

BC SPORT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM: COMMUNITY SPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND GUIDELINES

*Deadline: Applications will be accepted until **5:00 pm PST on Oct 15th, 2026***

Programs running between Nov 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027, are eligible to apply.

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of the Community Sport Program Development (CSPD) fund is to make community sport in British Columbia more accessible by reducing barriers to participation.

This fund provides financial support to non-profit organizations that offer programs to equity deserving groups and/or the general population, to increase sport participation opportunities.

The Community Sport Program Development Fund is supported through bilateral contributions from the Province of BC and the Government of Canada and administered through viaSport British Columbia.

WHO CAN APPLY:

Applications can only be submitted by registered not-for-profit societies that are:

- Local Sport Organizations (LSOs) that are affiliated and in good standing with a viaSport Designated Sport Organization
- Municipalities, Community Centres or Social Service Organizations that deliver organized sport programs in their community
- Indigenous Bands or Indigenous Community Associations

Additionally, a viaSport Designated Sport Organization may **only** apply in the "Programming for Equity Deserving Groups" category for community level programming.

For more information on **viaSport's Designation Sport Program** please visit:

<https://viasport.ca/accredited-recognized-affiliated-sports-in-bc/>

It is anticipated that more applications will be received than can be funded, and therefore only eligible applications will be reviewed.

Only one application per organization will be accepted.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Grant funding is allocated through a competitive application-based process. Eligible applications are evaluated by a review panel consisting of sport sector experts. The panel bases their recommendations and funding level based on the eligibility and assessment criteria described in these guidelines and guidance from viaSport.

Preference will be given to:

- Applicants that have not previously received funding within the last two CSPD grant intakes (12-month period).
- Organizations that tailor their delivery to offer specific outreach and programming directed to equity deserving groups, including Indigenous peoples, persons with a disability, women & girls, members of 2SLGBTQ+ community, racialized individuals and low-income families.

OVERARCHING ASSESSMENT:

- Merit of application
- Scope of programming
- Availability of funding
- Equitable geographic or demographic distribution

GRANT SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS:

Applicants will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate:

1. Ability to Expand Sport Participation
 - a) How the proposed program responds to the identified needs and barriers of the target participants.
 - b) How their program will create new opportunities for participation in organized sport.
 - c) How the activities are expected to achieve meaningful and measurable impact.
2. Sustainability
 - a) A commitment to collaborating with other relevant community groups or organizations that help to strengthen program delivery.
 - b) That the program is not solely dependent on CSPD funds and identify additional sources of financial or in-kind support.
3. Quality Sport Principles
 - a) That programs will be delivered by trained and qualified instructors, including those with NCCP qualifications that have undergone appropriate screening.
 - b) Appropriate measures that support meaningful participation for the targeted population.

BUDGET:

The grant has a total funding envelope of approximately \$150,000 split among two intakes. Eligible applicants are invited to apply for funding between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

The budget must reflect that there are other sources of revenue beyond the grant to cover expenses.

POSSIBLE USE OF FUNDS:

Possible use of funds may include, but are not limited to:

- A program that needs specific training of coaches, instructors and officials to become established and increase participant numbers

- A program that needs specific purchasing or refurbishing equipment to become established and increase participant numbers
- A club that wants to start a new youth or seniors' division
- A club that wants to introduce their sport to local schools
- A single sport that wants to expand into a multi-sport/season club
- New program offering/adaptive sport opportunities
- Programs to meet the needs of equity deserving groups.

Funding requests for the following are NOT eligible:

- One-time try it days.
- Programs that provide services solely to an organization's existing membership
- Tournaments, competitions, and athlete travel fees
- General operating expenses (staff salaries, office rent, regular promotional or marketing activities)
- Activities not open to the public
- Capital expenditures (renovation, construction, computer equipment)
- Deficits incurred from past activities
- Prizes or awards
- Re-granting programs
- Political or religious activities

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All applicants must become familiar with the following:

- The applicant ensures all the information contained in the application is true and complete.
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional supporting information at the discretion of viaSport staff or review panel.
- Successful candidates are required to submit a post-grant report or survey.
- Successful applicants may be asked to participate in follow-up communications at the discretion of the viaSport grants team.
- The Province of BC and viaSport can publish the applicant/organization's name.
- Successful candidates may be required to properly acknowledge viaSport and government support, more information available here:
<https://viasport.ca/press-kit/>
- Under normal circumstances, approved awards will only be paid via direct deposit (EFT) after the grant letter is signed by the intended recipient.
- In the case of an event cancellation or rescheduling outside eligible dates, repayment of the grant funds will be required.
- Any project funds not spent on eligible project expenses must be returned to viaSport.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Complete the online application form here: <https://viasportgrants.smapply.io/>
- You are required to create an account to apply for the grant. If you have applied for any grants through our online portal before, please use your existing account.
- You are able to save your application and return to it at a future time. Please be reminded to review your application prior to submission as you will not be able to modify your application after.
- Upon submission, please look and save a notification email confirming your submission. viaSport is not responsible for reviewing any unsubmitted applications.

Applications must be received by **5:00pm PST on October 15th, 2026**

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CONTACT

If you wish to discuss your proposal and its eligibility prior to applying, please contact:
grants@viasport.ca

If you wish to learn more about the latest sport news in BC:

- Sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Visit [viaSport.ca](https://viasport.ca)

APPENDIX 1: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

General Details:

- Organization Information, Contact Information and Social Media Assets

Program Information:

- Program Name, Target Audience (General Population or Equity Deserving Groups) and Sport.
- Number of Anticipated Participants
- Will Participants be charged a fee? (Yes/No)
- Age category(ies) that best describes the participants attending your program (Multiple Choice)
- Program Dates and Host Community(ies)

Program Details: (max. 150 words per question)

- Describe your target audience. What are their barriers to participation?
- Provide a brief description of your program/project?
- How will your organization help new participants stay active in sport and transition into other ongoing programs or club memberships?
- How will you measure the success of your program/project?
- Describe how your organization has engaged with the community or relevant participant group(s) this program is intended to serve

Project Budget

- Please describe how the funding will be used to support the program?
- Funds Requested and Breakdown of Expenses
- Program Revenues

Instructor Qualifications

- Summarize the relevant NCCP qualifications of the coaches and instructors.
- Have the coaches delivering the program undergone background screening, including criminal record checks (and vulnerable sector checks for those working with individuals under 19)?
- Describe any training related to inclusion, accessibility or cultural safety that individual involved in the program have completed.

Program Partners (If applicable)

- Number of partnerships, Name(s) and Relationship(s)
- Letters of Support from Partner organizations