



IMAGINE Community Grants: Application Guide

Grant Application Criteria

IMAGINE Community Grants exist to support projects that address community-led health and wellness initiatives while improving the well-being of all Northern BC residents. Projects should seek to support community-based initiatives that focus on one or more of the follow health and wellness priorities:

- **Mental wellness**
- **Community diversity**
- **Harm reduction**
- **Climate health action**
- **Food security**
- **Active living**
- **Community safety**

Preference will be given to projects that:

- **Support partnerships and relationship-** will encourage groups to work together, connecting the community
- **Identify a community need-**will address something that is missing that could benefit the community
- **Have impact-**will affect many people in the community or communities where the project takes place, or have a profound effect on fewer
- **Build Capacity-**will develop and strengthen skills and resources within the community
- **Last-** will have a good chance of continuing or leaving a lasting legacy after the funding ends

Who can apply?

- Community Organizations/Service Agencies
- Not-for-Profits
- Indigenous Organizations
- Schools/Parent Advisory Councils (PAC)
- Municipalities/Regional Districts
- First Nations Bands and Health Centres



What are the funding limitations?

Our grants DO NOT cover:

- Projects outside of the Northern Health region
- Individuals or personal businesses
- One-time events or gatherings
- Academic Research
- Prize money or gift cards

*Northern Health employees, programs, or facilities cannot apply for funding but can be listed as a support or partner in the project.

Important Dates

Call for applications: February 1, 2023

Deadline for applications: March 3, 2023

Funding released: March 20-24, 2023

Project Legacy Summary due: January 31, 2024

Things to consider:

When developing your proposal, there are many things to consider. Below are some key points and suggestions from the IMAGINE screening committee that could help your application be as strong as possible:

1: Equity - One of our main goals is to help reduce health and wellness barriers that communities often face. Does your project have that goal too? If so, be sure to tell us about the barriers, and how your plan will help members of your community overcome them.

2: Environment - Does your project create a safe, supportive environment for community members to participate, interact, or engage in? Often people want to be a part of things but choose not to because they don't feel safe or welcome. Be sure to tell us how you will deal with this!

3: Scope - Projects that aim to help a lot of people are great, but only if they actually help a lot of people. Be careful not to make your project too broad, and to maintain your focus on the people you want to help and the issue you want to address.

4: Clarity - We are sure that you understand your project, but for us to approve it we need to understand it too. Try to be as clear and as complete in your explanation as possible. Remember, the more detail we have and the better we understand your idea, the more likely you are to receive funding!



5: Planning - We want to see your project be successful. For that to happen, you need to have a complete plan. Take the time to really think your project through and give us the steps you will take to achieve your goals. The better the plan, the more likely it is to succeed!

6: Sustainability - All efforts to make communities healthier are valuable, but we try to look for projects that will have lasting value. Does your project have plans to make sure that its positive effects last? If so, tell us about them!

7: Cultural Safety - All people have the right to feel safe and respected, and to be proud of their culture. Does your project enable members of your community to access services and programs without fear of racism or other forms of discrimination? Consider how politics and history affect people in your community, and how your project could impact this.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need a project partner to apply?

A. Projects are not required to have partners working together. When listing partners on the application, they must be from outside of the applying organization and each partners' roles and responsibilities in the project should be clearly stated.

Q. Can my group apply for an IMAGINE Community Grant if we have previously received IMAGINE funds?

A. Applicants who have previously received IMAGINE funds can apply with a new project idea and if they have submitted the required evaluation form, fulfilling the agreement from the last project. We will not fund the same project more than once and will not provide funds for operational costs of an ongoing/existing project

Q. How detailed should my application be?

A. When reviewing your application, the screening committee should be able to easily understand the goals of the project and the plans that will be put in place to achieve them. The more details included in your application, the better. Ensure that the project budget is clear and includes all costs that will be associated with the project activities.



Q. Our project requires a lot of funding to achieve our goal. Can we apply for a “donation” to our funding pot?

A. These funds are intended to support successful applicants with achieving timely projects. If other funding is also being used to support a project, it should be confirmed and complete. Donations to large capital projects with unsecured external funding will not be eligible.

Q. Can we apply for a one-day event or community celebration?

A. IMAGINE Community Grants fund projects that have a lasting impact in community. These funds are not for one-off events. Preference is given to projects that have a good chance of living on after the funding is spent and will support ongoing programming and activities within a community.

For more information, please contact Northern Health’s Regional Community Granting Program:

Breanne Frenkel
Coordinator, Community Funding Programs
Phone: 250-961-0253
Email: healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca