



Emergency Community Support Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How well did the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) work for community organizations in the first round?

The Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada and United Way Centraide Canada funded more than 7,000 projects over about three months during the Fund's first round. Those projects spanned the country and met the needs of many different communities, including Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ2 communities.

2. Why is the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) opening a second round when many organizations applied and were rejected for lack of funds in the first round?

The Government of Canada kept back a portion of the Emergency Community Support Fund to give it the flexibility to adjust to evolving needs and cover any gaps from the first round.

In the first round of grant funding, the three intermediaries were able to reach all vulnerable groups through funding distributed to all provinces and territories. Building on the success of the first round, the three intermediaries will distribute the remaining funds of \$73.9 million through a second round of open and transparent processes, while also using a targeted approach in their outreach efforts to ensure equitable distribution across vulnerable populations.

3. What is the purpose of the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)?

The ECSF is intended to strengthen the capacity of social service organizations to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals and families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

This fund will support projects implemented in all regions of Canada that:

- Address a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused or worsened by COVID-19
- Serve one or more vulnerable populations
- Can be carried out in a short timeframe (to March 31, 2021) with a reasonable budget; and
- Include activities and costs not already funded by another United Way, Community Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, another federal COVID-19 response program or a different source.

4. What types of projects will be funded by UWEM?

Funding may be used to support activities to provide or support:

- Food security,
- Financial wellness,
- Health and hygiene,
- Home care or personal support services,
- Information and navigation,
- Legal supports,
- Mental health and wellness,
- Emergency shelter,
- Personal safety,

- Social inclusion and learning,
- Transportation, and/or
- Other similar interventions.

Funding requests related to housing, affordable housing and housing stability in City of London and County of Middlesex should be directed to London Community Foundation.

5. What project activities will be funded?

Funding will be provided for the following activities:

- Community outreach and engagement,
- Delivering new models, tools, programming, services or resources,
- Disseminating information and knowledge,
- Volunteer engagement and recruitment,
- and other similar activities.

6. What are the size of the grants being administered by United Way Elgin Middlesex?

United Way Elgin Middlesex will be issuing grants between the ranges of \$20,000 and \$100,000.

7. How much money is available through this fund? Is it possible to find out how much is available for our region?

The ECSF is a \$350 million investment made by the Government of Canada, and a significant portion is being delivered through United Ways Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and Canadian Red Cross across the country. United Way Elgin Middlesex will be allocating approximately \$500,000 in our region.

8. What project expenses are eligible?

The following expenses will be eligible:

- Wages and employment-related costs for project staff,
- Fees for professional service,
- Disability / accommodation and supports for project staff,
- Project materials and supplies
- Printing and communication
- Travel costs for staff and volunteers
- Utilities, insurance, and rental of premises
- Lease, purchase and maintenance of equipment
- Administrative costs including project audits, evaluations and assessments; performance monitoring and reporting costs; data collection, knowledge development activities, and other administrative costs directly associated with the project.
- Small capital projects which directly result in better access to needed services and resources for vulnerable populations.

9. What project expenses are not eligible?

The following expenses will be not eligible for funding from UWEM:

- Purchase of real property (buildings, land, etc.)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers or clients

- Training related to personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers or clients
- Organizational or system capacity building projects unless project directly results in better access to needed services and resources for vulnerable populations
- Large capital projects
- Small capital projects unless project directly results in better access to needed services and resources for vulnerable populations
- Expenses related to housing, affordable housing and housing stability

10. What is the definition of vulnerable populations?

For the purpose of this funding opportunity vulnerable populations is defined as:

- Caregivers
- Children and youth
- Indigenous peoples
- People with low income or living in poverty
- People who identify as LGBTQ2S+ or non-binary
- Newcomers
- Official language minority communities including francophone and Low German
- People experiencing intimate partner or gender-based violence
- People experiencing homelessness
- People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)
- People living with mental illness
- People with addiction
- Persons with disabilities
- Prison populations (detained and incarcerated people)
- Racialized communities
- Seniors and Elders (not in care)
- Seniors and Elders (living in care)
- Students (post-secondary) including international students
- Workers who are vulnerable (i.e. essential workers, temporary foreign workers, workers in the informal labour market, etc.)
- Veterans
- Women and girls
- Others

11. How can we receive funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers or clients?

Organizations that require funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers and/or clients and/or for training related to personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers and/or clients are asked to contact Canadian Red Cross at redcross.ca/communityorganizations.

12. If we have received other federal and/or provincial or territorial COVID-19 related funding, can we still apply?

Yes, ECSF resources can enhance and expand your current COVID-19 funded community service so long as expenses are not counted twice.

13. What if we are not currently a United Way Elgin Middlesex funded agency?

Organizations providing front-line services to vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 are eligible to apply, including registered charities, and other qualified donees. Check the Canada Revenue Agency list of qualified donees by [clicking here](#). Organizations must be providing service in Elgin Middlesex and preference will be given to organizations located in Elgin Middlesex.

14. We are a non-profit (not a registered charity), how can we access and partner with United Way Elgin Middlesex to provide support to vulnerable communities?

Non-profits in Canada are playing an important role in helping to respond to local needs. Unfortunately, we are unable to fund non-profits at this time. The Canadian Red Cross has launched a granting program for non-profits. To find out more about their program please visit redcross.ca/communityorganizations.

15. Will the fund pay for a project that meets the criteria and is already underway?

If a project is underway, you can apply for additional resources to expand and/or extend the delivery of service for a longer time (up to March 31, 2021).

16. If my agency is receiving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, are we still eligible to apply for funding?

Yes. ECSF funds cannot fund any expenses (including wages) already covered by another source, but can complement existing sources, including the wage subsidy.

17. How many funding requests can be made by one organization?

Organizations may apply for more than one project. Please submit separate applications to UWEM for each proposed project.

18. How will decisions about the funding be made? How quickly can we anticipate a decision?

Applications will be reviewed by UWEM staff and volunteers after October 20, 2020. All funding allocations will be made public on or before November 27, 2020.

19. The front-line services we are delivering are at risk of closing without new funding. Are we able to apply for funding under this program?

The purpose of the ECSF is to resource front-line services supporting vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible expenses include staffing, equipment, supplies, and related operating costs that allow organizations to provide and deliver services that respond to the current crisis.

20. May we apply to United Way Centraides, Community Foundations and Canadian Red Cross?

Yes. Applicants may not, however, apply to more than one funder for the same project activities or costs. The three intermediaries will be coordinating locally to ensure that funds are being distributed to have the best possible local reach to serve vulnerable populations.

21. We are part of a national organization network, but we are governed locally. Should we look to apply to our local United Way Centraide for ECSF funds or should our national office coordinate our applications?

No. For national networks or federations, each local member or chapter must submit its own application directly to their local United Way or Centraide in the area where the activities take place.

22. Can a national or provincial organization apply to support its own services to vulnerable people?

Yes. For ECSF Round 2, national or provincial charities that deliver services to vulnerable people can apply to [Community Foundations of Canada](#). National or provincial non-profits that deliver services to vulnerable people can apply to the [Canadian Red Cross](#).

23. How will United Way Elgin Middlesex ensure that this funding is reaching the most vulnerable communities? Is there a commitment to access and equity for these resources?

United Way Elgin Middlesex is committed to ensuring an open and fair application and review process. We will be working to promote this funding opportunity throughout our community and to support organizations seeking to apply.

United Way Elgin Middlesex will be considering a number of equity dimensions as we make decisions on how these resources will be allocated locally. These can include populations served, geographic balance, rural and remote access or other systemic challenges.

24. Where can we find more information? Will assistance be provided in the application process?

Organizations can find further information by referring to the Applicant Guide at www.unitedwayem.ca.

If additional information is required, please contact:

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