

General Administration

The City of Fernie Grants Committee will review the applications and make recommendations to City Council for the awarding of Grant funds. At the discretion of the Committee, the party applying may be asked to present their request to City Council.

Application Criteria

1. Financial responsibility must be demonstrated through the preparation of operating budgets and financial statements.
2. The organization must demonstrate financial need.
3. The activities of the organization must be accessible to the residents of Fernie and demonstrate a positive impact on the community.
4. The organization must demonstrate support from sources other than public funds.
5. The grant will not fund:
 - (a) Research (other than research to identify the need for, or the effectiveness of, various types of programs);
 - (b) Transportation (other than transportation that is incidental to the program);
 - (c) Provision of services which are clearly within the legislated mandates of other orders of government;
 - (d) Payment of City property taxes;
 - (e) Operating or capital deficits incurred in prior years;
 - (f) Agencies that are primarily funding bodies to other organizations;
 - (g) Academic or certain technical training;
 - (h) Construction or repair costs;
 - (i) Individuals.

Organizations receiving grants may engage in one or more of the activities noted above, but the City's grant cannot be used for these purposes.

Grant Objectives

In granting financial assistance to organizations, the City is seeking to support programs that:

1. Contribute to the creation of a sense of community identity and spirit and which contribute to an individual's sense of belonging to the community;

2. Contribute to individual growth and development, with particular emphasis on youth activities and on community recreation activities;
3. Contribute to developing family strength and cohesion by the provision of opportunities for the family to participate as a unit;
4. Contribute to the understanding of our heritage as a City and Nation, the encouragement of diversity, uniqueness and innovation, and the promotion of respect for diverse cultural traditions;
5. Contribute to community growth and development by fostering increased contact between people of varying groups within the city;
6. Are related to identifiable disadvantaged groups within the community and which are intended to remove barriers to access to the leisure activities;
7. Will contribute to addressing the City's priority issues as identified from time to time.

Categories of Support

The following 3 categories are areas that Grant funding may be considered for:

1. Core Operating Grants

Established groups operating municipal facilities and/or having full time paid staff may be eligible for annual operating grants. These groups must submit standard grant request forms annually for review. These grants represent a contribution towards the overall operating cost of a non profit organization and are not earmarked for any specific project of activity.

2. Economic Development & Tourism Grants

These grants are available to assist organizers with costs associated with hosting cultural or sporting events which promote economic development and tourism within the City. Funds can be used to assist with encouraging event participation and pre/post event tourism or to build/purchase minor pieces of equipment/site improvements required to host the event which may also assist with hosting future events.

3. Athletic/Educational/Community Group Grants

These grants are available to support local individuals/groups who are incurring costs as a result of participating in amateur competitions. All of the following conditions must be met in order to be considered for a grant under this category:

- Individual applicants must reside in the City of Fernie. Groups must have a majority of their members residing in the City of Fernie.
- The competition must be amateur in nature, meaning that its participants do not receive direct compensation for competing.
- If applying for an Athletic Grant, the individual or group applying must have an affiliation with a Provincial or National sports governing body that, through the individual or groups registration with that body, provides liability insurance and guidance for safe conduct of the sport.

4. Evaluation

The Discretionary Grants Committee will assess applications on the basis of the following criteria as they pertain to the "Grant Objectives":

- Financial need and viability
- Audience and membership
- Community need, service and support
- Program quality

The amount of funding approved will depend on such factors as:

- Proportion of amount applied for in relation to group's total annual budget
- Evidence of real effort in marketing and self-financing shown by diversity of revenue sources (e.g. grants from other funding agencies, fundraising, sponsorships, ticket sales, subscriptions, memberships, user fees, etc.)

5. Report/Evaluation on Funded Activity

Organizations successful in obtaining a City grant may be asked to complete a final report which evaluates whether the objectives outlined in the application were met. Applicants asked to complete a final report will not be considered for any future grant request until the report has been submitted.

The method of evaluation will depend on the nature of the program/project, and will be discussed with successful applicants.

If all funds have not been used for the intended or closely related purpose, the surplus must be returned.

Please ensure that **all supporting documents** requested in the application are included. Late or incomplete submissions may result in the rejection of applications.