



BLACK- MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK

G R A N T G U I D E L I N E S

INVESTING IN TORONTO'S BLACK-MANDATED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Applications Open: July 28, 2026 at 12 p.m.

Applications Close: September 22, 2026 at 12 p.m.



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About the Black-Mandated Funding Framework

Background

The City Council-adopted [Black-Mandated Funding Framework \(BMFF\)](#) is a model that provides an equity-centered approach to addressing anti-Black racism in the City's funding culture. The Framework's primary focus is to remove barriers and address funding practices which have historically limited access to funds for Black-mandated organizations and groups (also referred to as B3 organizations). The Framework outlines a roadmap to ensure City funding is fully inclusive, accessible and responsive to B3 organizations.

As an action under the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, the framework advances the City of Toronto's commitment to the United Nations [Second International Decade for People of African Descent \(2025-2028\)](#). The Framework is guided by the themes of the decade: justice, recognition, and development through a more purposeful approach to supporting B3 community organizations.

The Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program is only open to Toronto-based, Black-mandated organizations and groups (Black-led, Black-serving, and Black-focused/B3 organizations and groups). Applicants must review the eligibility requirements and the definition of a Black-mandated organization found under the "Who is Eligible to Apply for Funding?" section of the grant guidelines. All applicants are required to complete the eligibility self-assessment screening process to move forward to the full grant application.

What is the purpose of the grant?

The purpose of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program is to provide pathways to sustainable support of Toronto's B3 community and social services grassroots groups and established organizations by:

- Increasing the availability of dedicated resources
- Investing in organizational infrastructure and development
- Ensuring that organizations can sustain programming and respond to community needs

The Black-Mandated Funding Framework is grounded in the following principles:

- **Enabling an Ecosystem of Support for Black Community Groups:**
Develop informal and formal networks by leveraging the City's capacity to convene funders, non-profits, and foster cross-sectoral relationships and collaborations to better meet Black communities' needs and interests

- **Ensuring City Accountability and Accessibility:** Improve City funding practices through transparent decision-making, evidence-based processes, consistent data collection, and equity measures to foster equitable access, participation and reduce barriers for Toronto's Black communities
- **Advancing Equity and Self-Determination:** Advance equity and pathways to justice in City funding by centering African-centred approaches that adhere to inclusive equity and social justice principles and investing in, and supporting these approaches, experiences, expressed needs, and interests of Toronto's diverse Black communities

More information on the Black-Mandated Funding Framework, the definition of a B3 organization, the theory of change, and the implementation plan can be found in the City's [Council](#) report and [Appendix](#). Additionally, there is an appendix with definitions in this guidelines document.

Accessibility Supports

For accessibility support and accommodation (e.g., documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, off-hour meetings), please e-mail Daniella Castello, Agency Review Officer, Community Funding at Daniella.Castello@toronto.ca

Funding Overview

Funding Period and Grant Amount:

Eligible B3 grassroots groups and B3 established organizations:

- May apply for up to \$40,000 per year for two (2) years
- Year two funding is conditional on satisfactory year one completion, implementation and assessment reporting, and approval through the City of Toronto's annual budget process.

The maximum amount available is \$40,000 annually for two years. The amount successful applicants will receive will depend on an assessment of program/project feasibility, the merits of specific eligible activities proposed, and the minimum funding required for the project/program to succeed.

Black-Mandated Funding Framework Grant Program Funds:

Through the Framework's granting program, two million dollars will be allocated annually to support Black-mandated grassroots groups and established organizations (B3s) based in Toronto. Year two funding is conditional on satisfactory year one completion and reporting, and 2028 budget approval by the City of Toronto.

Note: This does not constitute the total investments in Black-mandated groups and organizations receiving funding from City divisions.

Funding Streams

When applying, please ensure you select only **one** of the following streams. If you apply for both, the first application submitted will be the only application considered.

The Black-Mandated Funding Framework (BMFF) recognizes that Black-led, Black-serving, and Black-focused (B3) organizations play a critical role in responding to the diverse and evolving needs of Toronto's Black communities. Through the 2027-2029 BMFF grant program, the City of Toronto seeks to support both community impact and organizational sustainability by investing in two distinct funding streams:

Stream 1: Program and Service Delivery

Stream 2: Capacity Building

Eligible B3 grassroots or established organizations can choose to apply for funding from **one** of these two streams (not both). Grant applications that focus on the specific priorities of either of these funding streams will be given higher consideration for funding.

Stream 1: Program and Service Delivery

This stream supports the delivery, enhancement, expansion, or maintenance of community and social service programming that responds to the needs and priorities identified by Toronto's diverse Black communities. Funding is intended to support community-based initiatives that address immediate needs, improve access to services and opportunities, strengthen community capacity, and advance culturally relevant, accessible, and inclusive approaches to wellbeing and community participation.

Priority areas for this stream include:

- Community-based initiatives that improve access to food, support immediate food needs, and strengthen culturally relevant food systems that advance [The Black Food Sovereignty Plan](#). For example: culturally relevant food distribution, food access initiatives, community food programming, community growing initiatives, and other approaches that improve food access and immediate food security needs for Black communities.

- Initiatives that support housing stability through systems navigation and access to housing-related resources and services, such as eviction prevention supports, tenant wellbeing, referrals, and wraparound supports that help families maintain housing stability.
- Civic engagement and advocacy, including community organizing, leadership development, systems navigation, and participation in civic and policy processes.
 - Note: Partisan political activities are not eligible to be funded – that is, any and all activities that directly or indirectly support, promote, or oppose a specific political party, politician, or candidate for public office. Examples of ineligible activities include supporting a political campaign, organizing rallies or handling money for political parties, using grant funds for campaign buttons or signs, or social media messages endorsing a specific politician.
- Initiatives that support or strengthen economic participation, skills development, employment readiness, and pathways to economic inclusion for Black communities.
- Initiatives that support or strengthen economic participation for Black people with disabilities such as supported employment readiness, accessible training, workplace accommodation education, disability-inclusive employer engagement, leadership development for Black people with disabilities and disability-inclusive entrepreneurship skill development.
- Health equity initiatives, including culturally responsive, accessible, and inclusive mental health, wellness, disability-inclusive health promotion, and addictions programming.
- Place-based activations and programming in high-density Black neighbourhoods, including community-rooted programming responsive to local priorities and neighbourhood realities. Applicants should demonstrate that community engagement activities are accessible and include Black people with disabilities where appropriate.

Recognizing that community needs continue to evolve, B3 organizations may also propose programming that addresses emerging priorities and demonstrated community needs not explicitly listed above, provided there is a clear rationale and alignment with the goals of the BMFF grant program. We are encouraging initiatives that prioritize and respond to the needs and experiences of intersectional Black communities, including Afro-Indigenous, Afro-Francophone, Black 2SLGBTQ+, Black people with disabilities, and Black newcomers. Applicants are encouraged to consider the diverse experiences of Black communities, including Black people with disabilities and other intersectional Black communities, when designing and delivering funded initiatives.

Accessibility by Design

All initiatives funded through BMFF are expected to consider accessibility in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of activities. Accessibility should be considered from the outset of project planning and reflected in project activities and budgets, where appropriate.

Stream 2: Capacity Building

This funding stream is intended to help organizations build the internal structures, processes, skills, and resources necessary to operate more effectively, respond to community needs, and achieve long-term organizational resilience. Priority is given to activities that create lasting organizational improvements and enhance an organization's ability to deliver programs, manage resources, demonstrate impact, and sustain services over time.

Priority areas for this stream include:

- Data collection, reporting, and evaluation capacity, including strengthening organizational capacity for program evaluation, impact measurement, data governance, reporting practices, and the collection and use of disaggregated race-based and intersectional socio-demographic data, including disability, gender, age, language, etc., where appropriate. Financial tracking and financial management systems, including budgeting, financial oversight, and long-term sustainability practices.
- Program planning and operational development, including strengthening program design, implementation, and long-term planning.
- Contract management capacity, including administrative and compliance-related supports to help organizations manage agreements, reporting obligations, and operational processes.
- Adaptation and development of culturally relevant and intersectional programming, including strengthening organizations' capacity to design and deliver culturally responsive and community-rooted approaches.
- Disability capacity building includes but is not limited to conducting accessibility audits, participating in disability inclusion training, developing accessible communications and accommodation policies, universal design implementation, participating in disability-inclusive strategic planning, improving accessible procurement and accessible recruitment processes.

The City recognizes that organizations are at different stages of development and may have varying capacity building needs. Applicants are encouraged to identify and propose activities that best support their organization's sustainability and long-term growth, and that can extend beyond the examples listed above.

Who is Eligible to Apply for Funding

To be considered for funding, applicants must clearly demonstrate and meet all the eligibility criteria below.

Black-Mandated Funding Framework – B3 Organization or Group Eligibility Self-Assessment

A Black-mandated organization or group (also referred to as a B3) is assessed based on four key criteria, which include the following:

- **Governance - Black-led:** Is led by a majority of staff and board members who self-identify as Black or of African descent
- **Population - Black serving:** Primarily serves Toronto's diverse Black communities
- **Mandate of Mission - Black-focused:** Has a mandate that explicitly states that they serve Black communities and are grounded in Black / African-centered approaches across services and programs
- **Community Accountability and Trust:** Responds to community needs and continually develops and maintains relationships with the communities being served or other Black-mandated organizations and groups (e.g., partnerships)

To be eligible to apply for the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program, your organization must align with the definition of a Black-mandated (B3) organization as described above and can be either a grassroots group or an established organization.

- **B3 grassroots group:** A community-driven B3 group that can be resident-led or youth-led. Grassroots groups do not need to be incorporated non-profits and do not have recent audited financial statements. Successful grassroots group applicants will need to work with a trustee organization.
- **B3 established organization:** Organizations that are incorporated non-profits or registered charities that have at minimum two recent audited financial statements (within the last two years). Your organization's most recent audited financial statements must be uploaded to TGRIP organizational profile.

Note: Applicants will need to upload supporting documentation to verify the self-assessment eligibility criteria before accessing the full application (including a copy of your strategic plan, operational plan, by-laws, articles of incorporation, partnership agreement, a document that includes your website link and/or 211 profile). The City will verify the information provided in the self-assessment. Letters of support are not needed.

Community Funding – Organizational Eligibility Requirements

For **established B3 organizations**, an eligible organization must meet all the eligibility criteria:

- Identify as a non-profit organization, meaning an organization that is either:
 - I. a corporation without share capital in good standing registered under the laws of Ontario or Canada, as the case may be, as a not-for profit organization, or
 - II. a registered charitable organization in good standing under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), as amended;
- Must be based in the City of Toronto, with a postal code that begins with ‘M’ *without exception*
- Acknowledge that grant supported activities must take place in Toronto. Indigenous groups (including Afro-Indigenous groups) may apply for funding specifically for Indigenous-based cultural or land-based activities outside of Toronto as per the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#)
- Be accountable to the community through an elected Board of Directors who are representative of the community served
- More than 50% of your organization’s board members are Toronto residents
- The primary applicant (group lead) for your Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) application must self-identify as Black or of African descent
- Provide audited financial statements for (at minimum) the two most recent fiscal years
- Be in good standing with the City of Toronto. This means your organization must comply with the [Grants Policy](#) and that your organization must not be indebted to the City of Toronto or any of its agencies, boards, and/or commissions, or be in default of terms and conditions of any agreement (including any previous grant agreement) with the City of Toronto. Your group must be up to date on all

requirements of any City of Toronto funding received in the past, including reporting

- Sign and comply with the [Declaration of Compliance with Anti Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City 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) and demonstrate effective grant management and administrative capacity
- Report on the use of the grant funds to the City as requested and/or outlined in the approved funding agreement
- Maintain records/documentation for auditing purposes for up to seven years and, where applicable, work with your trustee to maintain documentation for up to seven years

For **grassroots B3 groups**, eligible applicants must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Identify as a community-driven B3 group that can be resident-led or youth-led. Note that grassroots groups do not need to be incorporated non-profits and do not have recent audited financial statements. Successful grassroots group applicants will need to work with a trustee organization
- Your group must be accountable to a leadership team that must consist of three or more members or staff who are residents of Toronto and who do not reside in the same household. This leadership team must direct and lead the decision-making on behalf of the group
- Must be based in the city of Toronto, with a postal code that begins with M *without exception*
- Acknowledge that grant supported activities must take place in Toronto. Indigenous groups (including Afro-Indigenous groups) may apply for funding specifically for Indigenous-based cultural or land-based activities outside of Toronto as per the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#)
- Be in good standing with the City of Toronto. This means your organization must comply with the [Toronto Grants Policy](#) and that your organization must not be indebted to the City of Toronto or any of its agencies, boards, and/or commissions, or be in default of terms and conditions of any agreement (including any previous grant agreement) with the City of Toronto. Your group must be up-to-date on all requirements of any City of Toronto funding received in the past, including reporting.

- The primary applicant (group lead) for your Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) application must self-identify as Black or of African descent
- Sign and comply with the [Toronto Grants Policy](#) and the [Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City Policy](#)
- Have proven financial and program/project management experience
- Demonstrate effective grant management and administrative capacity
- Have proven ability to manage the project (i.e. administrative oversight, financial processes and procedures)
- Be willing to work collaboratively with a trustee for financial management and capacity-building mentorship and support
- Report on the use of the grant funds to the City as requested and/or outlined in the approved funding agreement
- Maintain records/documentation for auditing purposes for up to seven years and, where applicable, work with your trustee to maintain documentation for up to seven years

Note: The organization or group must not be indebted to the City or be in default of the terms and conditions of any agreement (including any previous grant agreement) with the City of Toronto or any of its any division, agencies, boards or commissions.

Ineligible applicants include:

- Organizations or groups that are not based within the city of Toronto
- Individuals
- For profit organizations/groups or businesses
- Organizations/groups acting in the capacity of a funding body or grant-making organizations
- Organizations/groups applying to fund scholarships and bursaries
- Organizations/groups affiliated with a political party
- Entrepreneurs and social enterprises
- Organizations/groups with mandates and activities covered under provincial or federal legislation such as schools and universities, daycares, group homes, hospitals
- Religious organizations with mandates that cannot show a clear separation between religious and community service functions
- Industry or trade associations
- Crown corporations or government bodies

- Landlord / tenant and condominium corporations
- Employees of any division, agency, board or commission of the City of Toronto

Applicants should provide up-to-date, accurate, and verifiable information when completing the application in [Toronto Grants Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#).

Supporting documentation may be requested to confirm and verify eligibility and fit with the grant guidelines and Framework. City of Toronto staff may consult publicly available and reputable sources (e.g., organization websites, corporate registries, public filings, government records, etc.) to verify application information or assess eligibility

Although collaboratives and partnerships are encouraged, only one application per group is permitted. Only completed and eligible applications will be assessed by City staff and the review panel.

Applicants can only apply to one grant funding stream. Applicants are required to specify the expertise, roles and responsibilities of each partner in their proposal. More details on collaboratives can be found in the Glossary below.

Trusteeship

A trustee is an incorporated not-for-profit organization and/or registered charity with audited financial statements that becomes the "legal home" of your project. City staff will identify assigned trustees who will hold funds and disburse monies to your group according to the approved project budget, assume liability for project activities, and provide insurance, administrative supports and mentorship. A trustee can also provide capacity building (e.g., coaching, training, and planning templates) to help strengthen project effectiveness and delivery. A definition of trustee is available in the appendix.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Examples of eligible costs include:

- Staff salaries and benefits
- Staff training
- Honoraria for volunteers, volunteer training and recognition
- Rental fees for space
- Disability accommodation costs
- Permit costs
- Liability insurance
- TTC fare
- Accessible transportation
- Hydro / Utilities
- Childminding

- Equipment rentals
- Food
- Consultants
- Purchase of service expenses (e.g. data analysis or IT contractors, web design, printing, local artist fee, certified trainers, software licenses, etc.)
- New technology, including financial management tools
- Social media tools
- Website tools
- Supplies and materials
- Accreditation
- Interpretation and translation (e.g. live captioning, plain language editing, CART captioning, etc.)
- Easy Read materials
- Braille production
- Large print
- Audio description
- Accessible PDF remediation
- Accessible web development
- Attendant services
- Support workers
- Personal care support
- Scent-free accommodations
- Sensory supports
- Quiet rooms
- Evaluation
- Small capital costs (e.g. assistive technology, hearing loop systems, computers, tablets, chairs, etc.)
- General overhead administration costs

Costs may only be considered eligible if they are:

1. Incurred by the organization during the term of the approved grant funding agreement and in the case of goods, received during the term of the funding agreement (that is, expenses are incurred and received during the approved funding period)
2. Directly related to, and required to achieve the expected results of the project

Note: There should be little to no cost for participants in grant funding activities.

Examples of ineligible costs include:

- Public relations and special events costs such as award ceremonies, banquets, receptions, ticketed events, etc.
- International artists and speakers
- Motor vehicle leases or rentals, flights, travel related costs including hotel accommodations
- Religious activities/services
- Partisan political activities – that is, any and all activities that directly or indirectly support, promote, or oppose a specific political party, politician, or candidate for public office
- Fundraising events
- Any educational-related fees, including post-secondary fees
- Individual subsidies/scholarships
- Elite sports participation expenses
- Fees for incorporation/charitable status
- Walks/run fees or other donations to charitable causes
- Reserve funds
- Expenses incurred but not approved of during the grant funding period
- Debt repayment and/or deficit funding
- Major capital costs including building repairs or renovations or purchases
- Donations
- Fines and penalties
- Membership fees for clubs
- Expenses related to the depreciation of capital assets
- Alcoholic beverages

Note: The portion of the cost of any goods or services purchased by an organization for which the organization may claim a GST/HST input tax credit or rebate is excluded from eligible costs and is not eligible for reimbursement under the BMFF funding agreement, and the organization shall, as far as reasonable and practical, take advantage of any GST/HST rebates or input tax credits that may be available to them.

BMFF funds cannot cover the portion of any cost in respect of which the organization has received, or is entitled to receive, a financial contribution from another level of government or other source.

Notes on eligible and ineligible costs:

- Groups are encouraged to spend their approved grant funds on expenses that can support Black-owned businesses and the B3 ecosystem in Toronto when possible.

- For grassroots groups, trustee support will be provided to successful applicants, waiving the need for a trustee fee to be added to your budget request, and freeing up additional resources.
- Contact communityfunding@toronto.ca about any capital cost line items prior to submitting your budget request. Major capital costs are not eligible for funding. Minor capital expenses (e.g., equipment to support virtual activities, paint supplies for a beautification project) may be eligible, provided you have received City approval and conditional on an incorporated non-profit owning the equipment after the project is completed.

If you have questions about eligible or ineligible expenses, please contact us at communityfunding@toronto.ca

Workplan and Budget Guidance

Applicants must submit a detailed budget using the template provided in TGRIP.

Budget Requirements

Your proposed budget should be complete, clear and balanced. The budget should provide a realistic, detailed breakdown of all costs and how they were calculated for a one-year period per year. The budget should be linked directly to the proposed activities in the workplan and be proportionate to the organization's size, capacity, and ability to manage the funds within the grant period.

Workplan Requirements

The workplan outlines exactly how you will execute your project, achieve your objectives, and spend the requested funds. The workplan should provide clear program/project activities, their outputs or deliverables, realistic timelines, and be tied directly to specific budget lines.

Application Process – How to Apply

Applications are open from July 28, 2026 to September 22, 2026, at 12 p.m. (noon).

[Apply now](#)

All grant applications must be submitted online through the [Toronto Grants Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#). Organizations that do not have a TGRIP account should register for one by clicking the “Register Here” button on the TGRIP log-in webpage (https://cot.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp)

Steps to apply:

1. Review the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant guidelines and eligibility information.
2. Select one funding stream to apply to. Applicants can only apply to **one** stream.
3. Attend an optional grant information session and/ or virtual drop-in office hours session if you have questions about the application process.
4. If your group already has a TGRIP account, you can log into your TGRIP account to access the BMFF grant application, found under “My Funding Opportunities.” Please make sure to update your organizational profile if any information has changed since you last logged on. The funding opportunity will be visible on your dashboard on July 28th, 2026.
5. If your group does not have a TGRIP account, register your group on the [Toronto, Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#). You can review the instructions below on “How to Register for a TGRIP Account.”
 - Please note, if you are registering as a Grassroots group, please select “grassroots” and “resident-led” in the organizational profile when describing your group.
 - If registering as an “established” organization or group, please select established only.
6. Complete and submit your Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant application, including your project budget and work plan, on [TGRIP](#).

Notes on Application Process:

- A copy of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework application questions can be found on the [BMFF Webpage](#).
- Only one Black-Mandated Funding Framework application per group is permitted. Please select only one funding stream to apply to.
- Only eligible and completed applications submitted through TGRIP will be considered for funding.

TIP: We highly recommend that you draft your application in a separate document before filling out the online application form. Give yourself enough time to complete the application. While generally problem-free, technical errors can happen during this process and drafting your responses in a separate document can help you avoid losing your answers.

How to Register for a TGRIP Account

To apply for the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grants, your group must have a Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) Account.

To register, [click here](#) for the website: [Toronto Grants Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#).

For your reference, here is a guide and a video on how to create a TGRIP account:

- [How to Register for a TGRIP Account Guide](#)
- [How to Register for a TGRIP Account – Video](#)

STEPS

1. Once on the TGRIP website, click [REGISTER HERE](#). Fill out the form and click submit. For grassroots, resident-led or youth-led groups, please provide your group name in the Organization's Legal Name section. You will receive an email to complete your registration.
2. Once you log into your TGRIP account, the next step is to complete your organization profile. Click on the Organization Profile tab located in the top right-hand corner of your dashboard.
3. Please ensure you complete every tab. Remember to click **SAVE DRAFT** when moving from tab to tab. Once completed, click **SUBMIT**. Key things to flag:
 - a. Please download the Declaration of Discrimination form located in the Documents tab, sign it, and upload it.
4. Once your organization profile has been submitted, you can now apply for your funding opportunity (grant). Note: Once you have created an organization profile, you are able to add as many organization contacts as you like under the contacts tab.

Grant Timelines

What are the key dates for the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program?

- **Grant applications open on July 28th, 2026**
- **Grant applications are due** via the [Toronto Grants Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#) by Tuesday September 22, 2026 , at **12 p.m. (Noon)**
- Approved grants will support activities over two years. Note: Funding for year two is conditional and based on satisfactory completion and reporting during year one and approval through the City of Toronto's annual budget process
- Activities funded by the grant for year one must take place between **December 1, 2026-November 1, 2027**

Note: This Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant call provides funding to support activities over two years. There will be no new applications open in 2027.

Application Assessment Process

Information Sessions

Information sessions are optional opportunities for applicants to ask questions and seek clarification about grant requirements. Information shared by applicants during these sessions may be documented by City staff and may inform eligibility assessments, particularly when clarification on an applicant's status or activities is required.

Those applicants participating in the information session will be informed of the purpose of these sessions, the potential impact of information they share, and their option to decline participation in any information sessions without penalty. For more details on when BMFF grant information sessions and virtual one-on-ones will be offered, see the section of the grant guidelines on Grant Information and Support Sessions.

Eligibility Review and Application Shortlisting

All applications will undergo a pre-screening and shortlisting process by City staff to confirm that the organization is eligible for a BMFF grant and that the proposal closely aligns with the BMFF grant goals and priorities. During shortlisting, City staff will assess applications to ensure they are feasible, in strong alignment with the grant priorities, impactful and realistic. Applicants must meet all mandatory criteria before their application is considered by the Grant Application Review Committee. City staff will document the basis for the screening decisions and shortlisting to ensure that they are aligned with the eligibility requirements published in these guidelines.

Use of publicly available information in Eligibility Screening

In addition to documents submitted through the TGRIP application portal, staff may consult publicly available and reputable sources (e.g., organization websites, corporate registries, public filings, government records, etc.) to verify application information or assess eligibility. Applicants and grant review committee members will be informed that publicly available information may be used as part of due diligence practices.

Application Review

A committee of diverse Black Torontonians and City staff will review the application against eligibility and assessment criteria for the BMFF Grant to make funding recommendations for the final decision-making of successful grant applicants by the Executive Director of Social Development. Applicants will be selected based on the strength of their application, workplan and budget,

including strong fit with advancing the goals of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program and alignment with grant priorities.

Grant review committee members are required to sign a confidentiality agreement, which includes, but not limited to, receiving and reviewing privileged information, publicly available information, personal information, technical, financial or scientific information and any other records that must or may be kept confidential under the Municipal Freedom of Information of Privacy Act. All discussions, deliberations, and recommendations for approval for the Black-Mandated Funding Framework is to be kept confidential until City staff communicate approved recommended groups publicly.

Managing Conflict of Interest

The members of the Grant Application Review Committee 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 of those proposals. 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.

The City of Toronto requires all Grant Application Review Committees to sign a Conflict-of-Interest form that ensures that any conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest are known. This means that any relationships between the funding decision-makers and those requesting funding are publicly documented. It also ensures that members with conflicts do not take part in deciding whether the group with whom they share an interest gets funded. Funding decisions must remain fair and perceived to be made without favouritism, equitable and in the best interests of the City of Toronto.

Final Decision-making

The Executive Director (or designate decision-maker) of Social Development will consider multiple sources of information when making final funding decisions, which may include: the submitted application and required documents, Grant Application Review Committee assessment results, staff verification notes, research memos, or due diligence findings through publicly available information relevant to eligibility or risk assessment. Applicants will be informed of the decision-making framework and the types of information that may contribute to final decisions.

Grant Information and Support Sessions

Virtual Information Sessions

These virtual information sessions will walk applicants through the Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant program guidelines and online application form, including the project work plan and budget. City staff will also provide grant writing tips and best practices. Registration is encouraged but not required for information sessions. The dates, times, and Microsoft Teams Meeting links are listed below. Live captioning options will be available during the virtual information sessions. Materials will be available in accessible electronic formats. Attendance is optional and the same information will be shared at all sessions.

Information Session Date & Time	Virtual Link to Join Information Session(s)
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Information Session #1 Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/210420165656725?p=OhZobgPs92JMeugQoh Meeting ID (Access Code): 210 420 165 656 725 Passcode: DS2EK9gE Dial in by phone: +1 647-749-7152 Phone Conference ID: 792913077#
Friday, August 21, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Information Session #2 Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/277077119108550?p=pblydUAcuCW1aSZE15 Meeting ID (Access Code): 277 077 119 108 550 Passcode: f2Pj38BR Dial in by phone: +1 647-749-7152 Phone Conference ID: 519 779 798#

Virtual One-On-One Appointments: Application Support

Virtual one-on-one application support sessions are available by appointment only. To book a session, complete the registration form using the link below, then email communityfunding@toronto.ca to confirm your appointment time. Each applicant group may book one appointment. Please note that City staff cannot provide detailed reviews of applications. They can answer general questions about project eligibility and how well your project aligns with the BMFF grant program goals.

Register by clicking here: [Registration for 1:1 Application Support Appointment](#)

Dates available:

- August 19, 2026, between 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- September 9, 2026, between 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- September 14, 2026, between 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- September 15, 2026, between 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Key Dates

Black-Mandated Funding Framework Timeline

Date	Time	
Grant Application Launch	July 28, 2025	12:00 p.m. (Noon)
Info Session #1 (Virtual)	August 12, 2026	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Info Session #2 (Virtual)	August 21, 2026	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Office Hours #1 (Virtual)	August 19, 2026	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Office Hours #2 (Virtual)	September 9, 2026	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Office Hours #3 (Virtual)	September 14, 2026	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Office Hours #4 (Virtual)	September 15, 2026	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Grant Submission Due By	September 22, 2026	12:00 p.m. (Noon)
Grant Application Review	September 2026 – November 2026	-
Grant Announcements	November 2026	-
Year 1 Project Implementation	December 1, 2026 – November 1, 2027	-
Year 1 Report	November 30, 2027	-
Year 2 Project Implementation	December 1, 2027 – November 1, 2028	-
Year 2 Report	November 30, 2028	-

Need to get in touch?

If you have questions, please contact:

- Daniella Castello, Agency Review Officer, Community Funding: Daniella.Castello@toronto.ca
- Community Funding Unit for general inquiries: CommunityFunding@toronto.ca
- Confronting Anti Black Racism Unit for BMFF funding stream project criteria related inquiries: CABR@toronto.ca
- Toronto Grants Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) for technical questions: TGRIP@toronto.ca

Black-Mandated Funding Framework Resource Library

A collection of useful materials and resources to support your Black-Mandated Funding Framework grant application.

Grant Writing Resources

- [City of Toronto Community Grants Policy](#)
- [Grant Writing Tips - Toronto Arts Council](#)
- [Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives \(TGRIP\) Portal](#)

Appendix 1 – Definitions

Anti-Black racism lens or analysis

The application of the understanding of anti-Black racism to the planning, development, operation, resource allocation and evaluation of policies, services, practices, and spaces, with the intent of achieving transformative change. More details can be found in the [Anti-Black Racism Analysis Tool](#).

Black

Refers to people of African descent who self-identify as Black. Other terms that are used interchangeably with Black are: Black Canadians, African Canadians, and People of African Descent (e.g. Afro-Latinx, Afro-Indigenous, Afro-Caribbean, East African, West African, Southern and Central African, etc.).

Black/African-centered approaches

Practices, frameworks, principles, values and ways of working that are anchored, respond to and recognize the distinct needs and unique experiences (i.e. cultural, historical, anti-oppressive and intersectional) of diverse Black communities in the delivery of programs and/or services.

Collaborative application

When two or more organizations with a well-defined relationship work in partnership to achieve a common goal. Characteristics include mutual benefit, shared decision making and accountability to each other and to the communities they serve.

Collaborative agreement

An agreement outlining the purpose and nature of the collaborative, including role and responsibilities, the purpose of the collaborative, working arrangements that include decision-making and conflict resolution.

Disability

The [Accessible Canada Act](#) defines disability as any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

Established organization/group/agency

A B3 organization, group or agency with staff (full, part-time and/or contract staff), that has incorporated and/or charitable status, has consistent funding and resources to support operations and programs, an annual financial audit, and an established governance structure including a board of directors with a majority of members who self-identify as Black.

Grassroots group

An unincorporated group comprised of at least three individuals that do not reside in the same household and who are Toronto residents, that self-identify as Black. If the grassroots group has staff and a board or leadership group, a majority of the staff and board members must self-identify as Black or of African descent. If the group does not have a board or paid staff, more than half of the volunteers must self-identify as Black or of African descent. Note: A grassroots group must be comprised of at least three individuals who do not reside in the same household. All group leaders must live in different households and be residents of Toronto. Grassroots groups do not have Audited Financial Statements.

High-density Black Neighbourhood

Using data from the City of Toronto's [Neighbourhood Profile Data](#), a high-density Black neighbourhood is any neighbourhood that has 20% or more of its residents identifying as Black. 20% is roughly twice the city-wide share of Black residents, and therefore serves as a clear, conservative threshold for identifying concentrated Black presence. Using these criteria, 15 of Toronto's 158 neighbourhoods could be identified as high-density Black neighbourhoods, 14 of which are also Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs). These neighbourhoods include: Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown; Elms-Old Rexdale; Kingsview Village-The Westway; Humbermede; Black Creek; Glenfield-Jane Heights; York University Heights; Rustic; Brookhaven-Amesbury; Beechborough-Greenbrook; Weston; Mount Dennis; Oakridge; West Hill; Oakdale-Beverley Heights.

Trustee

For the purposes of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework, a trustee is an incorporated not-for-profit organization with the capacity to provide trusteeship and organizational mentorship to grassroots groups and organizations. The trustee has the financial systems and organizational infrastructure to administer and disburse grant funds and is accountable for reporting on the grant funds to the City of Toronto. The trustee acts as the legal registered entity on behalf of a group when entering into a contract with the City.

Major capital

Typically encompasses complex projects, significant long-term investments, and procurement related to construction, land acquisition, equipment purchase, or ongoing maintenance (e.g., purchasing a building or land, new construction, major renovations, vehicle acquisition, etc.).

Multi-year funding

Funding with a duration greater than 12 months that provides long-term support to a group to advance their missions or programs. This type of funding can be unrestricted, restricted and/or project focused.

Operational capacity

Building operational capacity focuses on maintaining, improving or strengthening the day-to-day management, sustainability, and operations of an organization or group's infrastructure. Some examples of eligible program expenses include staff salaries, training and development, program planning and evaluation, rent, hydro, extended hours of operations, supplies, purchase of new (small capital) technology, etc.

Organizational Capacity

Building organizational capacity focuses on building the internal, structural elements of an organization. Some examples of eligible program expenses include development of policies and procedures, financial systems and management, partnerships, and collaborations, or for audits, a bookkeeper, consultants, accreditation, etc.

Small capital or non-capital

For this grant program, small-capital or non-capital typically refers to the acquisition of smaller items that do not necessitate significant long-term financial investments. Small capital can also encompass purchases that enhance organizational efficiency, improve processes, and advance the organization by investing in infrastructure to meet programming and organizational needs (e.g., chairs, desks, tablets, laptops, software, paint, etc.).