



Social Development, Finance and Administration's Community Safety and Well-Being Unit in Partnership with Community Funding

2023 Youth Violence Prevention Grant Guidelines

The Letter of Intent opens Thursday, March 2, 2023
Deadline to Apply: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Virtual Grant Information Sessions

Participants will receive an overview of the 2023 Youth Violence Prevention Grant where you will learn more about the Grant priorities and eligibility criteria. There will be a Q&A session right after with City of Toronto staff. Attendance is not mandatory.

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| Tuesday, March 7th 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Join here: https://toronto.webex.com/toronto/j.php?MTID=m669743423265d3b03ef45e618621042c |
| Tuesday, March 14th 6:30pm -7:30pm | Join here: https://toronto.webex.com/toronto/j.php?MTID=mab58afd1bfe195c1149717c799029e35 |

One-on-One Applicant Discussions with City Staff

Have questions about the Grant? Unsure if your project idea is eligible? Feel free to drop in during our virtual office hours where you can connect with the Grant staff leads. Attendance is not mandatory.

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| Wednesday, March 15th 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Join here: https://toronto.webex.com/toronto/j.php?MTID=m3654449537f8519dfce3e7fe0f3618cd |
| Monday, March 20th 12:00pm - 1:00pm | Join here: https://toronto.webex.com/toronto/j.php?MTID=mf0c1cdac2636f76f045aec3dc6cfb22b |
| Monday, March 27th 5:00pm - 6:00 PM | Join here: https://toronto.webex.com/toronto/j.php?MTID=m12f642c6898922055eecd8d0e1a4e5e1 |

If you have questions about program ideas outside of the times and dates provided above, please contact Veronica Salvatierra at Veronica.Salvatierra@toronto.ca

If you need technical assistance with the letter of intent, or have questions about organizational eligibility, please contact Laurie O'Dell at Laurie.ODell@toronto.ca

Background

Toronto City Council adopted [SafeTO: Toronto’s Ten-Year Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#) on July 14, 2021. SafeTO will drive 26 priority actions across seven strategic goals. Community violence was declared a [public health issue by the Toronto Board of Health](#) in 2019 and is prioritized in SafeTO. The traumatic impacts of gun violence can contribute to negative long-term health outcomes. The Youth Violence Prevention Grant aligns its outcomes with the City’s strategic goals, priorities, and preparations for the launch of the Toronto Office to Prevent Gun Violence. It also aims to impact positively on the broader community through effective evidence-informed interventions to prevent incidents of community violence and mitigate the negative impacts of violence at the community level.

Grant-Prioritized Neighbourhoods

The list of prioritized communities that will receive intensive, locally based supports through this Grant were identified through an extensive analysis of data that combines key trends and themes associated with risk factors, the number of critical violent incidents and social determinants of health that are impacting youth, aged 10-29.

Each zone will receive at least one Grant. Additional Grants will be prioritized for:

- Applicants requesting to work in **Scarborough – Zone 5**.
- Applicants requesting to work in multiple neighbourhoods within a zone.
- Zones with increased needs for additional resources (data-driven and informed.)

Please note that the city is working closely with the **Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board** to support school safety and will be available to broker relationships with the School Boards to support successful grantees in partnering with them on initiatives within the schools and accessing space, if needed.

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| Zone 1 | Black Creek, Glenfield-Jane Heights, York University Heights, Oakdale-Beverly Heights, and Humbermede |
| Zone 2 | Elms-Old Rexdale, Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown, and Kingsview Village-The Westway |
| Zone 3 | Beechborough-Greenbrook, Rustic, Rockcliffe-Smythe, Yorkdale-Glen Park, Englemount-Lawrence, Weston, Brookhaven-Amesbury, and Weston-Pelham |
| Zone 4 | Kensington-Chinatown, Regent Park, Parkdale and Moss Park |
| Zone 5 | Golfdale-Cedarbrae-Woburn, Oakridge, Malvern East, Eglinton East, L’Amoreaux, Morningside, West Hill, and Dorset Park |
| Zone 6 | Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park, and Victoria Village |

Funding Deliverables

The City of Toronto is looking to partner with organizations working with youth **most** vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime through this investment. In taking a Community Development approach to de-escalate community conflict and support the wellbeing of youth and

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their families, this Grant will see successful Grant recipients join the City-wide Youth Violence Prevention Network to:

- Increase collaboration and connectivity within the youth-serving sector in real-time.
- Empower local leadership and connections to City services & strategies.
- Build capacity of the youth-serving sector to prioritize youth violence prevention strategies, resources, and services.
- Empower collective community-led solutions to emerging issues.
- Strategically align funding opportunities to fill gaps in services and decrease duplication.
- Integrate youth violence prevention investments by deepening community involvement in the implementation of SafeTO and other strategic City initiatives.
- Ensure investments are complimentary and working towards a common goal.
- Develop community leadership by identifying cohorts of emerging leaders to ensure succession planning.

Please note: if you are successful through this Grant call, you agree to participate in the Youth Violence Prevention Network described above.

Organizational Eligibility and Partnerships

Applicants to the Youth Violence Prevention Grant will be accepted from partnerships comprised of an established, community-based non-profit lead organization **and** a grassroots group/organization. These two parties must demonstrate a balanced division of labour, a strong commitment to collaboration and partnership, a proven track record of two (2) or more years of working with youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime (MVP youth, aged 10-29) and solid communication and risk mitigation plans.

To Apply, the Established Not-for-Profit Lead and Grassroots Partner Must Both Meet the Following Eligibility Criteria:

- Have experience in trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, healing-centred approaches including appropriate supports for justice-involved, gang-involved, and gang-associated youth.
- Have two (2) or more years of proven work within the selected neighbourhood(s) that includes established relationships with community members in youth violence prevention, intervention, or interruption programming.
- Have proven and demonstrated experience in data collection and evaluation with MVP youth, aged 10-29.
- Have access to safe spaces for youth in selected communities.
- Have knowledge of positive youth development principles and practices in the mental health and justice sectors.

Organizational Eligibility | The Established Not-for-Profit Lead Must:

- Be an incorporated not-for-profit organization that operates without financial gain for its members or directors.
- Be based in the City of Toronto. This means the organization must be located in Toronto with an address that begins with an M postal code and Grant supported activities must take place in Toronto.
- Be accountable to the community through an elected Board of Directors who are representative of the community served.
- More than 50% of Board members reside in the City of Toronto.
- Have audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year.
- Be in good standing with the City of Toronto.
- Comply with the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).
- Have proven financial and program management experience.
- Have proven experience and ability to manage the project (i.e.: administrative oversight, financial processes and procedures).
- Partners have a clear role in the project and there is a clear structure for the decision-making process.

Organizational Eligibility | The Grassroots Partner Must:

- Consist of three (3) or more members/staff who will be compensated for project work.
- Be a separate entity from the established not-for-profit organizational partner.
- Be based in the City of Toronto. This means the organization must be located in Toronto with an address that begins with an M postal code and Grant supported activities must take place in Toronto.

As stated, our goal is to strategically align programs to better support youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime through strategic collaborations with local community-based not-for-profit organizations and grassroots groups/organizations. Grassroots organizations play a key role in supporting MVP youth as many have existing relationships with youth in community and have already established the trust required to do this important work.

The Youth Violence Prevention Grant will prioritize the leadership and participation of Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving organizations and groups. Indigenous applications will be reviewed by an Indigenous Grant Review Panel. For more information on the City's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, please click [here](#).

Definitions and Examples of Eligible Programs

Funding is directed at violence prevention, intervention, and/or interruption programming. Social development programming will only be considered if in combination with one of these 3 prioritized streams.

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| Program Type | Definition | Program Examples | Examples of Performance Measurement (examples are from the Youth Outcomes Framework) |
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| Violence Prevention | Programs for youth that experience more than one risk factor (for involvement in serious violence and crime) that aim to reduce these risks. | Programming could include but not be limited to, conflict mediation/resolution, conflict management workshops, stress management workshops, etc. | % of youth who say they are more confident in their ability to manage their stress and cope when changes happen in their lives compared to when they first started the program. |
| Violence Intervention | Programs for youth involved in violent behaviour or high-risk activities that aim to interrupt the reoccurrence or escalation of violence for youth experiencing multiple risk factors. | Programs that intervene on further victimization or crime and provide holistic support to mitigate multiple risk factors. Programming can include but not be limited to, case-management with prevention programming, peer support programming, tailored wrap-around-support programs, gang intervention programs. | % of youth who say they learned strategies to help them think through how to act or what to say in a disagreement or conflict with someone compared to when they first started the program. |
| Violence Interruption | Immediate and reactive responses to crime or safety that involve victims, perpetrators or influencers of crime and violence as well as affected communities. | Programs that mediate conflicts on the street and/or online and connect high-risk individuals to services that could prevent further involvement in violence and crime. Swift and instrumental response to de-escalate situations to reduce the likelihood of retaliation. Programming can include but not be limited to a combination of intensive case-management, tailored wrap-around support programs, gang intervention programs, peer support programming, safety planning etc. | % of youth who say they are more confident to make a plan of action and follow it when faced with a problem in their life compared to when they first started the program. |
| Social Development | Programs for the general youth population that aim to prevent the development of risk factors for serious violence and crime through the promotion of positive youth development. | After-school drop-in programs, general life skills development programming. (i.e.: leadership development workshops, financial literacy workshops, employment programs, youth lounges, etc.) | % of youth who say they have taken on a leadership or advocacy role in their communities (i.e.: organizing or leading a program or event for others in their communities, supporting their peers, etc.) since they started the program. |

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Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve very quickly, it is the responsibility of applicants to stay up to date and adhere to all [public health measures, advice and restrictions](#) that may impact the implementation of their project.

Eligible Use of Grant Funds:

Ineligible Use of Grant Funds:

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| Salaries, benefits and honoraria | Fundraising events |
| Trainings, certifications, and skill building workshops | Donations to charitable causes |
| Project space rental and liability insurance | Reserve funds |
| Delivery materials and participant-related costs (i.e.: TTC tokens, program supplies, food during events) | Any business and for-profit activities or subsidies |
| Program Evaluation | Capital costs (i.e.: building repairs and renovations) |
| Supports to reduce barriers to participation (i.e.: personal protective equipment, virtual meeting software, etc.) | Debt repayment or deficit funding |
| Interpretation and translation for events and communications | Political or religious activities |
| Childminding | |
| Outreach and promotion | |
| Small capital costs: Contact City staff about any capital items. Major capital costs are not eligible for funding. Minor capital expenses such as equipment to support virtual activities may be eligible. Approval will be conditional on the incorporated non-profit lead owning the equipment after the project is completed. | |

Funding Amount and Process

- Applicants may apply for up to \$200,000 per zone. The total available budget for this Grant is approximately \$2.2 million annually.
- If you are applying to more than one zone, please submit a separate application for each.
- Funding is available for up to a maximum of three (3) years.
- Activities funded through this Grant will begin in June 2023.

This Grant application will consist of two stages:

- **Stage 1:** Completing the Letter of Intent application online.
- **Stage 2:** Shortlisted applicants will be invited to record a short pitch presentation of your proposed project for a panel of local community youth and City of Toronto staff. Applicants will also be asked to complete a project work plan and budget for year 1 programming.

Grant Timeline

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| April 11, 2023 | Stage 1 - Letter of Intent Applications Due |
| Mid-April to Late-May 2023 | Stage 2 - Pitch Presentation invitations sent to shortlisted applicants |
| Mid-to-Late May 2023 | Grant Panel Review Process |
| May 31, 2023 | Funding Recommendations Announced |
| June 2023 | Funds Released |

Letter of Intent applications will be reviewed and assessed for shortlisting by City staff from the Community Funding, Community Safety and Wellbeing, and the Youth Development Units. Youth in the communities identified in this Grant call will be trained to review and recommend proposals that address the needs within their communities as part of the review process.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to record a video pitch about their program for the Grant Review Panel. The panel will consist of youth and City staff. Review Panels will recommend successful applicants to the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration for approval.

Project Impact and Reporting

Upon invitation to stage 2 of the application, applicants will be asked to:

- List the program outcomes and indicators that will be measured. Indicators measure whether the program is achieving its intended outcomes for participants. (i.e.: % of youth who say they met at least one adult (such as a mentor or program staff member) through the program who can listen to and support them when they want and ask for it.)
- Explain how they will gather the data necessary to report on program outcomes including, what methods of data collection will be used (i.e.: pre and/or post program surveys, focus groups, interviews.)

For examples of program outcomes and indicators, applicants can refer to the [City of Toronto's Youth Outcomes Framework](#). The Framework also includes a survey question bank that can be used to select questions for surveys. Reporting schedules and expectations will be provided to the successful applicants.

Successful applicants will be required to complete an annual report that outlines the:

- Program deliverables (i.e.: number of participants, number of activities or events organized.)
- Outcomes the program had on youth participants (i.e.: change in feelings, awareness, knowledge or behaviour.)

[Click here to access the Letter of Intent Grant Application](#)

Accommodation for Special Needs

Accommodation of special needs (i.e.: documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, off-hour meetings, etc.) are available as required to ensure that groups can fully participate in the funding process. For accommodation requests, please contact Laurie O'Dell at Laurie.ODell@toronto.ca

Disclosure of Information

As mandated by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1990) s. 27 and By-Law 974-1998 all information collected on this form, including personal information may be subject to full public disclosure which may include posting to a web site. Questions about this collection can be directed to the Manager of Community Funding at City Hall, 15th floor, East Tower, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2, or by email at CommunityFunding@Toronto.ca

Conflict of Interest

The members of the Review Panel will adhere to the City's Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy and will be recruited and trained by City staff. All panelists must attest to their impartiality before the review process begins. Community members who supported the development of proposals, are a member of a group that has submitted a proposal or will see financial gain from the approval of a proposal cannot participate in the review process. It is important to note that a conflict of interest also occurs when a community member's family, friends, or the organizations they support may benefit from decisions made by the panel members. If conflicts of interest are not declared and emerge once the review process has begun, the City reserves the right to revise the review process to ensure adherence to the policy.