

# Available Grants (And How to Find Them)

Do you have a fantastic idea for a project or program, but no room in your budget to fund it? Interested in hiring a summer student to help with summer reading activities, but need assistance to cover their wages? Depending on the project, grant funding may be available to help make your idea a reality.

Grants are available from a variety of sources and can support any number of different project goals, including (but not limited to) purchasing new materials or equipment, assisting with temporary staffing solutions like hiring a summer student, or creating a new library program. The type of project that grant money can be used for and the amount available will vary from grant to grant, and funding may not always cover the entirety of your project. Ensure you are aware of the parameters of available funding when planning a project -- and have a backup plan if things do not work out entirely as planned.

## Finding Available Grants

You may already be aware of many potential granting opportunities both in your community and elsewhere. Local groups like Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, and Community Foundations often have grants available to support community-oriented programming, and both the federal and provincial government have annual funding opportunities to help organizations hire summer students. However, there are frequently many more granting opportunities available to you that are less well known or advertised -- you just have to know where to look:

- Corporations with a strong presence in your community or region: Companies that have strong links to your area often have a vested interest in maintaining a positive presence there. Supporting community projects is a great way for them to do this.
- Government agencies: Funding is often available from provincial and federal governments to support community projects, help organizations hire summer students, and more. Young Canada Works is an example of this funding.

## Potential Grant Opportunities

- The [Government of Alberta](#) has several grant programs available that support a variety of community initiatives. (Note: As of Fall 2019, many of these initiatives have been put on hold.)

- [Young Canada Works](#) is the Government of Canada’s wage subsidization program for student workers. Positions may be seasonal (6 to 16-week summer jobs) or longer (6-12 month) internships. The application deadline for summer funding is January 15 annually; internship applications can be submitted throughout the year.
- The [Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta](#) welcomes grant applications for a variety of projects, but is especially dedicated to helping fund those opportunities that contribute to a vibrant, healthy community.
  - Applications for their Smart & Caring grants are accepted twice a year, on March 15 for the spring grants cycle and September 15 for the fall grants cycle.
  - Applications for their Community Impact Award, which supports projects aligned with their focus on work and the economy, vulnerable populations, or mental health, are due annually on March 15.
- [Shaw Communications](#) invests in community projects with cash or in-kind donations. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and reviewed quarterly.
- [TELUS](#) also offers single-year grants to nonprofits for projects dedicated to helping youth succeed, align with their organizational interest in health and education, demonstrate technological innovations, and have measurable social outcomes. Full details are available at the link.
- [Fortis Alberta](#) offers grants for projects for projects that are designed to help recipients improve energy efficiency, beautify and naturalize an area, or help the environment.
- [ATCO](#) considers grants for projects and organizations in a variety of areas, including arts and culture, health and wellness, youth and education, sports and recreation, and the environment. Support may come in the form of gifts-in-kind, volunteers and expert advice, and financial support.
- [The Suncor Energy Foundation](#) supports community initiatives through in-kind or cash donations, volunteer support, and sponsorships. Their current funding priorities are projects that support Indigenous peoples, strong communities, and sustainable energy.
- [CIBC](#) invests in a variety of community programs and organizations that are aligned with cancer, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and financial literacy.
- [Servus Credit Union](#) has a Community Investment Program that supports free community events, improved access to community or cultural events, and improving financial literacy.
- [TD Canada Trust](#) provides corporate donations to organizations that support the communities they work in. Projects generally must align with their “Four Interconnected

Drivers of Change”, which includes financial security, a vibrant planet, connected communities, and better health

- [BMO](#) has grants available for community organizations that work to further social progress. No specific program aims are noted, but more information may be found on their website.
- The [Canadian Women’s Foundation](#) offers funding to support programs that are designed to meet the needs of women, girls Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples, developed in collaboration with the participants they serve, and are grounded in a strong gender-based analysis. The foundation offers both single and multi-year grants.

## Other Resources

- The Alberta Library Trustees’ Association (ALTA) [fundraising page](#) provides information on potential grant opportunities and grant applications.
- [GrantWatch](#) helps users find available grants that support projects in all sectors. The free version does not support location-based searching, but users are able to browse available grants by category.