

# Strengthening the Community Crisis System Grant (SCCSG) Guidelines

## Application Process

The SCCSG grant has two stages: Stage 1 includes an eligibility assessment and project proposal followed by an internal review to compile a shortlist of applicants. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to Stage 2 of the application, which includes submission of a workplan and budget.

To apply, you will need to sign-up / register your organization on the [Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives \(TGRIP\) Portal](#). Review the instructions on the [Toronto Community Crisis Service webpage](#) on “How to Register for a TGRIP Account”, or [watch the TGRIP video](#) before you begin your application. Once your account is activated, step one is to confirm your eligibility. Once eligible, you will be moved forward to the full application, step two, including completing a work plan and budget.

The application process steps are described below:

1. Review these guidelines to ensure your organization and proposed initiative are eligible for funding.
2. Submit Stage 1 of the application by August 11, 2023 at 12:00 PM
3. If selected, Submit Stage 2 of the application by September 8, 2023 at 12:00PM

We encourage you to get in touch to discuss your application. If you have technical questions about this application, please contact [Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca). If you have questions about the grant criteria, please contact [Carolyn.Rowan@toronto.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Rowan@toronto.ca).

## Info Sessions

Information sessions will be held for all interested applicants:

- **Stage 1 Info Session: July 17 at 12 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**
- **Stage 2 Info Session: August 28 at 12 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**

To register for the information session and receive a link, please email [policingreform@toronto.ca](mailto:policingreform@toronto.ca).

## Funding Timelines

Activities funded through this grant must be implemented within one year of receiving funding and completed by October 1, 2024 with a October 1, 2023 start date. Your project and expenses cannot start until you receive a written notification from the City.

## **Strengthening the Community Crisis System Grant (SCCSG) Overview**

In March 2022, Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) launched a 24/7 service that provides a community-based, non-police response to calls made to 211 or 911 for people experiencing mental health crises, as well as wellbeing checks.

Multi-disciplinary teams of crisis workers based in community health service anchor partner organizations deliver the service locally to individuals aged 16 and older. The mobile teams offer voluntary person-centred care and crisis stabilization, follow-up visits within 48 hours, and ongoing case management for up to 90 days.

The TCCS currently operates in four pilot areas of the city, covering 64 per cent of the city's wards. These pilot boundaries were identified based on areas where there is a demonstrated need, and in which calls for people in crisis are the highest in Toronto. The service is one of SafeTO's first-year priority actions, focused on reducing vulnerability in Toronto through proactive mental health support strategies and community-based crisis support models.

Alongside Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Community Crisis Service is being developed as the fourth municipal emergency service in Toronto.

While the TCCS is one piece of a much larger system of health care, social services, and community supports, strategic investments are needed to strengthen the coordination and infrastructure that underpins the crisis support system to ensure resources and supports are readily available and accessible. These investments should:

- Improve timely access and connection to appropriate community-based post-crisis supports, wrap-around care, and case management
- Improve the availability and connection to culturally relevant and population-specific supports
- Increase the capacity and infrastructure of the crisis service system to address service gaps, such as access to crisis respite spaces.

Please visit [Toronto.ca/crisisservice](https://toronto.ca/crisisservice) for more information on the Toronto Community Crisis Service.

### **What does the fund aim to achieve?**

This funding opportunity is intended to strengthen and increase the capacity of the current mental health and substance use crisis infrastructure within the city of Toronto. While funding should not duplicate existing or previously funded activities, these funds may be used for new enhancements of existing initiatives.

Interventions funded through this model should focus on three key themes for investment along the continuum of care:

<b>Investment Theme</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<p><b>Theme 1: Prevention</b>  Initiatives under this theme will propose interventions that will provide timely and low-barrier access to appropriate regular and ongoing support intended to maintain good mental health. They accomplish this by enhancing access and availability of culturally relevant or population-specific supports, providing solutions for decreasing waitlists for programs, enhancing the availability of system navigators, removing barriers that prevent or discourage people from accessing mental health or substance use support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional resources to decrease a client waitlist for mental health or substance use related support services</li> <li>○ New or enhanced culturally- or population-specific mental health and/or substance use support programs</li> <li>○ New or enhanced peer support programs</li> <li>○ New or enhanced access and navigation of supports demonstrated to directly impact mental health (e.g. housing, nutritious food, safety, income security, education, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 2: Stabilization</b>  Initiatives under this theme will propose interventions that prevent a situation from progressing further into crisis by providing stabilizing supports and options to a person experiencing a crisis. They accomplish this by providing welcoming and safe short-term crisis space and/or beds, providing food, shelter, and other necessities, providing problem-solving support, de-escalation, offering client-centred healing and holistic support, and access to other immediate therapeutic supports or counselling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New or enhanced amenities within existing crisis respite spaces or safe bed programs</li> <li>○ Additional resources to enhance operating hours and capacity of existing crisis respite spaces or safe bed programs</li> <li>○ New or enhanced dedicated counselling services (e.g. trauma counselling, identity specific counselling, art-therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 3 – Post-Crisis Supports</b>  Initiatives under this theme will propose interventions that support an individual during and after a crisis by providing wrap-around support. They accomplish this by assisting those who have just experienced a crisis with accessing the appropriate level of care, including supporting an individual through case management, connecting to appropriate referrals, peer support, providing appointment reminders and accompaniment and/or transportation. Interventions under this theme may also increase availability of holistic support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New or enhanced access to harm reduction and/or substance use support services</li> <li>○ New or enhanced holistic or traditional care programs</li> <li>○ New or enhanced mechanisms to coordinate services (e.g. new partnerships and referral pathways, transportation services, development of common tools or improved processes for connecting clients to supports that meet their needs)</li> </ul>

<p>services needed during the period following a crisis and enhance service and referral pathways between care organizations/networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New or enhanced programs for family and/or kinship networks supporting individuals post-crisis</li> </ul>
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- Applications may be submitted for programs or services that an organization may already offer. All applications must identify the population(s) they intend to support through their initiatives.
- The Strengthening the Community Crisis System Grant (SCCSG) provides one-time funding with the possibility of extension for a multi-year funding period contingent on City Council approval.

## What types of initiatives is the fund looking to support?

The Strengthening the Community Crisis System Grant is divided into two streams: Incubate Stream and Enhance Stream. Applicants are asked to identify what type of funding their initiative falls under.

### Incubate Stream

The Incubate Stream seeks to fund proposals to develop and assess the feasibility of implementing a new initiative. Choose the Incubate Stream if your proposed initiative:

- Seeks to develop a new idea (e.g. a program, service, coordination process) that responds to a demonstrated need
- Identifies plans to sustain and scale this new idea (e.g. other sources of funding)
- Identifies potential partnerships and/or resources to support the implementation of this new idea.

### Enhance Stream

The Enhance Stream seeks to fund proposals to enhance or adapt an existing initiative, program, or service with demonstrated impact. Choose the Enhance Stream if your proposed initiative:

- Expands upon a program, service, or process that is currently operational;
- Builds off the demonstrated impact and evidence of the current program, service, or process's success;
- Identifies existing partnerships and/or funding sources related to the delivery of the proposed initiative.

## What is the funding amount?

Applicants can apply up to a maximum of \$800,000 CAD per grant. These funds may fund one initiative or several initiatives up to \$800,000 CAD.

## What are the key dates?

Date	Activity
June 29, 2023	Grant launch
July 17, 2023	Stage 1 Information Session at 12 P.M. (E.S.T.)
August 11, 2023	Stage 1 Application Closes at 12 P.M. (E.S.T.)
August 21, 2023	Stage 2 Opens (workplan and budget)
August 28, 2023	Stage 2 Information Session at 12 P.M. (E.S.T.)
September 8, 2023	Stage 2 Application Closes at 12 P.M. (E.S.T.)
September 11 to 15, 2023	Grant review process
Week of September 18, 2023	Funding announcement and release of funds
October 1, 2023 – October 1, 2024	Implementation of initiatives
April 30, 2024	Mid-Term Report
October 1, 2024	Final Report Due

## Who is eligible for funding?

### Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be incorporated non-profit or charitable organizations, or have identified an eligible organization to serve as trustee
- Applicants must be in good standing with the City of Toronto and demonstrate readiness to implement and evaluate the proposed initiative's activities and outcomes
- Proposed initiatives must comply with the City of Toronto's Grants Policy
- Proposed initiatives must be Toronto-based
- Proposed initiatives must be based within and/or partnered with the communities they are servicing

### Ineligible applications include:

- Organizations that are not based within the city of Toronto
- Individuals or for-profit businesses or ventures (including BIAs)
- Religious organizations that cannot show a clear separation between religious and community service functions
- Political parties
- Grant-making organizations
- Industry or trade associations
- Organizations where the lead applicant has mandates from other levels of government (universities, schools, hospitals, etc.)
- Landlord/tenant and condominium corporations

## **What are the key requirements related to the implementation of the proposed initiatives?**

- The Toronto Community Crisis Service must maintain priority access to the interventions proposed for its clients and service users.
- While it is not required that the proposed interventions operate or be located within the existing Toronto Community Crisis Service boundaries, initiatives within the existing TCCS boundaries will be prioritized.

## **Use of Funds**

### **Eligible Use of Funds**

Costs related to the implementation and delivery of an initiative are eligible, such as:

- Project costs and supplies
- Space rental
- Compensation for Elders and honoraria for People with Lived Experience
- Liability insurance
- Transportation
- Planning and development
- Partnership-related funds
- Delivery, materials, and participant-related costs
- Interpretation and translation services
- Evaluation
- Staff Costs
- Capital Costs

### **Ineligible Use of Funds**

Requests for the following purposes are NOT eligible for consideration:

- Fundraising events
- Donations to charitable causes
- Reserve funds
- Debt repayment or deficit funding
- Political or religious activities

## **Measuring Success**

Successful applicants will be expected to share an evaluation plan for their grant and a complete a final report for the project by October 1, 2024 that will provide information and measures on how the initiatives contributed to the key investment themes.

## **Accessibility Supports**

Supports are available (e.g., documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, off-hour meetings) to ensure that groups can fully participate in the funding process. For any accessibility requests, please contact Suzanne Paes, by email at [Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca).

## **Staff Contact Information**

Please contact the following staff if you have any questions:

Carolyn Rowan  
Policy Development Officer, Policing Reform Unit  
[carolyn.rowan@toronto.ca](mailto:carolyn.rowan@toronto.ca)

For Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives (TGRIP) Portal technical questions, please contact: [TGRIP@toronto.ca](mailto:TGRIP@toronto.ca)