

Black-led Climate Action Grants

Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

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Agenda

1. Background
2. Timeline
3. Program development
4. Committee discussion





Background

- Black communities in Toronto face disproportionate climate impacts, while also facing significant barriers in accessing climate funding.
- Program direction as part of the City's Carbon Budget Prioritization (2025) process.
 - [2025.BU8.1 / BN #12 / Appendix B – Carbon Budget Prioritization](#)
- New program is currently in co-design with community to ensure alignment with priorities and goals, and community adoption.

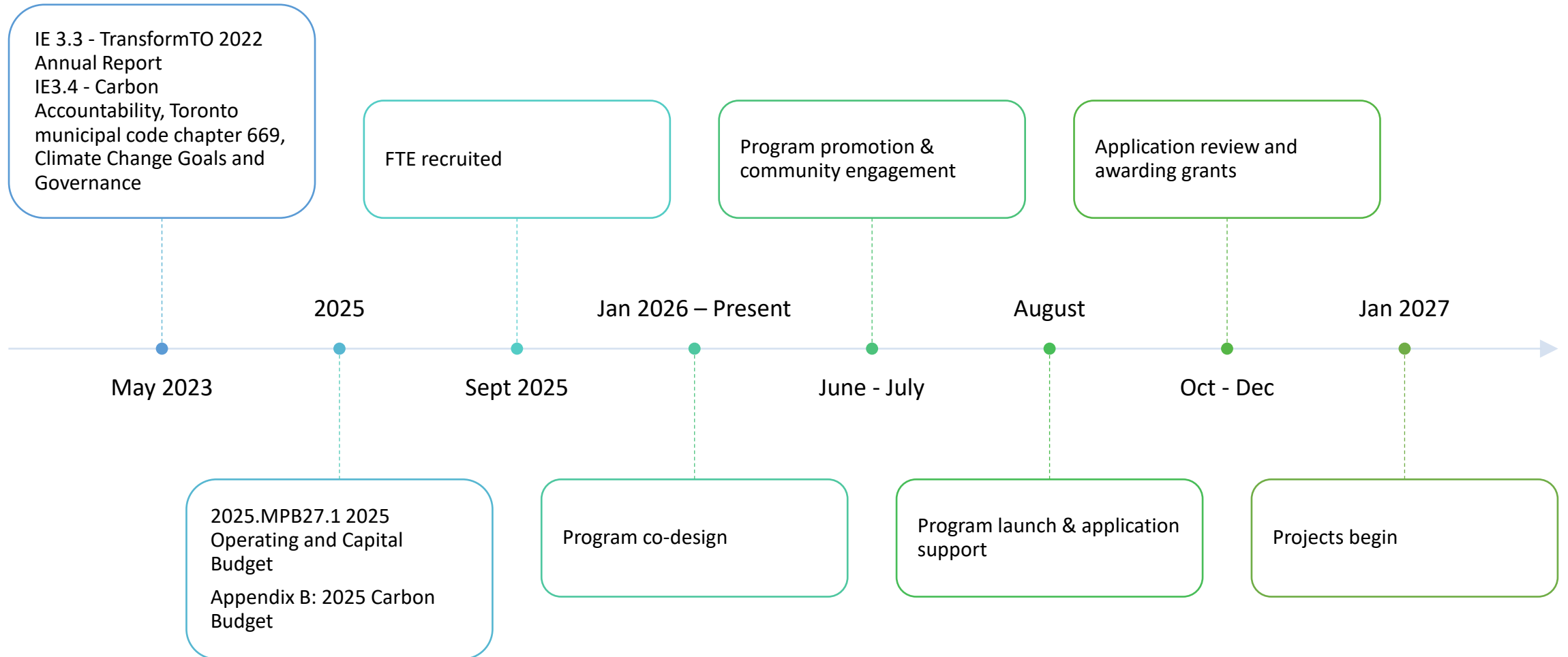
Why This Matters to TransformTO

- Climate action succeeds when residents trust, participate in, and benefit from the transition.
- Community-led climate action helps build local resilience, participation, and long-term behaviour change.
- Black communities are already leading climate adaptation, care, and organizing work across Toronto.
- Supporting Black-led climate action strengthens both equity outcomes and Toronto's ability to achieve net zero.

Reaching net zero is not just an infrastructure project.

Some climate actions reduce emissions directly. Others make those reductions possible.

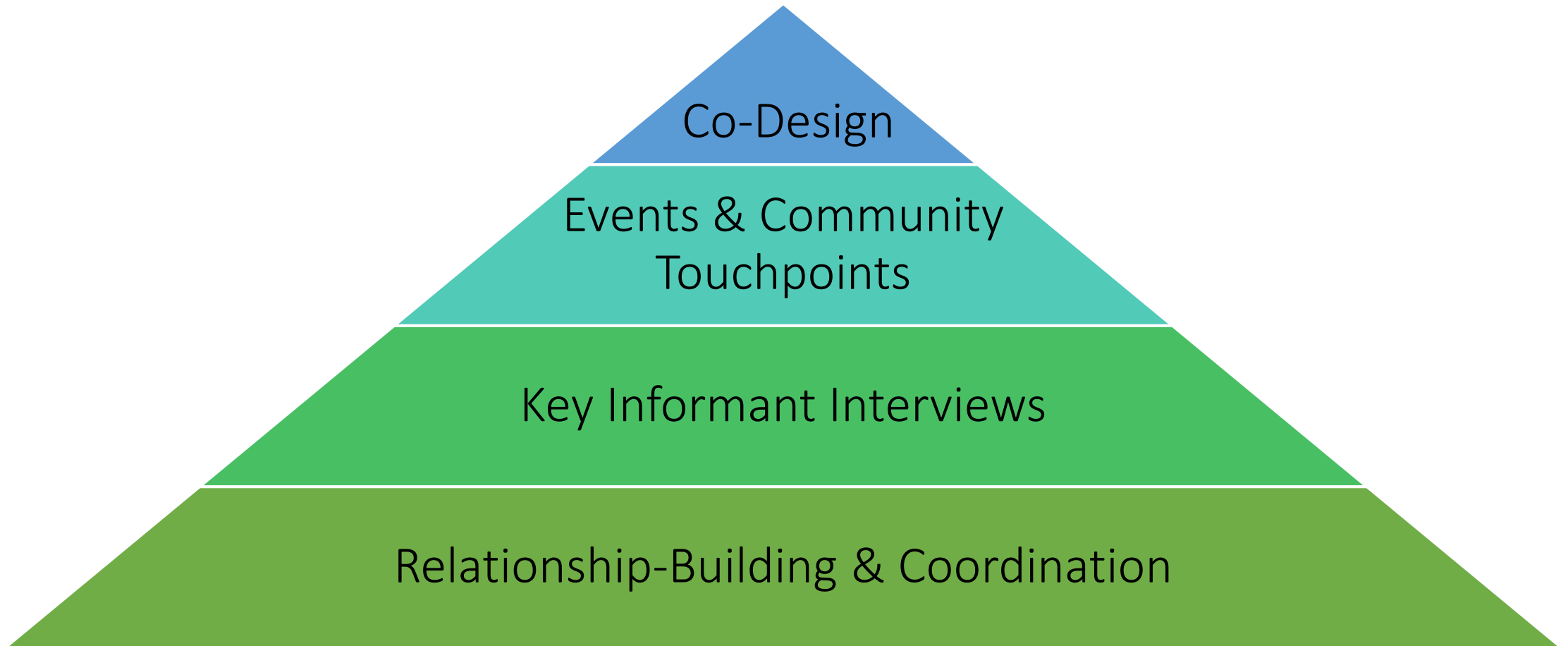
Timeline



Program Parameters

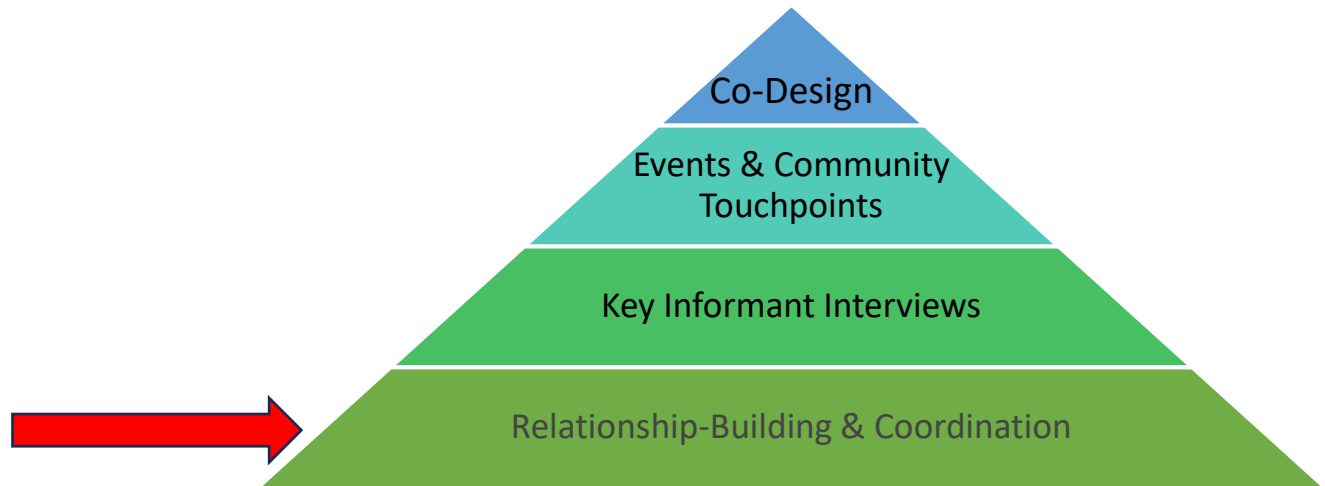
- **Budget:** \$200,000 in project funding annually.
- **Eligible projects:** Take place within the city of Toronto's boundaries.
- **Eligible applicants:** Non-profits, community organizations, and grassroots groups that are Black-led*.
- **Multi-stage review process:** City-led and embedded community review.
- **City protocols:** Follows City of Toronto bylaws, policies, and strategic directions.

Program Development Progress



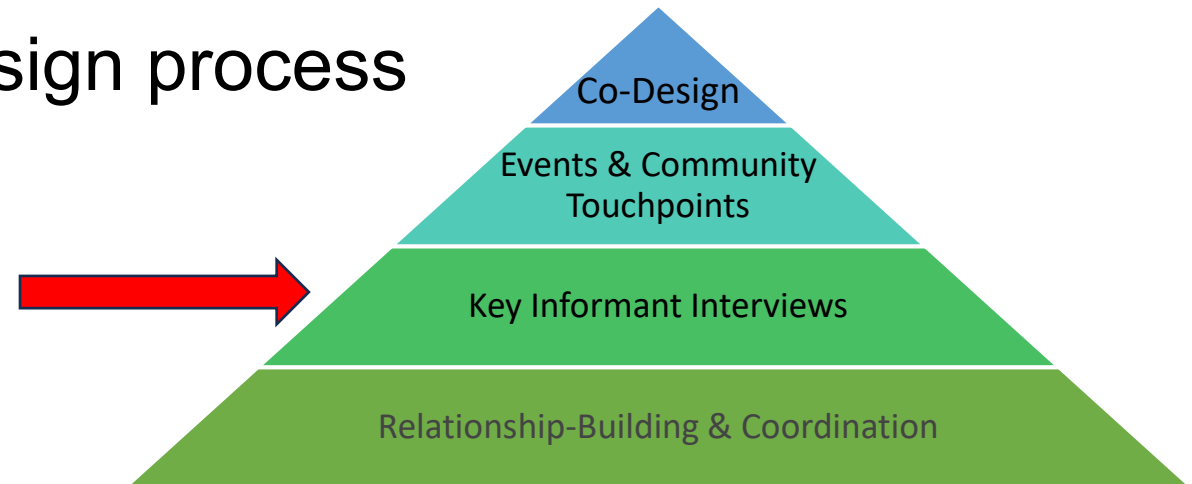
Relationship Building & Coordination

- Internal research and coordination
- Collaboration on planning with CABR unit
- Exploring existing trusted bridges and entryways to community



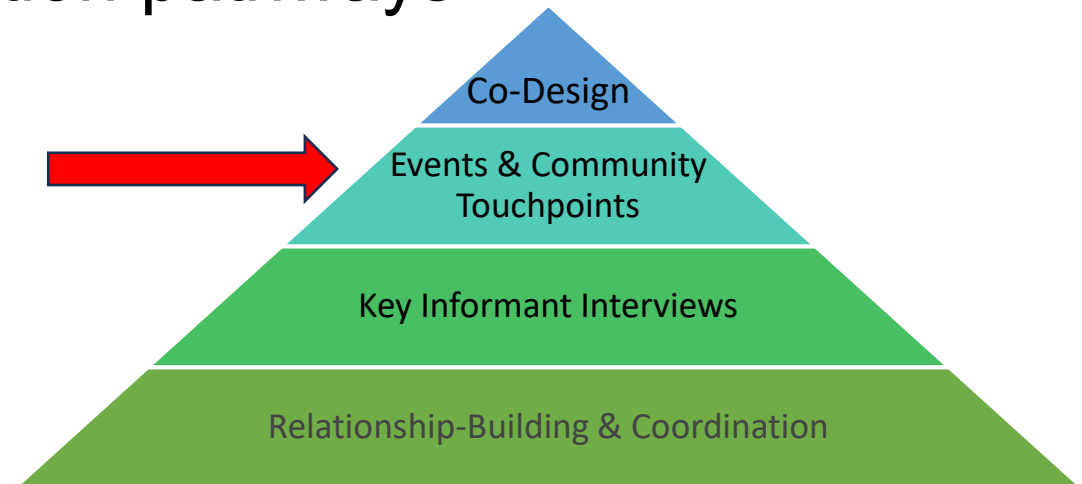
Key Informant Interviews

- Connecting with leaders in the field
- Gaining perspective, ideas and academic insights
- Understanding current networks and bridges to community leaders
- Gathering feedback on co-design process



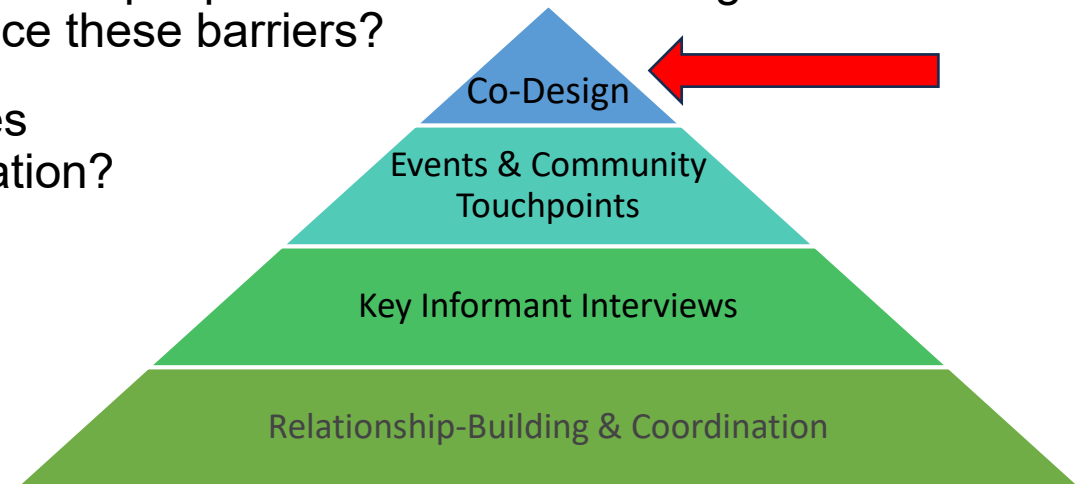
Events & Community Touchpoints

- City-led community events
- Community-led events
- Connections with community organizations
- Identifying future program promotion pathways



Community Co-Design

- City-led Community Co-Design Sessions
 - 97 participants provided feedback across 3 co-design sessions
 - Areas of exploration:
 - **Project type:** What kind of projects would you like to see funded with this grant program? What kinds of projects address the needs of Black communities in Toronto?
 - **Barriers & Supports:** What barriers do you think people will have in accessing this program, and what City supports might reduce these barriers?
 - **Decision-making:** How can these processes support fairness, transparency, and participation?
 - **Reporting:** How would you like to report on a grant project?



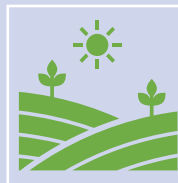
Key community questions:



Attendees at the April 29, 2026, in-person community co-design session. Source: City of Toronto.



What defines a 'Black-led' organization?

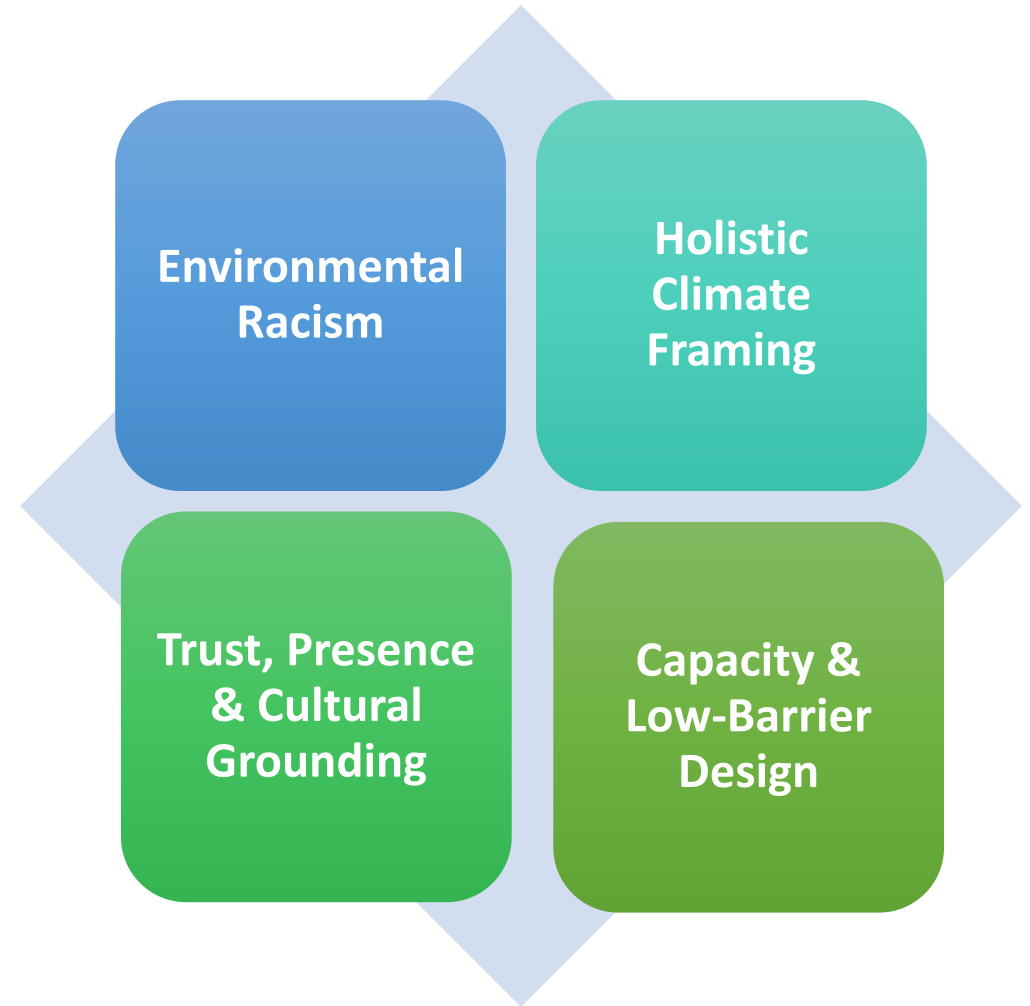


How do we connect community priorities to climate action?

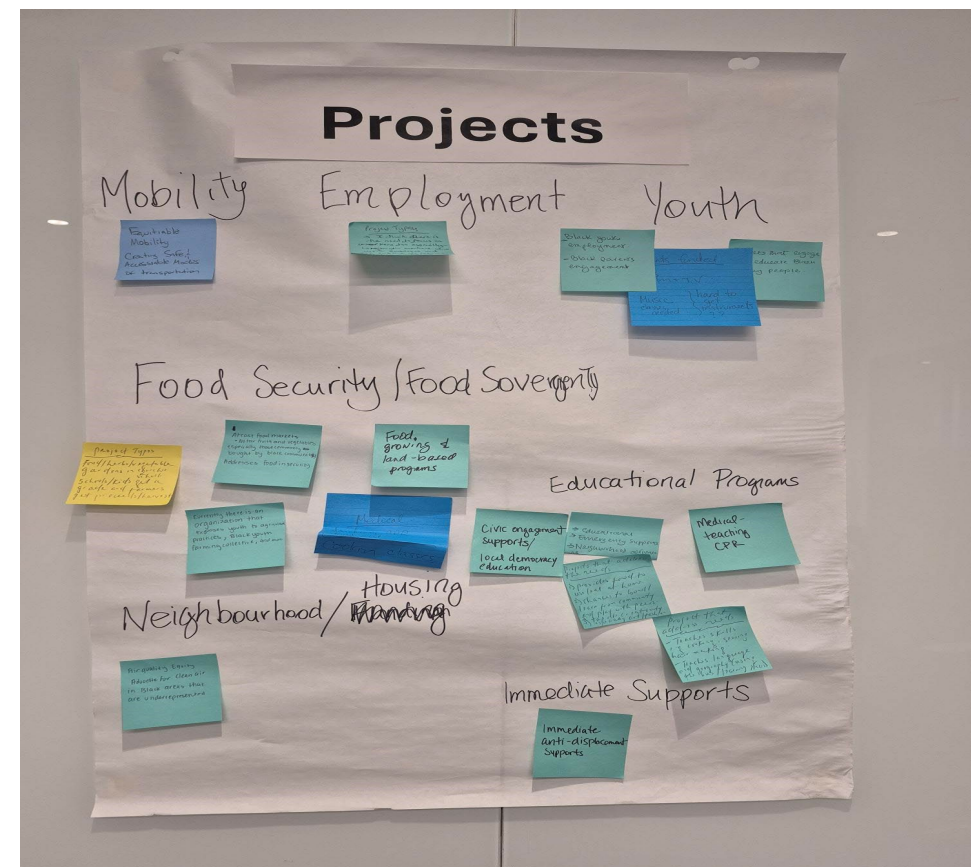
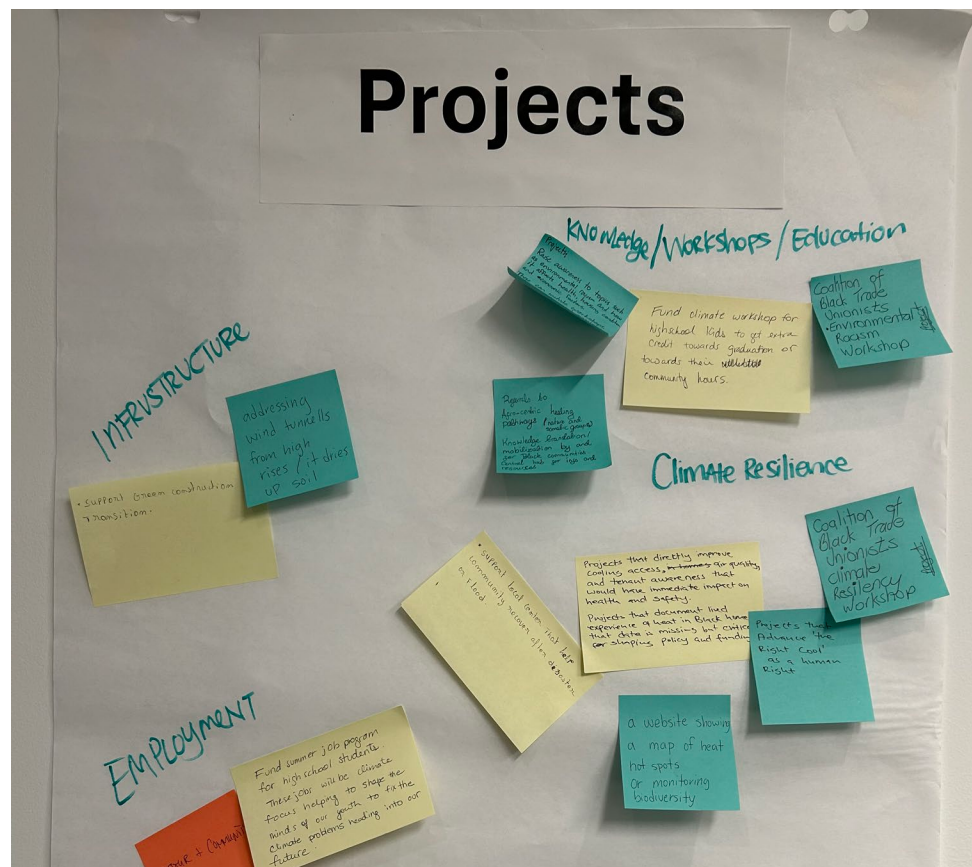


What is the amount of funding one project can receive, and can there be repeated / sustained project funding?

Emergent Themes



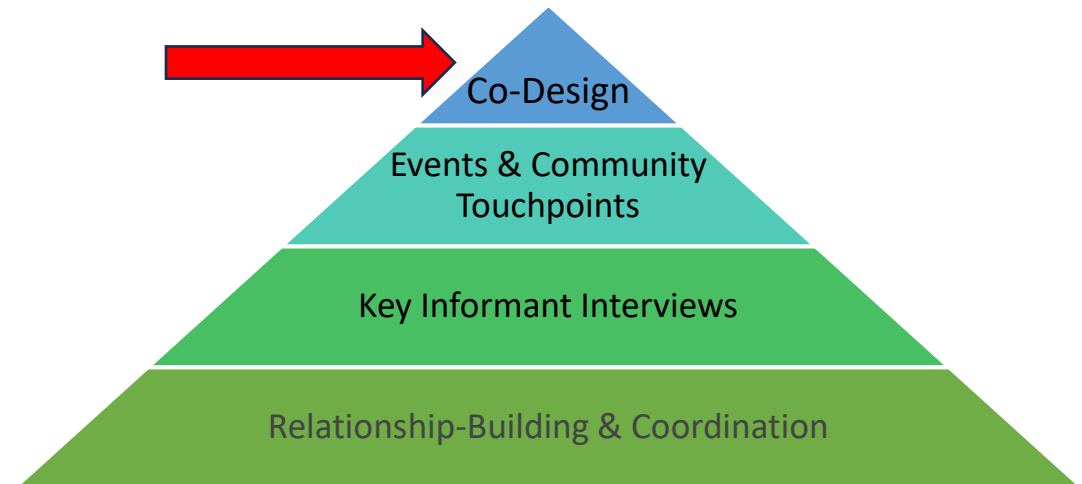
Climate Action Projects



Examples of Black-led climate action projects from the April 29, 2026, in-person community co-design session. Source: City of Toronto.

Community Co-Design Next Steps

- CABRAC Discussion – May
- Co-design survey – June
- Black Environmental Initiative community event – June





Discussion:

1. Committee recommendations for City and/or external supports to ensure the program is accessible and empowering
2. Defining “Black-led” in a way that is both inclusive and accountable for community organizations and grassroots groups.
3. Community review process – suggestions on who can be involved in reviewing and recommending grant applications.

Thank you!

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