

Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

Guidelines for Community Service Organizations Seeking ECSF Funds from United Way Simcoe Muskoka

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 Simcoe Muskoka.

Where Should Community Service Organizations Seek ECSF Funds?

United Way Centraides

Local United Way Centraides will manage ECSF processes for charities and other qualified donees, and nonprofits.

<https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/ecsf/>

Community Foundations

A network of community foundations across Canada will accept funding applications from qualified donees.

communityfoundations.ca

Canadian Red Cross

National, regional and local partners will manage a granting stream for nonprofits. Canadian Red Cross will also manage a Preventing Disease Transmission Training & Equipment Program.

redcross.ca/communityorganizations

About United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Everyone in Simcoe Muskoka deserves a chance to lead a good life. This conviction drives thousands of dedicated donors, volunteers and community partners to come together through United Way Simcoe Muskoka to generate the caring power to advance measurable, lasting change in our region – for today’s residents and for generations to come. United Way Simcoe Muskoka is there to help those experiencing hardships due to poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic. Through our Urgent Needs Fund and COVID relief efforts, we are taking action and addressing these needs head-on.

Timelines

May 19, 2020	Launch of the ECSF https://uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/ecsf/
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May 19, 2020 – July 24, 2020	Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until July 24, 2020.
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Eligibility

United Way Simcoe Muskoka will accept applications for ECSF funds from charities and other qualified donees, including nonprofits. Applying organizations must be in good standing with the CRA.

Examples of Qualified Donees include:

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

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
 - Is in good standing with the CRA
- 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

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the size of the grants being administered by United Way Centraide?

United Way Simcoe Muskoka will be issuing grants between the ranges of \$10,000 and \$50,000.

2. How much money is available through this fund? Is it possible to find out how much is available for our region?

The ECSF is a \$350 million investment made by the Government of Canada, and a significant portion is being delivered through United Ways Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and Canadian Red Cross across the country. United Way Simcoe Muskoka will be allocating \$1.2 million in our region.

3. If we have received other federal and/or provincial or territorial Covid-19 related funding, can we still apply?

Yes, ECSF resources can enhance and expand your current COVID-19 funded community service so long as expenses are not counted twice.

4. What if we are not currently a United Way-funded agency?

We are committed to ensuring that funds are broadly available to community service organizations and agencies working to provide services and support vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19. You do not need to be a currently funded agency to apply.

5. Which kinds of community service organizations are eligible?

Organizations providing front-line services to vulnerable populations impact by COVID-19 are eligible to apply, including registered charities, and other qualified donees. Check the Canada Revenue Agency list of qualified donees by [clicking here](#).

6. We are a nonprofit, how can we access and partner with United Way Centraides to provide support to vulnerable communities?

Nonprofits in Canada are playing an important role in helping to respond to local needs. Nonprofit community organizations delivering front-line services may be supported through a qualified donee that is acting as a trustee. In certain circumstances, United Way Simcoe Muskoka may support delivery of services through a nonprofit under an agent agreement. If you are interested in partnering to respond to local needs, you are welcome to apply/please contact us directly

7. Will you pay for activities that meet the criteria that are already underway?

If activities or services are underway, you can apply for additional resources to expand and/or extend the delivery of service for a longer time (up to March 31, 2021).

8. If my agency is receiving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, are we still eligible to apply for funding?

Yes. ECSF funds cannot fund any expenses (including wages) already covered by another source, but can complement existing sources, including the wage subsidy.

9. How many funding requests can be made by one organization?

Community Services Organizations may apply for more than one service. Please submit one application outlining the different proposed services and their respective budgets.

10. How will decisions about the funding be made? How quickly can we anticipate a decision?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis from May 19, 2020 to July 24, 2020. All funding allocations will be made public on or before July 31, 2020.

11. The front-line services we are delivering are at risk of closing without new funding. Are we able to apply for funding under this program?

The purpose of the ECSF is to resource front-line services supporting vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible expenses include staffing, equipment, supplies, and related operating costs that allow organizations to provide and deliver services that respond to the current crisis.

12. May we apply to United Way Centraides, Community Foundations and Canadian Red Cross?

Yes. Applicants may not, however, apply to more than one funder for the same program activities and related costs. The three intermediaries will be coordinating locally to ensure that funds are being distributed to have the best possible local reach to serve vulnerable populations.

13. What are the reporting requirements?

The reporting requirements for this funding will focus primarily on number of services and clients served, and organizations will be expected to periodically provide updates to these numbers throughout the period of the grant. Additional details will be shared with successful applicants.

14. How will United Way ensure that this funding is reaching the most vulnerable communities? Is there a commitment to access and equity for these resources?

United Way Simcoe Muskoka is committed to ensuring an open and fair application and review process. We will be working to promote this funding opportunity throughout our community and to support organizations seeking to apply.

United Way Simcoe Muskoka will be considering a number of equity dimensions as we make decisions on how these resources will be allocated locally.

15. We're part of national organization network, but we are governed locally. Should we look to apply to our local United Way for ECSF funds or should our national office coordinate our applications?

Resources are being distributed across the country through local offices. Local chapters of national organizations should apply directly to their local United Way or Centraide.

16. Where can we find more information? Will assistance be provided in the application process?

If you have any questions or need support with the application process, please contact Roz or Katie:

Rosslyn Junke
Director, Community Impact
RJunke@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca
Tel: 705.726.2301 x 2024
Cell: 705.627.4179

Katie Burrell
Board & CEO Liaison
KBurrell@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca
Tel: 705.726.2301 x 2021