

# ChangeUp Grants Media and Arts Impact Grants Frequently Asked Questions

## ELIGIBILITY

### **What does Inspirit consider to be “media and arts”?**

We have broadly defined media and arts to include: film; video; podcasting; digital platforms and apps; emerging media technology; creative places and spaces; traditional and social media; written and spoken word; performance and visual art.

### **Who qualifies as a “young change leader”?**

For us, a young change leader is a person between the ages of 18 and 34 who resides in Canada and who is actively addressing issues of discrimination and prejudice in their communities.

### **What is an “eligible grantee”?**

Canadian charities in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or First Nations Bands are eligible grantees.

### **We are not an eligible charity or First Nations Band. Can we apply?**

Yes. However, Inspirit cannot offer you a grant until there is a confirmed agreement between your group and an eligible charity that is willing to act as lead partner. Please note that the lead partner will receive and administer the grant, and therefore will be accountable for particular legal and financial responsibilities.

### **We are an eligible grantee but are not currently in good standing with the CRA. Can we apply?**

No. Grants can only support projects run by eligible grantees that are in good standing with the CRA.

### **My initiative has already started — can I apply for funding from Inspirit?**

We cannot fund retroactively, but we may be able to grant to a discrete aspect of your initiative. Please remember that the grant can only be put toward activity that takes place after the grant agreement has been signed.

### **What are eligible costs?**

Our grants will contribute to the cost of delivering the proposed project between the project start date and the project end date. This can include staffing costs, space, and equipment that is needed to give your project the best chance of success. The grant can also make a reasonable contribution to administration costs (rent, utilities, telephone and Internet) that relate to the project and are not covered by other funders, up to a maximum of 10% of direct project costs.

Please note that all equipment purchases will become the property of the grantee, or lead partner in the project, and all eligible costs must be incurred before the project end date.

### What are ineligible costs?

Our grants are unable to fund:

- any initiative or activity that discriminates or supports discrimination against individuals or groups based on age, ancestry, citizenship, creed or religion, colour, disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender identity, level of literacy, marital status, place of origin, membership in a union or staff association, political affiliation, race, receipt of public assistance, record of offences, sex, sexual orientation, or any other personal characteristics
- initiatives that do not aim to advance the outcomes of our programs
- initiatives that are run by non-Canadian organizations, outputs, and activities that take place outside of Canada, and projects which primarily benefit individuals living in another country
- general fundraising efforts, capital campaigns, or sponsorships
- endowments
- emergency funds
- personal appeals for financial support
- retroactive requests for projects already started or completed
- activities that primarily promote religious or political beliefs
- academic research; bursaries, or scholarships

### What are your insurance requirements?

Please note that we require grantees to maintain a minimum of \$2 million in general liability insurance for the duration of the grant.

## ISSUE AREAS AND PRIORITY OUTCOMES

### What are the Inspirit Foundation's Issue Areas?

Inspirit Foundation supports work on issues of prejudice and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, and religion, and for the next five years will be placing priority on two urgent themes:

- **Islamophobia and anti-Semitism** are pressing global issues that reinforce ignorance, perpetuate a "fear of other," and generate discriminatory attitudes and behaviours, which in turn create barriers to inclusion. Inspirit Foundation supports work that addresses these issues because we acknowledge that global events and conflicts, historical and current, are fueling anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiments in Canada, including hate speech and hate crimes.
- **Reconciliation** is both a goal and a process by which Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are repairing, building, and strengthening relationships to ensure that full social and economic inclusion can be realized for all people of Canada. Inspirit Foundation will continue to support young people who are committed to efforts and projects of and for Reconciliation because we recognize that many Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to suffer the lasting effects of the racist policies and practices of colonization.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The underlined text above is taken from the draft strategic plan, *ChangeUp* (2015)

**Can we still apply if our project does not specifically address Inspirit's Issue Areas?**

Yes. Please note that ideal projects would address at least one of our Issue Areas. For further information, please contact the [Program Manager](#).

**What do you mean by “open minds and shift attitudes”?**

Inspirit supports projects that aim to increase people's awareness and understanding of others' experiences, build recognition of shared experience across difference, and inspire actions that bridge difference.

**What do you mean by “build good relations”?**

Inspirit supports projects that bring together diverse groups to address prejudice and discrimination, and promote inclusion and belonging.

## **APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS**

**What is the application process?**

If you have submitted a proposal to us online, you should expect immediate confirmation of receipt via email. Within two weeks of submission, a staff member will be in touch to confirm the next steps for eligible initiatives. You will be informed at this time if your initiative is not eligible for consideration.

Please note that if your initiative is escalated for consideration, you may be asked for further information, including:

- a detailed project budget and timeline
- further information about your group and preferred partners
- a copy of the most current financial statements of the lead organization
- clarification of your proposed activities and approach to evaluation

**When are your granting deadlines?**

We accept applications from January to October. The Granting Committee will make decisions in April, July, and October. Please consider these dates before submitting your application. For more information, please contact our [Program Manager](#).

**Can I submit more than one initiative for consideration at a time?**

No. We can only consider one initiative per applicant organization or group in any granting phase, and can only grant once to an eligible grantee per year.

**What is the review process?**

Eligible initiatives are assessed three times per year by grant review teams that include subject experts, young changemakers, practitioners, impact specialists, and Inspirit staff. Grant recommendations are taken to a committee of the Inspirit Board of Directors, who make the final granting decisions.

### **How are initiatives assessed?**

Initiatives are assessed in different areas against particular criteria. These criteria could include:

1. Applicant
  - What level of experience or knowledge does the applicant organization or group have in developing/implementing the proposed activities?
  - What is the applicant's level of understanding of the issue(s) they aim to address?
2. Aims
  - Has the applicant clearly articulated the change they aim to make and a vision of success?
  - How clear is the rationale for the initiative? Is it informed by research or evidence?
3. Activities
  - Are the proposed activities likely to achieve the aims of the initiative?
  - What level of support does the initiative have from the groups or communities it aims to benefit?
4. Impact
  - To what extent is the initiative likely to achieve a priority outcome of the program?
  - Has the applicant clearly articulated how they will know if they are successful?

### **When are decisions made?**

Decisions are made three times per year, in April, July, and October. If timelines are critical to your project, ask the **Program Manager** for clarification before applying or submitting an Expression of Interest.

### **What happens if our application is successful?**

If your application for a grant is approved, Inspirit staff will contact the person listed as the lead contact of the initiative within 48 hours of approval. A grant agreement will be forwarded in due course for signature.

Inspirit reserves the right to bestow conditions on the grant offer that may be particular to the project.

First payment of the grant is due on signature of the agreement and on satisfaction of any conditions. No funds can be forwarded before all of the conditions of the offer are met. If you do not meet the conditions within 30 days of the offer, it may expire.

### **How will the grant be paid?**

For grants up to \$25,000, 75% of the grant is due on signature of the grant agreement and 25% is payable on receipt of final agreed deliverables. Payment schedules for grants over \$50,000 per year are negotiable.

### **If our grant application is declined, can we ask for feedback?**

Absolutely. Due to the volume of applicants, we cannot automatically provide feedback to all, but we will endeavour to forward feedback from the review process to all who request it.

For further information, please contact the **Program Manager**.