. The application is available both in French and English.

During your application, you will also be asked to review and acknowledge the online funding agreement. By reviewing this agreement in your application, you have transparency of the terms and conditions of the funding, and we can facilitate fast and timely payment to successful applicants.

We are offering limited spots for applicants required to submit an oral application. If this is of interest, you must book a meeting using this [link](#), or your submission will not be reviewed. Spots are available between **January 8 and January 19, 2024**.

If, for any other reason, you are unable to submit your application via the portal, please contact FFBC staff at [fund@forblackcommunities.org](mailto:fund@forblackcommunities.org) before the application deadline. We will support you as best we can.

Applications open on December 18, 2023 and must be submitted by February 1, 2024 (11:59 PM PT).

APPLY HERE



# TIMELINE

**Application Opens**

December 18, 2023

**Application Closes**

February 1, 2024 (11:59 PT)

**Applications Reviewed**

February, 2024

**Applicants Notified**

March, 2024

**Grants Awarded**

March 31, 2024







## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any further questions, please reach out to us at [fund@forblackcommunities.org](mailto:fund@forblackcommunities.org) or use this [link](#) to book a meeting.

If you would like to reach us by phone, please call **1.833.44BLACK (442-5225)**.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Government of Canada's Black-Led  
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