



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review these guidelines to ensure your group and proposal are eligible for funding.
2. Submit the completed application by **July 27th, 2023, at 12:00 PM**
 - a. Total available grant envelope is \$40,000.
 - b. Applicants may apply for up to **\$8,000**.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION.](#)

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

We encourage you to get in touch to discuss your application prior to submitting.

If you have questions about the application, please contact The Neighbourhood Group Trustee Hub at trustee.hub@lngcs.org.

If you have questions about the grant or trusteeship, please contact Tyreek Phillips at tyreek.phillips@tngcs.org, Kate Rabinowicz at Kate.Rabinowicz@toronto.ca, and Suzanne Paes at Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca

GRANT OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The 2023 Downtown East Action Plan has been developed to address several priorities in the areas related to community wellness, safety, and belonging and to address long-term, complex needs in the area. The Action Plan has four major outcomes:

1. *Safe, Inclusive Communities*
2. *Cross Sectoral Trust and Collaboration*
3. *Stability for Marginalized People*
4. *Model for a City Response to Complex Issues*

For more information on the Downtown East Action Plan [CLICK HERE](#)

GOALS

The City's Community Funding Unit, Community Infrastructure Unit and The Neighborhood Group's Trustee Hub have partnered to launch the Downtown East Residents Grant.

The grant will be distributed to community or resident-led groups based in the Downtown East Area for activities or projects that support the Downtown East Action Plan priority of ***Safe and Inclusive Communities*** - to increase access to spaces or supports that promote a sense of safety, dignity or belonging for marginalized individuals in the Downtown East in a way that also maintains or enhances safety and inclusivity of the neighborhoods overall.

We are looking to fund time-limited projects or activities that are:

- **Temporary, time-limited** projects or activities that will take place between ***August 18th, 2023, and March 31st, 2024.***
- New activities or new enhancements of ongoing initiatives. Note, if applying for new enhancements of ongoing initiatives, describe how the enhancements will conclude after the funding period has ended, or how you will continue to sustain the enhancements after the grant funding ends.
- Designed to engage a diversity of community members during the planning, implementation and evaluation phases of the work. We encourage inclusion of populations well represented in the Downtown East, including Black, Indigenous, and equity-deserving people and people with lived experience in the communities or populations their programs will be serving.
- Focused on the Downtown East, an area that is bounded by Bloor Street to the north, Front Street to the south, Bay Street to the west, and the Don Valley Parkway to the east, including an expansion up to 21 Park Rd, north of Bloor due to the respite site at that location.
- Priority will be placed on activities or projects that are delivered in the following neighborhoods within the Downtown East: Church/Wellesley, Yonge/Dundas, Dundas/Sherbourne/Moss Park, Allan Gardens, and St. James Town.
 - Note: If groups from Regent Park that exclusively serve Regent Park are interested in grants, we encourage these groups to connect with the City of Toronto's Regent Park Community Development Team (see contact information below) to discuss funding opportunities under the Refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan. These groups may also visit the City of Toronto's webpage on [Resourcing Social Development in Regent Park](#)
 - Regent Park Community Development Team:
 - Richard Kirwan, Community Development Officer, Telephone: 647-268-5548, Email: Richard.Kirwan@toronto.ca
 - Daniella Castello, Community Development Worker, Telephone: 647-458-9465, Email: Daniella.Castello@toronto.ca

ELIGIBILITY

Who Is Eligible for Funding

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. A community or resident-led group based in the Downtown East.

- a. This could include resident associations, grassroots or emerging organizations, unincorporated non-profits, or incorporated non-profits (with funding priority to groups that have a smaller operating budget, i.e., under \$50,000.)
 - b. Downtown East-based, an area that is bounded by Bloor Street to the north, Front Street to the south, Bay Street to the west, and the Don Valley Parkway to the east, including an expansion up to 21 Park Rd, north of Bloor due to the respite site at that location.
2. Propose a project that is focused on the Downtown East
 3. Be in good standing with the City of Toronto
 4. Comply with the City of Toronto's Grants Policy
 5. Demonstrate familiarity with the Downtown East Action Plan and its goals.
 6. Demonstrate readiness to design, implement and evaluate your project's activities and its outcomes.

Ineligible applicants include:

- Organizations, community or resident groups that do not offer services in the Downtown East
- Organizations that are not based in the Downtown East
- Organizations with less than 50% Toronto residents on their board
- Individuals or for-profit businesses or ventures (including BIAs)
 - Note: BIAs can be listed as partners on projects but cannot apply for the grant themselves
- Religious organizations that cannot show a clear separation between religious and community service functions.
- Political parties
- Grant-making organizations
- Industry or trade associations
- Organizations with mandates from other levels of government (universities, schools, hospitals, etc.)
- Landlord/tenant and condominium corporations

What is Eligible for Funding?

Eligible Use of Funds

Grant funds are to be used for eligible costs associated with the planning, implementation, and delivery of an approved project or activity, such as:

- Project costs and supplies
- Space rental
- Compensation for Elders and honoraria for people with lived experience
- Honoraria for mentors, speakers, and other professionals
- Liability insurance
- Transportation
- Planning and development
- Developing and supporting partnerships
- Delivery, materials and participant-related costs
- Interpretation and translation for events and communications
- Childminding
- Staff costs
- Small capital costs

Ineligible Use of Funds

- Requests or 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
- Major capital costs.

Note: Contact City staff 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,

PROJECT AND ACTIVITY FOCUS

Project and Activity Focus

This funding is intended to support the development and implementation of projects that address community safety and wellbeing issues in Toronto's Downtown East. Funding is intended to support a diverse range of projects that promote community safety and inclusion.

For clarity, a project usually tries to reach a short-term goal with a clear beginning and end date. It is not a program, and therefore will not be ongoing.

Proposed projects must respond to a community safety or inclusion concern identified by your organization or group and advance the central outcomes of the Downtown East Action Plan. While funding should not duplicate existing or previously funded activities, these funds may be used for new time-limited enhancements of existing or previous community-led initiatives. Funding priority will be given to applications that address community safety and inclusion issues through one of the following methods:

Building Strong and Resilient Communities:

A central focus of all funded projects is to be inclusive of a range of diverse community members, especially people who are experiencing marginalization, to help build points of connection. Projects in this category will equip community members with the skills and knowledge to respond to issues affecting the safety, well-being and inclusion of a broad range of diverse community members. Such initiatives will encourage local residents to take action and build their skills to benefit the community as a whole. For example:

- *First aid training workshops for community members*
- *Mental health awareness and support programs*
- *Overdose response training series*
- *Conflict resolution and crisis de-escalation workshops*
- *Support programs for people experiencing homelessness.*
- *Programming inclusive of people experiencing marginalization and help to build points of connection.*

Creating Inclusive and Supportive Community Networks

Projects in this category aim to bring diverse communities across Toronto's Downtown East area together and create supportive and inclusive networks. They accomplish this by strengthening the ties between neighborhoods, service agencies, local stakeholders and residents, including populations strongly represented in the DTE: Indigenous Peoples; 2SLGBTQ+; racialized populations; newcomers; people with

low incomes; people lacking affordable and supportive housing; people lacking access to safe drug supply; and people lacking access to adequate mental health services/supports. Such projects should support participants from various backgrounds to share their lived experience and seek ways to support each other and build a sense of belonging. For example:

- *Projects that build stronger connections between residents and a local service agency*
- *Community-based research projects*
- *Community events at which members of diverse communities can meet to address local concerns or exchange experiences, ideas, and needs.*
- *Initiatives that establish mutual aid support networks*

Improving Spaces and Safety through Community Action

Projects in this category improve the safety and well-being of communities by improving spaces or advocating for the improvement of spaces. Initiatives can focus on making neighborhoods and spaces safer, including prevention of incidents and supports to soften impacts of incidents that have occurred, improving accessibility of spaces for people living with disabilities or marginalized populations, beautifying or cleaning physical areas in the neighbourhood, or raising awareness about safety and well-being concerns in the neighbourhood. For example:

- *Community gardening projects*
- *Neighbourhood clean-ups*
- *Public awareness campaigns addressing safety issues and concerns.*
- *Community safety walks*
- *Advocacy campaigns to improve accessibility for people living with disabilities.*
- *Public art projects, such as street art and installations*

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Application Review Process

Applications will be screened for eligibility by the City's selected Organizational Mentor, The Neighbourhood Group (in consultation with City of Toronto staff). Applications that are determined to be eligible will be further assessed by a review panel representing a diversity of perspectives that may include Downtown East residents, leaders from the nonprofit sector, and City of Toronto staff.

Evaluation

Successful applicants will be expected to share an evaluation plan for their grant and to complete the final grant report for the project. These documents will provide information and measures on how the grant activities contributed to the key actions. This evaluation plan and your final report should include information pertaining to the following:

- Summarize key elements of new programs/activities.
- Number of people engaged.
- Number of deliverables
- Qualitative and quantitative participant feedback
- Media showcasing the execution of the project activities.

- Summaries showcasing links between project activities and outcomes.
- Impact on community members
- Challenges and accomplishments around delivery of project activities

KEY DATES

| DATE | TALK OR ACTIVITY | NOTES |
|---|--|---|
| <u>Thursday, May 25th, 2023</u> | <i>Grant Applications Open</i> | To access the grant application please click HERE |
| <u>Wednesday, June 21st, 2023</u> | <i>Virtual Information Session</i> | To register for the free grant information session please click HERE . |
| <u>Saturday, July 8th, 2023</u> <u>12:00 PM to 5:00 PM</u> | <i>Bright Ideas Symposium</i> | This grant information session and ideation workshop will be hosted by TNG staff. For more information on the Bright Ideas Symposiums please click HERE |
| <u>Thursday, July 27th, 2023</u> <u>12:00 PM</u> | <i>Grant Application Deadline</i> | |
| <u>August 14th, 2023 and August 18th, 2023</u> | <i>Successful applicants will be notified.</i> | |
| <u>Friday, July 28th, 2023 to Friday, August 11th, 2023</u> | <i>Grant Review Process</i> | |
| <u>August 18th, 2023</u> | <i>Release of Funding</i> | Successful applicants will be notified between August 14th, 2023 and August 18th, 2023. |
| <u>Monday, August 21st, 2023 to Sunday, March 31st, 2024</u> | <i>Project Activation</i> | Activities funded through this grant must be implemented during this time period. |
| <u>Monday, May 1st, 2024</u> | <i>Grant Completion Report Due</i> | Successful applicants will receive access to the grant completion report. |

APPLICATION ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations (ex. documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, off-hour meetings) are available as required to ensure that groups can fully participate in the application and funding process. For accommodation of special needs please contact please contact Suzanne Paes, Agency Review Officer, Community Funding Unit at Suzanne.Paes@toronto.ca

DISCLOSURE

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 website. Questions about this collection can be directed to the Community Funding unit at City Hall, 15th floor, East Tower, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 or by telephone at 416-392-9125

POINTS OF CONTACT

- For questions about the grant or trusteeship contact **Tyreek Phillips** at tyreek.phillips@tngcs.org and **Suzanne Paes** suzannepaes@toronto.ca
- For questions about the Downtown East Action Plan contact **Kate Rabinowicz** Kate.Rabinowicz@toronto.ca