



Edmonton Immigrant and
Refugee Community (EIRC)

Edmonton

Grant Guide 2026

For more information about
the EIRC contact:
grants@edmonton.ca

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Grant Overview

The Edmonton Immigrant and Refugee Community (EIRC) Grant Program contributes to the City of Edmonton's value "I want to BELONG and contribute". It supports grassroots immigrant and refugee communities who are in the process of settling and integrating. For newcomers, immigrants, and refugees, the barriers to inclusion in the community are often significant and tend to be complex, intersectional, and almost always systemic. For 2026, there is \$426,250 available for the Edmonton Immigrant and Refugee Community Grant. Of the \$426,250, \$100,000 of the EIRC budget will be utilized to fund Out of School Time (OST) programming through REACH Edmonton.

Grant Goals and Outcomes:

- **Address Community Needs:** Delivering projects that fill a specific gap(s) identified by community members. Success is measured by positive participant feedback and the program's ability to meet immediate needs.
- **Strengthen Belonging and Connection:** Strengthening the feeling of belonging, fostering connections, and supporting communities. The project is designed to help build new relationships and develop new connections.
- **Active Participation:** An increase in ethnocultural communities participation in civic, social, economic, and cultural life in Edmonton. The goal is to break down barriers so newcomers can fully participate and become actively involved in different aspects of community life.

Grant Principles

- *Interculturalism:* Opportunities to share knowledge and learn from each other to support transformation.
- *Empowerment:* Focus on developing growth and confidence.
- *Community Input:* Inviting community members to be part of the conversation.
- *Relationship-Building:* Building trust amongst ethnocultural organizations and between these organizations and City of Edmonton.

Funding Streams

Space Subsidy (Maximum request up to \$4,000) *Budget Allocation \$100,000

The EIRC Space Subsidy Grant assists immigrant and refugee communities with the cost of renting space for their programs and/or organization based on a calendar year of January to December. This subsidy assists organizations that have limited financial means, therefore reduces the barrier of high rental costs. For this stream, a justification for your request is required with: why your organization needs the subsidy; and how the proposed project/activities connected to this space directly contribute to the City of Edmonton's EIRC Grant priorities. Organizations that have received the grant for three or more years, and are unable to provide a justification for needing the funding will not be prioritized.

Community Action Projects (Maximum request \$10,000) *Budget Allocation \$126,250

This funding supports ethnocultural community collectives/organizations to identify and address community needs (e.g. facilitating community connections; orientation to Canadian customs; civic engagement; laws, healthcare; mentorships; cultural programs; and assisting with employment searches) to foster a sense of belonging.

System Impact Projects (Maximum request \$20,000) *Budget Allocation: \$100,000

This funding supports ethnocultural community collectives/organizations focusing on programs that address complex settlement and integration challenges (e.g. mental health, trauma, vicarious trauma, education gaps, language communication, social isolation, food insecurity and system navigation for multi-barriered communities). Priority will be given to projects involving collaboration through identified partnership/roles and referral processes that involve specialized interventions.

Eligibility

Applicant:

To be eligible for the EIRC Grant, the applicant must be one of the following:

- Non-profit organization registered for at least one year and in good standing with the incorporating body (Alberta Society, Non-profit Private Company, Non-profit Public Company, Extra Provincial Non-profit Company);
- Local grassroots group that has a fiscal agent that meets one of the above eligible categories. (If the applicant is awarded funding through this grant program, the fiscal agent must agree to act on the applicant's behalf to sign a funding agreement with the City and to receive, administer, and report on the grant).

This grant requires organizations to have sound financial health based on at least one year of financial statements. Audited statements are preferred.

Organizations/collectives must have a total operating budget of \$200,000 or less.

Organizations/collectives must be based in Edmonton and serve Edmontonians.

Fiscal Agents must be based in Edmonton and serve Edmontonians.

Applicants currently receiving other City grants or funding must be in good standing with the City in terms of reporting requirements.

Individual applicants are not eligible.

Projects/Programs:

Please note: For project/program funding, priority will be given to organizations/collectives that have not already received municipal funding for projects that will be implemented in 2026.

Collaboratives/partnerships are encouraged. This involves stating the roles and responsibilities of the organizations/collectives involved in the project and how working together will result in community benefit.

An organization/collective cannot receive funding for the exact same program from different City of Edmonton funding sources. For example, if an organization has already received funding through the Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG) Program to pay for the 2026 rent/lease, the organization is not eligible for the 2026 EIRC Space Subsidy. Likewise, if an organization has received funding through the Anti-Racism Grant Program for a project/program that will take place in 2026, the organization is not eligible for 2026 EIRC funding for the same program.

Eligible Expenses

- Staffing costs
- Honourariums for programs and projects
- Program/project material and supplies
- Food expenses (maximum of 10% of budget)
- Printing and communications
- Training expenses
- Travel expenses, within Edmonton
- Evaluation expenses
- Insurance
- Administrative costs and fees up to 10% of the total project costs (e.g. accounting/booking fees, bank/financing related charges, ongoing operational expenses such as short-term rent/lease payments and facility maintenance, insurance, fiscal agents, etc.)
- Longer-term lease payments, up to 12 months (Space Subsidy only)

Ineligible Expenses

- Time and labour provided towards preparation of funding applications fundraising including costs for fundraising campaigns and websites for fundraising purposes
- Endowments, charitable donations, bursaries, developing business cases or proposals for funding, donor recognition, gifts (with the exception of gifts for Indigenous protocols)
- Project expenses that are incurred before the application has been received
- Capital and facility upgrades, renovations and construction
- Debt reduction, financing charges and/or interest payments on loans
- Direct government lobbying or partisan political activities (such as activities related to advocacy must demonstrate non-partisan approaches)
- Administrative costs and fees that exceed more than 10% of the total project costs (e.g. accounting/booking fees, bank/financing related charges, ongoing operational expenses such as rent/lease payments and facility maintenance, insurance, fiscal agents, etc).
- Festivals or events

Funding Requests

This is one-time funding. An organization/collective may receive funding for a Space Subsidy and one other project/program grant stream. The requested amount should be proportionate to the type of proposed activities and timelines. Projects must be completed in 2026.

Grant Assessment Criteria

All grant applications will be based on the following criteria:

- *Alignment with the City of Edmonton's value "I want to BELONG and contribute" and grant priorities*
- *Demonstrate project need and benefit to the community*
- *Organizational governance (financial health, mission statement)*
- *Organizational commitment and capacity*
 - *A clear implementation plan - with defined timelines, activities, roles and responsibilities and resources, ensuring readiness for execution.*
 - *A balanced budget - proportional to the project's scope and expected outcomes, and has been developed to support the project's successful delivery.*
 - *A clear evaluation plan.*

Additional Assessment Considerations

An application's overall score is one factor in the assessment process. Other considerations include but are not limited to:

- Alignment with City Priorities and Strategies.
- Alignment with the [City Plan](#) goal of building a "Healthy City" (vision for 2050).
- Relevance to emerging community needs in immigration and settlement.
- The applicant's ability to create opportunities/solutions to address community needs/issues.
- Other City funding provided to the organization.

Grant Timelines

February 27, 2026 - Grant opens

April 7, 2026 - Application deadline 11:59 p.m.

April 8 - May 15, 2026 - Application review

June 2026 - Applicants will be notified of funding decisions

Applicants approved for funding will be required to sign a funding agreement or funding letter with the City before funding will be provided.

Space Subsidy funds are provided on a first come, first served basis, based on eligibility.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be responsible for reporting on the progress of their work, including:

- A final report outlining project description, activities, outputs and outcomes achieved including financial expenditures and supporting documentation. In addition to the written report, additional reporting can also be submitted using the EIRC Video submission form and/or a conversation with a City of Edmonton staff member.
 - Due within 90 days of project completion
- The final report is completed in the community investment portal.

Please note: The final report will include:

- Number of program participants
- Number of partners, if applicable
- Number of volunteers, if applicable
- Description of who participated (this could include: age, gender, socioeconomic status, cultural heritage etc.)
- Project/program lessons learned

Successful applicants may be asked to participate in focus groups to enhance/evaluate the grant program.

Grant recipients may also be invited to communities of practice to enhance access to information/resources (evaluation approaches, system navigation, space access etc.) and to foster mutual support.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted until April 7, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted.

The following required documents must be attached with the online application. If you are using a fiscal agent please include their financial documents:

- Project Budget Form (link in application)
- Most recent (2024 or 2025) audited year-end financial statements, signed by two board members OR
- Most recent (2024 or 2025) internally generated financial statements (those that are not presented either as a notice to reader, a review or an audit) signed by 2 board members and must include a bank reconciliation and bank statement as at the fiscal year-end.

*If your organization is unable to demonstrate a sound financial position and provide at least one year of financial statements, it is strongly recommended that you identify a fiscal agent in sound financial position to manage and monitor your financial decisions and record keeping in your project implementation. If you cannot find a fiscal agent, this needs to be identified on your application so the City of Edmonton can help you identify a fiscal agent.

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Disclaimers:

Whether to provide a grant will be a purely discretionary decision on the part of the City. The City may refuse to issue a grant for any reason. In addition, grants are always subject to funding approval, and grants may no longer be issued if funding is no longer available or if there is a question of whether there is sufficient funding remaining in the program. There is no appeal from any decision on whether to provide a grant.

The City reserves the right to make decisions and award funding to projects in its sole discretion. Decisions are final and the amount of funding commitment by the City may vary in the City's sole discretion.

Please note, at minimum and without limitation, the City reserves the right to withhold payment of grant funding where:

- The Applicant has made any material misrepresentation or provides any materially false or materially misleading information to the City;
- The Applicant or any associate or affiliate entity of the Applicant is in arrears on any payment or reporting obligation to the City under the terms of any other agreement made with the City;
- The Applicant has outstanding amounts owing to the City due to property taxes that are past due or in arrears;
- The Applicant is in litigation with the City over any matter;
- The Applicant is or becomes bankrupt, insolvent, commits an act of bankruptcy, makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, has a receiver or trustee appointed, or ceases to function as an active legal entity under the laws of Alberta; or,
- The Applicant is or becomes the subject of a Canada Revenue Agency judgment or tax lien