

LOCAL SPORT RELIEF FUND

Frequently Asked Questions

January 21, 2021

Q: How much funding was available for distribution?

A: \$1.5 million from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport was available for distribution.

Q: How much of the total \$1.5 million was distributed.

A: All \$1.5 million was distributed.

Q: How many applications were received?

A: 594 applications were received: 359 urban applicants (\$2.5M); 169 rural applicants (\$1.2M); 66 underserved applicants (\$400K).

Q: How much funding was requested in total from organizations?

A: A total of \$4.1 million was requested (\$1.5 million distributed) by 594 organizations (288 organizations received funding).

Q: Why were only 288 out of 594 organizations funded?

A: 288 of the 594 organizations were selected based on a combination eligibility according to the criteria (below) and score (outlined more below).

Q: How many organizations in total benefited:

A: A total of 288 organizations will be supported by the Local Sport Relief Fund.

Q: Which organizations received funding and where are they located?

A: Find the recipients list on viaSport's Local Sport Relief Fund page at <https://www.viasport.ca/grant/local-sport-relief-fund>.

Q: Why did the Province make this money available?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has put financial pressure on many local sports clubs throughout British Columbia that have had limited ability to offer programming and fundraise to cover expenses. Without financial support, these clubs are at risk of closure, leaving communities without local access to sport.

Q: Who could apply?

A: The grant was open specifically to community-based, non-profit, amateur sport organizations. A B.C. registered society or CRA charity number is required in the application.

Q: How much could each organization apply for?

A: Eligible organizations were invited to apply for up to \$7,500 to help offset fixed and operating costs. An application does not guarantee any level of funding and the requested amount may not be approved.

Q: What if more than \$7,500 was required to keep an organization viable?

A: Due to the limited funding available and the expected demand, we have capped awards at \$7,500 per organization. We have determined that this funding level would allow us to fund the maximum number of organizations to a level that will support the sport system holistically.

Q: Why is this support not available to for-profit sport organizations?

A: We recognize that small businesses delivering sport may also face funding challenges. However, due to the limited funding available, we are not able to support all sport delivery organizations in B.C. We urge for-profit sport organizations to take advantage of Canada Emergency Response Benefit ([CERB](#)), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ([CEWS](#)), the Canada Emergency Business Account ([CEBA](#)), and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance ([CECRA](#)) for small businesses.

Q: Do an organization need their own CRA or BC Society number?

A: Yes, the Local Sport Relief Fund requires all organizations to have their own B.C. registered society or CRA charity number. The intention of the program is to provide financial relief to those non-for-profit formally established organizations that are struggling to cover higher operational legal and financial reporting costs. Registered organizations are required to follow and file a number of legal and financial requirements stipulated by our provincial and federal governments. Other volunteer groups do not have similar costs or formal reporting requirements. That is the reasoning behind the requirement.

Q: When was the application period?

A: The application intake for this funding ran from September 19 until October 16, 2020.

Q: What types of expenses can this funding help cover?

A: Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to costs associated with:

- Day-to-day administrative costs (essential fees and dues, IT costs, office supplies)
- Salaries, wages or benefits*
- Professional fees (accounting, bookkeeping, legal)
- Rent, mortgage, storage costs or utilities*
- Insurance
- Equipment essential to providing sports programming
- COVID-19-related supplies (cleaning supplies, signage, PPE)

Q: What if some of those costs have been covered by other government COVID-19 emergency measures?

A: Funds must **not** be used to cover expenditures already supported by other government COVID-19 emergency measures including but not limited to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit ([CERB](#)), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ([CEWS](#)), the Canada Emergency Business Account ([CEBA](#)), and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance ([CECRA](#)) for small businesses.

Q: How were applications evaluated?

A: Applications were scored on the following criteria:

Financial Need

- Financial need will consider not only financial risk, but also an organization's ability to retain volunteer board members, rebuild operations and prepare for return to sport.
- Priority will be given to organizations that have suffered significant financial loss due to the impacts of COVID-19, and are at immediate and severe risk of closure or insolvency.

Governance

- Priority will be given to organizations that demonstrate strong oversight and governance.
- Governance will consider if there is a Board chair and Treasurer in place, affiliation with Provincial or Disability Sport Organization and if there is a Return to Sport safety plan in place.

Community Impact

- Priority will be given to organizations that demonstrate significant community impact, and whose loss would result in a significant gap in services in the community (i.e. there are no other clubs able to service that region).

Use of Funds

- Priority will be given to organizations who can clearly articulate how funds will be used, and to those that intend to use funds to prevent facility loss, job loss or insolvency.

Q: When the grant opened, winter sports and although they may not have yet lost any revenue, anticipate they will. Were they eligible to apply?

A: Yes, they were eligible to apply; however, priority was given to those organizations that are at critical or high risk of permanent closure or insolvency

Q: Does an organization have to be affiliated with a Provincial Sport Organization or Disability Sport Organization to be eligible?

A: No, it is not a requirement that organizations be affiliated with a Provincial or Disability Sport Organization.

Q: If no Provincial or Disability Sport Organization governs their sport, will that negatively affect an application?

A: No, if there is no Provincial or Disability Organization in B.C. it will not negatively affect the application.

Q: What if an organization is uncertain if it is a formal member and in good standing with a Provincial Sport Organization, Disability Sport Organization, or governing body?

A: We asked for organizations to make their best guess. We verified this information with the relevant organizations after receiving the applications.

Q: If an organization is not a registered non-profit, however, doesn't make any money, are they eligible?

A: No, an organization must have a B.C. registered society or CRA charity number to be eligible.

Q: Does it matter where organizations allocate the funding received? Are some expenses considered better than others in the evaluation process?

A: No, as long as funding is spent on eligible expenses.

Q: Where was the application posted?

A: Information on the application process can be found at <https://www.viasport.ca/grant/local-sport-relief-fund>

Q: Was funding awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis?

A: No, we waited until the application period closed before distributing any funding. Applying early did not increase chances of funding, however we did not recommend waiting until the last minute should any unforeseen circumstances have arisen.

Q: Did you accept any late applications?

A: No, once the application period closed, no more applications were accepted for any reason.

Q: How can organizations contact viaSport about questions or to discuss their application?

A: If an organization wishes to discuss their application and its eligibility contact us via email at localsportfunding@viasport.ca.