



**Neighbourhood
Small Grants
South
Okanagan
Similkameen**

vancouver
foundation

 **COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
south okanagan | similkameen



Honoring the syilx peoples and their connection to this land

Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen

Giving Choices. Funding Change.

We offer a wide variety of ways for people to donate and give back to their community.

- Legacy Funds
- Designated Funds
- Donor Advised Funds
- Discretionary Funds
- Variety of gift types



- Agency Funds
- Flow Through Funds
- Grant opportunities
- Connect with donors
- Charity/NPO development

- Community Funds
- Giving Circles
- Bursaries
- Response & Relief Funds
- **Neighbourhood Small Grants**

Neighbourhood Small Grants Program Funding Partners

\$25,000 in Awards



Founded in 1991, CFSOS empowers individuals to make a lasting impact in their communities through meaningful giving opportunities. Beyond facilitating donations, CFSOS supports innovative community projects and events that strengthen the region. As the hub for the NSG Southern Interior Network, CFSOS fosters connections and inspires grassroots initiatives across the area.



NSG was developed by the Vancouver Foundation in 1999, and working in partnership with local community organizations and foundations, it now serves the whole province of British Columbia.



Penticton thrives when residents build connections, enhance public spaces, support social and environmental initiatives, and foster safety. These efforts create a more livable, inclusive community for all stages of life. City of Penticton supports stronger neighbourhoods.

What is Neighbourhood Small Grants?



- A grassroots granting program that empowers community members to bring their ideas to life with grants of up to **\$500**.
- NSG fosters local leadership and strengthens community-driven initiatives.

Neighbourhood Small Grants



Guided by ABCD principles

Everyone has gifts

Anyone can offer their ideas, talents, skills, experiences, and contacts to build a strong community.

Small is beautiful

Small amounts of money have the potential to bring powerful changes to the community. With a grant, neighbours can focus on enjoying each others company.

Local Decisions are best

Community members from diverse backgrounds and experiences get an opportunity to make decisions on who should get the grants in their community.

Where we live matters

Grants enable anyone to team up with their neighbour and come up with a project based on what you think works best in the community.

We learn together

NSG projects create opportunities to learn, share, reflect, exchange and capture knowledge, skills, and information.

Everyone is invited

No matter their age, ethnicity, income, cultural background, gender, ability, and sexual orientation



Build community strength & resilience

Goals of NSG



Grow community creativity and wellbeing



Deepen belonging and tackle isolation



Celebrate our communities

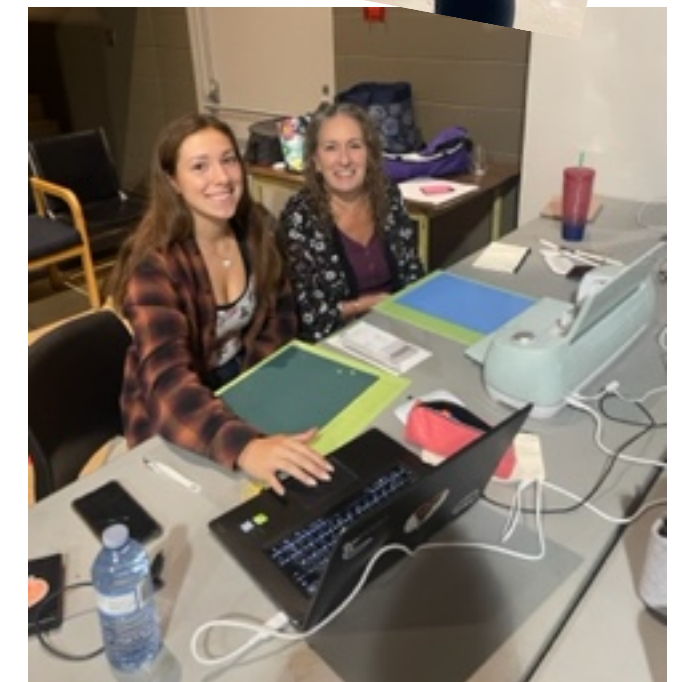
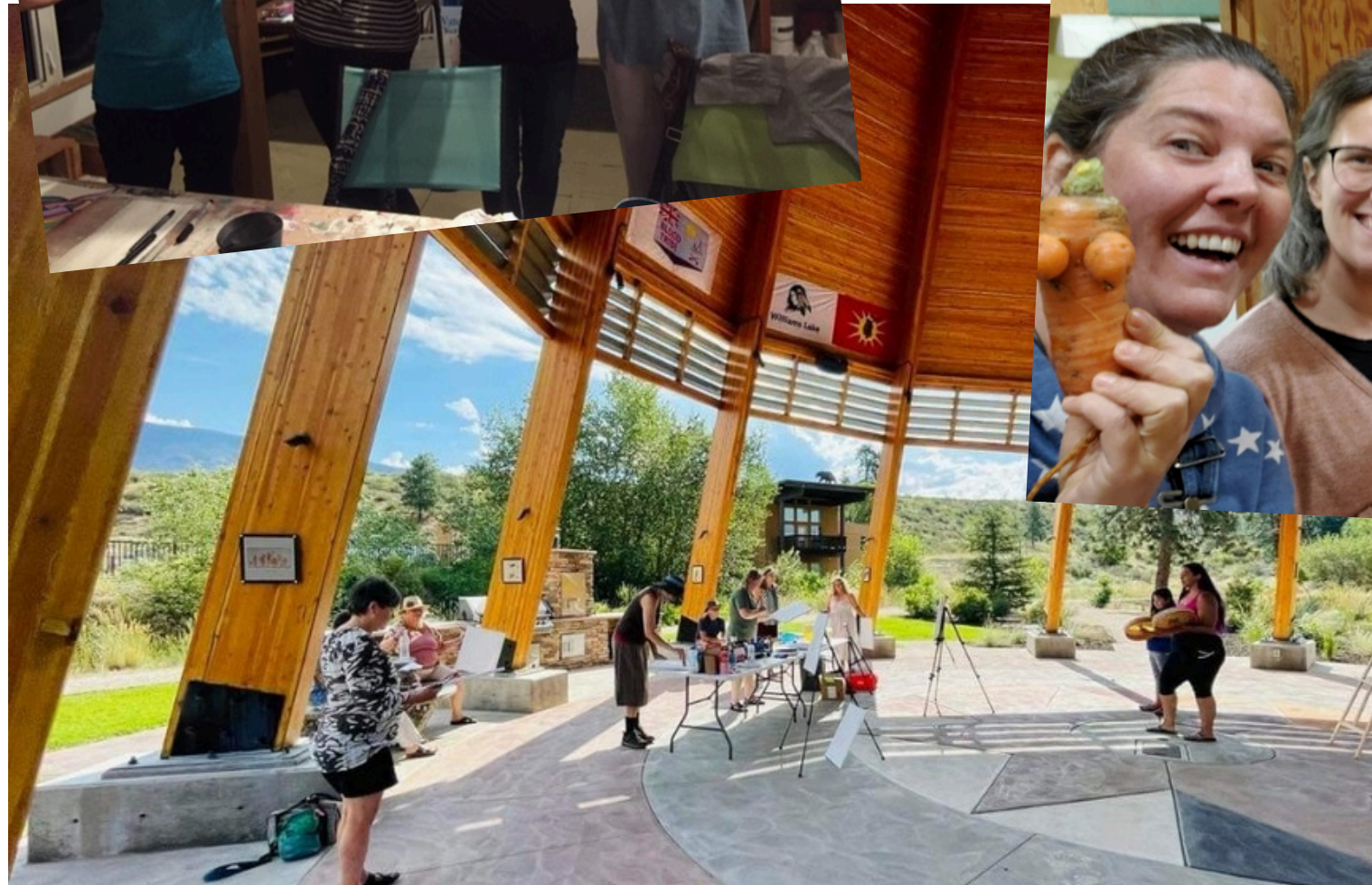
Project Ideas & Inspiration



Connecting with Neighbours



Sharing Skills & Knowledge



Strengthening Belonging & Responsibility



Celebrating Inclusivity & Diversity











Applying!
DON'T PANIC!

Tips to Writing a Great Application

- ✨ Bring Your Idea to Life – Describe your project vividly—what will the day look and feel like?
- 🏠 Engage Your Community – How will you invite neighbours? Posters, door-to-door, social media?
- 👥 Plan Meaningful Activities – What will spark conversations and ensure accessibility for all ages?
- 🌍 Embrace Diversity & Inclusion – Consider food, accessibility, and ways to welcome newcomers.
- 🤝 Leverage Community Resources – Could local speakers, Indigenous knowledge keepers, RDOS, RCMP, or First Responders add value?
- 🔗 Build Lasting Connections – Will you gather contact info or aim to make it an annual event?

The application is simple! Share your idea, how you will invite folks, draft a budget and submit!

Dates to Consider When Planning

-  Application Deadline: April 18, 2025
-  Independent Review by NSG Grant Committee: Until April 28
-  In-Person Adjudication by NSG Grant Committee: May 5–9
-  Applicants Notified: May 15–23
-  Grant Distribution: May 26–30
-  Project Leader Online Check-In: June 5 | 5:30–6:00 PM
-  Projects Can Begin: After June 15
-  Projects Must Be Completed By: November 30, 2025

Be flexible! Conversations with others may spark new ideas and opportunities for collaboration.!

Your Budget

- 📋 List All Project Expenses – **Identify everything you'll need to bring your idea to life.**
- 💰 Grant Request – **Keep your total request under \$500.**
- 🎨 Project Activities – Budget for games, crafts, and building/beautifying activities.
- 🎁 Prizes & Giveaways – Consider costs for tools, plants, or unexpected.
- 👤 Estimate Attendees – Plan for supplies and food based on expected numbers.
- 🍴 Food Costs – Must be included in your budget or proposal
- 🎭 Honorariums – Permissible allocations:
 - Up to \$350 – Hosting a series of events
 - Up to \$350 – Indigenous knowledge sharers /series
 - Up to \$350 – Musicians
 - Up to \$100 – Guest speakers, makers, or specialized skills
 - (Honorariums do not replace professional fees.)

Think Resourcefully: Borrow or get donations from local businesses
Think Local: For your purchases try buy from locally owned and/or sourced locations

Budget Costs Not Permitted

💡 Need clarity? Connect with the NSG Coordinator!

🚫 Ineligible Expenses:

- Single-item expenses – Entire budget on food, t-shirts, or books
- Bouncy castles – Not covered
- Professional fees – Honorariums allowed, but not full professional rates
- Travel costs – Not eligible
- Capital costs – No funding for large equipment or infrastructure
- Fundraisers – Grant funds cannot be redirected as donations
- Online-only purchases – **BUY LOCAL whenever possible**



Think Resourcefully: Borrow or get donations from local businesses
Think Local: For your purchases try buy from locally owned and/or sourced locations

How Your Application will be scored

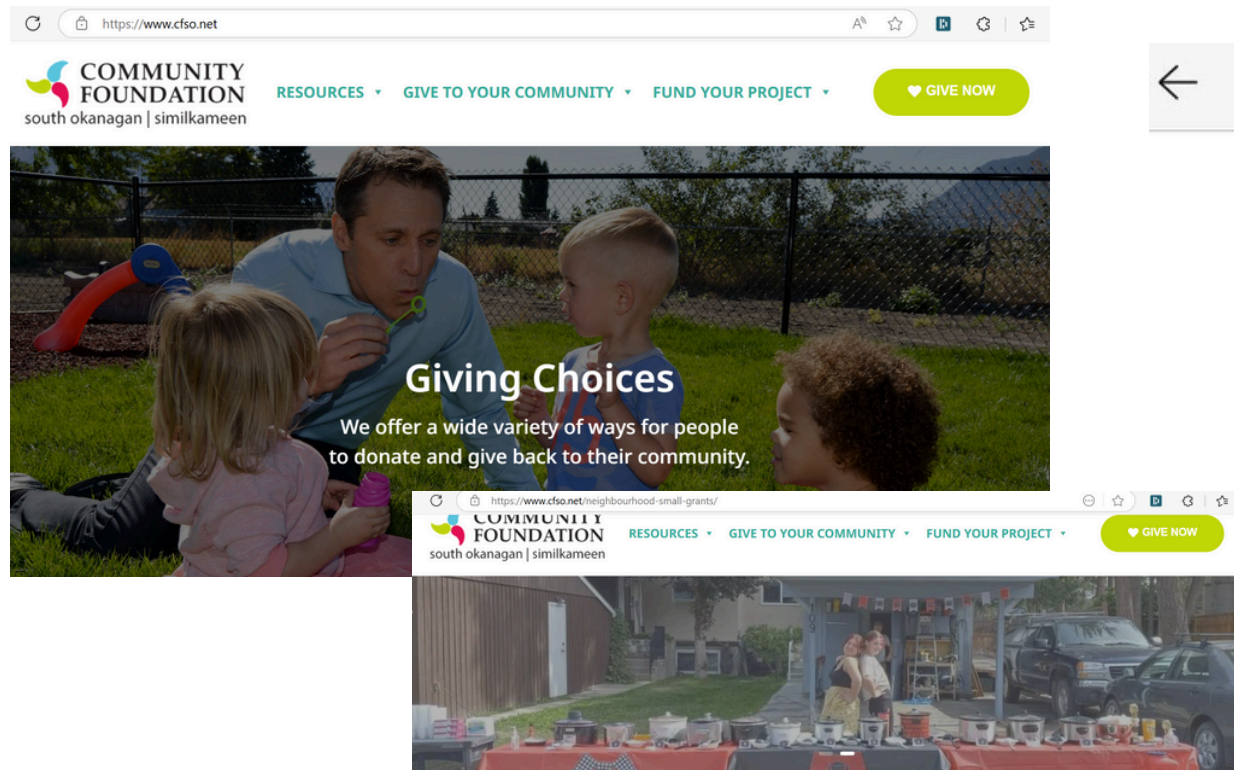
Each application is evaluated out of 25 points (1-5 per category):

- 🤝 Fostering Connections & Engagement – Does the project bring neighbours together in meaningful ways?
- 🏠 Belonging & Community Responsibility – Does it create a welcoming and inclusive sense of community?
- 🎓 Skill Sharing & Knowledge Exchange – Does it promote learning and sharing among participants?
- 🌍 Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility – Is the project accessible and welcoming to all?
- 💰 Budget Feasibility – Is the budget clear, realistic, and aligned with NSG guidelines?

Applying is easy! Simply share your idea, explain how you'll bring people together, draft a budget, and submit!

Where to Apply!

www.cfso.net/Neighbourhood-Small-Grants/



Neighbourhood Small Grants

Ideas that connect neighbours

We offer grants of up to \$500 to help bring your community project to life. With a Neighbourhood Small Grant, you become part of a network of hundreds of project leaders who have taken steps to strengthen their neighbourhoods—just like you.

Why do we do this? Because magic happens when neighbours connect. It builds friendships.



Logon Page

Email Address*

Password*

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen's online grant portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has

Cancel Account Creation

Create New Account

If you already have an Account, click the 'Cancel Account Creation' button to go to the Logon page

⚠️ Using the browser's back button will delete your registration information.

ℹ️ This registration process has multiple steps you must complete before you can apply.

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Write your surname name here

CRA Registration Number*

If you are a not-for-profit organization that does not have a CRA registration number, please enter 000000000RR0000.

000000000RR0000

Web Site

Telephone Number (###-###-####)*

Organization Email

Write your email address here

Address 1*

Address 2

City*

Province*

Province must be entered using the two character abbreviation in all caps (e.g. AB for Alberta) Prince Edward Island should be entered as PEI.

Postal Code*

Creating Your Profile

Our grant system is designed to accept applications only from non-profits. Please follow the prompts accordingly.

Consider Your Event Location

On a street

- Suitable for larger gatherings
- Must be on local road or cul de sac and not a busy road
- You will need to have \$2 million in liability insurance. Contact your provider, or purchase insurance.
- You will need to get permission to close your street
- Personal consideration: people can go home quickly to use the bathroom

In a park

- Suitable for large or small gatherings
- Learn more about hosting an event with your local government
- You will need to have \$2 million in liability insurance
- Public washrooms

On private property

- For smaller gatherings, a lawn party can work well
- No permits are required
- You may need 3rd party insurance
- Comfortable with people in your house?



Quick Tips

- Don't host on an NSG on a long weekend - people are usually booked
- Bring a child with you to give out invitations
- Have a **THEME**
- **GAMES** to get the conversations flowing with laughs
- Have a safety plan & a First Aid kit available, fire extinguisher
- **WELCOME TABLE** with name tags (use colour pens and stickers)
- Create a neighbourhood contact list or a Facebook page
- Research ideas!



Responsibility of grantee/ Project Leader



Expectations & Responsibilities of a Grantee

- ✓ Review your Letter of Award & Action Prompts
- ✉ Stay connected with the NSG Coordinator—send an invite!
- 🎨 Acknowledge NSG by including the logo on materials
- 💰 Use funds according to your approved budget
- ⌚ Complete your project within the given timeframe
- 📸 Share your impact by uploading photos and a project story to the grant portal

Funder Recognition and LOGOS



**Neighbourhood
Small Grants**



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Small Grants**



Celebrate summer at the
**ROCK THE
BLOCK
PARTY**

Join us for food and games this June
20, 2020 3:00 PM at 123 Anywhere St.
RSVP TO GEORGE AT (123) 456-7890.

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The poster features a green background with stylized watermelon and orange slices at the top. It includes the event title, date, time, location, and contact information, along with logos for Neighbourhood Small Grants and the Community Foundation.

Share Your Story

Take Photos

During your project, make sure you take photos or videos that you can submit.



Write a Story

How did your project go?
Any surprises?
Anything that you would change?
Did you have enough support?



Inspire others

By sharing your story you are inspiring other people in the community to apply or contribute to their neighbourhood.





Giving Choices. Funding Change.

Kim English

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www.cfso.net