Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

Guidelines for Community Service Organizations Seeking ECSF Funds from United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin

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 Guelph Wellington Dufferin.

Where Should Community Service Organizations Seek ECSF Funds?

United Way Centraides	**Community Foundations**	**Canadian Red Cross**
Local United Way Centraides will manage ECSF processes for charities, other qualified donees, and nonprofits. www.unitedwayguelph.com/ECSF	A network of community foundations across Canada will accept funding applications from qualified donees. communityfoundations.ca	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

About United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin

United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin has worked in our community for over 80 years to monitor and meet the pressing social needs of our community, including poverty, social isolation and mental health. Directed by a volunteer board, managed by committed staff and supported by thousands of donors, United Way works with partners in all sectors to improve lives and build community.

Timelines

May 19, 2020	Launch of the ECSF www.unitedwayguelph.com/ECSF
May 19 2020 – July 27, 2020	Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The last day to submit an application will be July 27, 2020.

Eligibility

United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin funds charities, non-profits and other qualified donees.

Examples of Qualified Donees include:

- Registered charities
- Registered Canadian Municipalities
- Registered municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada

Organizations may seek ECSF funds acting alone, or as part of a partnership or collaborative. 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 31st, 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:

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

Urban and Rural/Remote

URBAN AREAS (POPULATION CENTRES) are areas with a population of at least 1,000 and no fewer than 400 persons per square kilometre.

Population centres are classified into three groups, depending on the size of their population:

- small population centres, with a population between 1,000 and 29,999
- medium population centres, with a population between 30,000 and 99,999
- large urban population centres, with a population of 100,000 or more.

RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS include all territory lying outside urban areas (population centres). Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Rural population includes all population living in rural areas of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Included in rural areas are:

- small towns, villages and other populated places with less than 1,000 population according to the current census (2016)
- rural areas of census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations that may contain estate lots, as well as agricultural, undeveloped and non-developable lands
- agricultural lands
- remote and wilderness areas.

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 or nonprofit

- 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