

## **Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)**

# **Guidelines for Community Service Organizations Seeking ECSF Funds from United Way Halton & Hamilton**

COVID-19 is top of mind for everyone and it is affecting the ways we support those who are vulnerable in our communities. This pandemic has created an increase in demand for local services, shortages in supplies, and disruption in service.

The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) is a \$350 million investment made by the Government of Canada, through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), to support vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of COVID-19.

The Government of Canada has partnered with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross to distribute the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) across the country. United Way Centraides (UWCs) are working locally to support community service organizations to aid vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document summarizes guidelines for community service organizations seeking ECSF funds through United Way Halton & Hamilton.

## **Where Should Community Service Organizations Seek ECSF Funds?**

### [United Way Centraides](#)

Local United Way Centraides will manage ECSF processes for charities and other qualified donees, <https://www.uwhh.ca/covid-19-for-agencies/>

### [Community Foundations](#)

A network of community foundations across Canada will accept funding applications from qualified donees. [communityfoundations.ca](https://communityfoundations.ca)

### [Canadian Red Cross](#)

National, regional and local partners will manage a granting stream for nonprofits. Canadian Red Cross will also manage a Preventing Disease Transmission Training & Equipment Program. [redcross.ca/communityorganizations](https://redcross.ca/communityorganizations)

Applicant organizations may only submit ONE request per unique emergency project (duplicate or additional requests for the same program to multiple funders will not be accepted). Applicant organizations are not limited to submitting a single request. Additional applications for unique projects or emergent needs will be accepted. Applications may not exceed \$75,000 in requested dollars (per request). There is no minimum requested amount.

Multiple program applications are encouraged and can be submitted. The list of program applications will be reviewed collaboratively between all funders. Regardless of which funder is being applied to, only one program application should be submitted for funds. United Way Halton & Hamilton is accepting applications, across all communities. For the Community Foundations, we ask that you apply to the funder located in the primary community that your charity serves.

For further details see FAQ document.

### **About our United Ways/Centraides**

United Way Halton and Hamilton serves over 200,000 people through 65 supported agencies that deliver over 129 local programs across Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Halton Hills and Milton.

### **Timelines**

---

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| May 19, 2020               | Launch of the ECSF <a href="https://www.uwhh.ca/covid-19-for-agencies/">https://www.uwhh.ca/covid-19-for-agencies/</a>   |
| May 19 2020 – July 31 2020 | Applications to United Way Halton & Hamilton must be sent to: <a href="mailto:communityinvestment@uwhh.ca">communityinvestment@uwhh.ca</a> . Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as received and until the money is spent. |

---

### **Eligibility**

United Way Halton & Hamilton funds charities and other qualified donees.

Examples of Qualified Donees include:

- Registered charities

Organizations may seek ECSF funds acting alone, or as part of a partnership. Organizations may also seek funds for more than one service. Separate requests should be completed for each service.

## Community Services

The ECSF will provide financial support for community services that:

- Address a pressing social inclusion or wellbeing need caused or worsened by COVID-19,
- Serve one or more vulnerable groups (defined below),
- Will be carried out with a reasonable budget before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Community Service Organizations seeking ECSF funds will be asked to provide details including a budget, the services and activities they propose, the vulnerable populations these services will reach, and whether the services will be delivered in urban, rural, or remote communities.

### Types of Activity, as defined by ESDC, include:

- Community outreach and engagement
- Delivering or developing new models, tools, programming, services or resources
- Disseminating information and knowledge
- Volunteer engagement and recruitment
- Other

### Types of services, as defined by ESDC, include:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Food Security</b>                   | prepared meals; delivery service; hampers/baskets              |
| <b>Financial Wellness</b>              | financial literacy or coaching; access to income supports      |
| <b>Home Care or Personal Support</b>   | for seniors, Elders, and persons with disabilities             |
| <b>Health &amp; Hygiene</b>            | health info.; medication; personal hygiene & medical supplies  |
| <b>Information &amp; Navigation</b>    | providing information; navigating supports                     |
| <b>Legal Support</b>                   | tools & resources; legal clinics, etc.                         |
| <b>Mental Health &amp; Wellness</b>    | peer support; crisis support                                   |
| <b>Shelter</b>                         | housing; crisis support  |
| <b>Personal Safety</b>                 | info.; violence & abuse support; violence & abuse prevention   |
| <b>Social Inclusion &amp; Learning</b> | friendly conversation; social activities; learning             |
| <b>Transportation</b>                  | access to safe transport to essential appointments and errands |

## Other

### **Vulnerable Populations, as defined by ESDC, include:**

- Marginalized Communities, including:
  - Racialized communities\*
  - Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit, and Metis
  - Official Language Minority Communities
  - Other linguistic minorities
  - Newcomers: all, permanent residents (immigrants and refugees), temporary residents, and international students
  - Women and girls
  - LGBTQ2S+ communities

*\*South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, groups not otherwise specified*
- Children, Youth, and Elderly, including:
  - Children and youth: all, ageing out of care, ages 0 to 18, and ages 19 to 29
  - Post-Secondary Students
  - Seniors and Elders: not in care, and living in care
- Workers Who are Vulnerable, including:
  - Essential Workers
  - Temporary Foreign Workers
  - Workers in the informal labour market
  - Caregivers
- Populations Requiring Specific Care or Supports:
  - People experiencing homelessness
  - People with low income or living in poverty
  - People living with mental illness
  - People struggling with addiction
  - Persons with disabilities
  - People experiencing domestic or gender-based violence
  - People living in group homes or supportive living (under the age of 55)
  - Prison populations (detained and incarcerated)
  - Veterans

### **Eligible Expenses for ECSF:**

All budget items must be project-related and incurred by March 31, 2021.

Eligible expenses include wages and benefits, professional fees, travel and accommodations, materials and supplies, printing and communication, equipment

rental/lease/maintenance, administration costs, capital costs, and disability support for staff. Purchase of lands or buildings, and any expenses that are covered by another funding source, are ineligible.

### **ECSF Fund Commitments:**

In order to seek ECSF funds, community service organizations will be asked to confirm that they:

- are eligible to receive ECSF dollars
  - i.e. the community service organization is a qualified donee
- maintain a volunteer Board of Directors that meets regularly
- host a public Annual General Meeting
- have financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant or, for those with annual revenues less than \$100,000, a financial review.
- commit to providing eligible supports to one or more groups of vulnerable people, as defined by ESDC, with funding used in full by March 31, 2021
- have not already received funding for the same activities from the Government of Canada or other source, including Community Foundations, Canadian Red Cross, or United Way Centraide
  - i.e. the same dollar of expense is not funded twice
- will not receive funding, for the activities proposed, in excess of 100% from government sources, including the ECSF
  - i.e. combined funding from all government sources does not total more than the expenses of the community service during the eligible period
- grant permission for application/proposal details and contact information to be shared with CFC, and CRC for funding consideration in order to coordinate funding