Age-friendly Communities

AFC Grants

APPLICATION GUIDE
2026

BC HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

This is a step-by-step guide for completing your grant application for an Age-friendly Communities Grant. There are two grant streams:
1. Planning; and 2. Projects.

Please note: This is not the application form. The following information is a guide only, containing background information, grant criteria and application details.

Please find a link to the online application at: **https://bchealthycommunities.ca/index.php/afc-grants-application-guide/**

1 Overview

1.1 Program Goal

The Age-friendly Communities (AFC) Program is funded by the BC Ministry of Health and run in partnership with BC Healthy Communities (BCHC).

In an age-friendly community, older adults have the support they need to live active, social, and independent lives in their home community. Since 2007, the Province of BC has supported this approach through the Age-friendly Communities Program. Working with partners, this program helps communities prepare for an aging population so that older adults can stay active and involved where they live.

The AFC grants are one part of the larger Age-friendly Communities Program. This program helps local and Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities work toward the goal of creating age-friendly places to live. The AFC Program has three main parts:

1. AFC grants include:
    a. funding to support planning and projects, and
    b. customized training and guidance to help communities start and carry out their age-friendly plans.

2. Tools and resources created and collected to support age-friendly planning; and,

3. An AFC recognition program that encourages communities to apply to be officially recognized for their age-friendly achievements and join a global network of age-friendly cities and communities.

The AFC grants offered include two funding streams:

*   Stream 1: Planning; and
*   Stream 2: Projects.

Local and Indigenous governments are welcome to apply for either stream.

1.2 Applicant Eligibility

Before applying, make sure you represent a local or Indigenous government, organization, or community, that you've read this guide, and that your proposed activities qualify for support.

The following local and Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities are eligible to apply:

➔ First Nations Bands
➔ First Nations Tribal Councils
➔ Métis Chartered Communities
➔ Municipalities
➔ Regional Districts
➔ Self-Governing First Nations

Applications must be complete and include:

*   a high-level budget showing how your spending fits your plan or project,
*   a simple work plan, and
*   proof of formal approval from your local or Indigenous government, organization, or community supporting your project.

Formal approval can be shown through a council or board resolution, a band council resolution, or a letter from the chief administrative officer (CAO) or an equivalent leader.

A letter of support from your regional health authority (RHA) or the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is encouraged but not required. Projects with partners from different sectors are more likely to get funding, and letters of support show those partnerships.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a call, please contact grants@bchealthycommunities.ca.

1.3 Grant Streams Summary

	STREAM 1 PLANNING	STREAM 2 PROJECTS
OBJECTIVE	To carry out an age-friendly assessment and create an age-friendly action plan.	To put age-friendly actions or projects into place that were identified in the community's assessment and action plan.
MAXIMUM AMOUNT PER GRANT	Up to $25,000	Up to $15,000
APPLICATION DUE DATE	March 12, 2026	
ADJUDICATION PERIOD	All applicants will be notified in June 2026	
PLANS/PROJECTS START	July 2026	
FINAL REPORTS DUE	June 2027	
LATEST PROJECT END	June 2027	

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Background & Context

What is an Age-friendly Community?

Age-friendly communities help older adults live healthy, safe, and connected lives in their own community. They recognize that people have different abilities and resources, and work to meet those needs by removing physical and social barriers. These communities benefit everyone because safer, more inclusive planning and infrastructure improve life for all ages. In B.C., age-friendly community work builds on global research from the World Health Organization's Global Age-friendly Cities Guide and and Canada's Age-friendly Rural and Remote Communities Guide.

2.1 Age-friendly Community Health & Well-being

People in British Columbia are among the healthiest in the world, but not everyone has the same chance to be healthy[1]. It's not enough to simply encourage healthy choices if people's surroundings don't make those choices possible.

Research shows that 60 to 75 percent of what affects our health happens outside the healthcare system[2]. Things like transportation, recreation opportunities, social support, community design, and access to hea lthy food all play a big role in our overall well-being. These factors exist in the places where we live, work, learn, and play.

2.2 How Can Local and Indigenous Governments, Organizations, and Communities Create Age-friendly Communities?

The benefits of creating age-friendly communities go beyond helping older adults – they make life better for everyone. These benefits can include community members being more physically active, having improved mental health, eating healthier, having stronger community connections, and more. Local and Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities can take action through the following areas:

Planning
Adopt planning practices that promote health and well-being by designing age-friendly spaces, engaging the community, and improving decision-making.

Policy
Apply an age-friendly lens when setting goals, strategies and actions in community plans. Examples include Official Community Plans (OCPs), comprehensive community plans, regional health and wellness plans, emergency or climate mitigation plans, growth strategies, municipal plans, and zoning bylaws.

Programs
Supporting and encouraging neighbourhood-level programs linked to a broader strategy for creating age-friendly communities.

Partnerships
Work with health authorities, schools, universities, community organizations, and groups representing diverse people to create joint strategies that improve how age-friendly and inclusive a community is.

Application Tip

Connect with us to talk about your project

We encourage you to get in touch if you have questions about the application process or your project before the deadline.

Email us at grants@bchealthycommunities.ca to ask questions or book a call.

[1] Canadian Medical Association. Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health: A Role for the Medical Profession. 2013.

[2] Provincial Health Services Authority. Healthy Equity. 2025.

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Program Streams

3.1 Stream 1: Planning (Up to: $25,000)

The Planning Stream gives local and Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities a chance to apply an age-friendly focus to every part of their planning process. This helps build a strong foundation for future Stream 2: Projects grants.

Eligible planning work includes:

1. Creating a local age-friendly assessment and action plan; and/or

2. Adding an age-friendly and equity lens to existing plans or policies, such as:

   - Comprehensive Community Plans, Official Community Plans, or neighborhood plans
   - Reconciliation plans, frameworks, or agreements
   - Zoning and other bylaws (for example, subdivision, snow removal, or parking)
   - Development permit requirements or community health and wellness plans
   - Emergency response, evacuation, or emergency social services plans
   - Design guidelines, active transportation, or food security and food systems planning
   - Community planning related to the social factors that affect health (like affordable housing)

[Click here] to see examples of past age-friendly assessments and action plans.

3.2 Stream 2: Projects (Up to: $15,000)

The Projects Stream provides funding to complete one or more actions identified during the planning phase. To be eligible for Stream 2: Projects funding, applicants must have finished an age-friendly assessment and action plan within the past 10 years. This can be done through a Stream 1: Planning grant or another current age-friendly plan developed by a local or Indigenous government, organization, or community.

[Click here] to see examples of age-friendly projects.

Application Tip

Talk with us about adding an equity lens to your project.

Equity means making sure opportunities, power, and resources are shared fairly, so that everyone's needs are met – no matter their age, ability, gender, or background[2]. Age-friendly communities aim to reduce the barriers that older adults face. Older adults are a diverse group, and their experiences differ based on factors like culture, income, and health. That's why policies, programs, and services should be developed together with the people most affected by unfair systems[3]. Using an equity lens means asking:

- Who will benefit from this policy, program, or service?
- Who might be left out – and why[4]?

2 City for All Women Initiative, 'Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities.'

3 BCHC, 'Applying an Equity Lens in Age-friendly Communities Planning.'

4 PlanH Supporting Equity in Planning and Policy Action Guide.

4 Application Details

Application Deadline	Funding Decision Notification	Project Start/End Timelines
Applications will be accepted until 11:59pm Pacific Time on March 12, 2026. **March 12, 2026**	All applicants will receive notification by June 2026. **June 2026**	Projects will start and finish between June 2026 - June 2027. **June 2026 - June 2027**

4.1 How to Apply

Please note: this is not the application form.
The online application and workplan/budget template can be found at: xxxxxxxxx
https://bchealthycommunities.ca/index.php/afc-grants-application-guide/

4.2 Application Review

Proposals will be reviewed based on the applicant's eligibility, how proposed expenses are used, and how the project activities connect to the goals outlined in this guide.

In the application section where you describe your plan or project, you'll be asked about key principles that are important in Age-friendly Communities (AFC) planning and projects, including: → Being community driven (i.e., based on previous work in your community/based on what is important to people within your community);

➔ Community-driven: based on past work or priorities identified by people in your community.
➔ Sustainable: able to continue or create lasting change beyond the funding period.
➔ Collaborative: showing partnerships across different sectors (see Background & Context).
➔ Equitable: applying an equity lens to ensure fairness and inclusion (see Program Streams).
➔ Inclusive: involving older adults in every stage of planning and implementation (a key part of equity).

Your proposal should:
➔ Focus on one or more of BC's eight features of an age-friendly community (see pages 9-10 of this guide); and
➔ Explain how you will measure success and track progress.

For example:
You could describe how you'll collect feedback from community members who attend an event; or

➔ You might include an evaluation plan for your project that you can share with us.
Be sure to apply an equity lens to your evaluation plan to make sure all voices are included.

To help distribute funding fairly across the province, the review process will also consider the health authority region of each proposal. Priority will be given to communities that:

➔ Have not received AFC funding before, and
➔ Are small or rural.

If you'd like to learn more about how the grant process works or how applications are reviewed, please contact grants@bchealthycommunities.ca to ask questions or set up a consultation call.

4.3 Project Learning & Reflection Process

Onboarding
We'll schedule an onboarding call with all grant recipients to meet your team and learn how we can best support your work.

Final Reports
All grant recipients must complete a final report when their project ends. The questions will be similar to those in the application form and will be available in Spring 2027.

Our team is committed to using culturally safe practices in our evaluation process. We'll work with communities to co-create learning and reflection tools that are meaningful and respectful whenever possible.

4.4 Application Requirements

➔ All Stream 1 and Stream 2 applications must show a focus on one or more of B.C.'s eight features of an age-friendly community. These features are based on the World Health Organization's Global Age-friendly Cities Guide and Canada's Age-friendly Rural and Remote Communities Guide. Please note that the BC wording below has been updated to be more inclusive.

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation (including road safety)
3. Housing
4. Social well-being and participation
5. Respect, social inclusion and cultural safety
6. Community engagement and employment
7. Communications and information
8. Community support and health and wellness services

Your application must include the following:

➔ A budget that shows how your proposed expenses align with your project or initiative. (See Section 4.5: Budget and Workplan for more details and Section 5.0 for samples.)
➔ A workplan that outlines key milestones and identifies project leads. (See Section 4.5: Budget and Workplan for more details and Section 5.0 for samples.)
➔ Formal approval from your local or Indigenous government, organization, or community.

This can include a council or board resolution, a band council resolution, or a letter from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or another equivalent leader.

Applications must be submitted through BC Healthy Communities' online platform. If you have any trouble submitting online, please contact us at grants@bchealthycommunities.ca for help.

Incomplete applications may receive a lower score and are less likely to be approved. All applications are reviewed by an Adjudication Committee, which uses a weighted point system to score each one. Applications must reach a minimum score to be approved.

Be sure to answer all questions, unless the application form clearly marks them as optional.

Past Age-friendly Grant Recipients:

Below are examples of communities that received AFC grants in 2024, organized by grant stream. For the full list of 2024 AFC grant recipients, visit this [web page](#).

STREAM 1: PLANNING

"What About Us?": Sumas First Nation

This project is meant to involve our community's seniors as the main voices in creating a Sumas First Nation (SFN) age-friendly assessment. It will also develop an action plan for SFN Chief and Council to approve and put into place through something like a Declaration or Band Council Resolution.

Generations Together: Age-Friendly and Equitable Planning Initiative: Katzie First Nation

The goal of the project, which includes an age-friendly assessment and an action plan, is to help build a community that is easy to get around in, welcoming, and supportive for people of all ages.

Yekooche First Nation

Yekooche First Nation is doing an age-friendly assessment and creating an action plan, with support from the BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly Communities grant. This work will help make the community more welcoming and supportive for elders.

Regional Mobility Working Group: Regional District Central Kootenays

The Regional Mobility Working Group wants to make transportation fair and accessible for everyone. They pay special attention to the needs of seniors, youth, and other groups who may face more barriers.

Older Persons Strategic Action Plan: City of Vancouver

This project will help create a Strategic Action Plan by bringing people together to share their ideas. It will make sure older adults, community groups, and other partners have a real say in shaping the plan.

STREAM 2: PROJECTS

Transit Training for Older Adults and Youth: City of Prince George

People from the Prince George Council of Seniors will take part in planning the transit training project. They will help with consultations, organizing details, and making decisions about how the training program is designed and carried out.

Lil̓wat Nation Age-Friendly Action Plan – Intergenerational Activities & Events: Lilwat Nation

This project follows our vision for supporting Elders in the Lil̓wat 2030 Strategic Plan – Theme 2: People and Families, Caring for our Elders. The plan encourages us to improve Elders' well-being and help them live longer, healthier lives by supporting social time, active participation, and strong community connections. Because the project brings different generations together, it will support Elders, youth, and the whole community. It will create chances for people to learn from one another, build relationships, and share knowledge and culture.

Heat & Emergency Preparedness Outreach Project for Vulnerable Seniors in Abbotsford: City of Abbotsford

The goal of the project is to help our target group learn about the resources and services available to them in the community, as well as how to be prepared for emergencies.

Age Friendly Food Security Development Project: Village of Lumby

The goal is to talk with seniors in the community about how to make it easier for them to get affordable, healthy food. This includes looking at transportation, local places to buy produce, food sharing, and access to complete meals.

Dementia Friendly Community – Enhancing Community Safety, Awareness, Education and Stigma Reduction: City of Maple Ridge

The City of Maple Ridge wants to expand its work on becoming a Dementia-Friendly Community by creating a local system that can quickly alert people when someone with dementia goes missing. This will act like a small, local version of a Silver Alert program.

4.5 Budget & Workplan

A budget and workplan template is available with the application. Please save your file as: "**COMMUNITY NAME_AFC_WorkplanBudget_2026.**"

See Section 5 for examples of how to complete these documents. Your project workplan should provide a high-level overview of key milestones, responsibilities, and any support you expect from BC Healthy Communities (BCHC). (See Section 4.6 for a list of possible BCHC staff supports). We understand that project steps may not always follow a straight line, but this overview helps our team better understand your proposal.

Eligible costs:

The following costs can be included in your budget:

➔ **Project staff** – such as coordination, facilitation, partnership development, or student-led research.
➔ **Communications** – including promotional materials, printing, and design.
➔ **Local and Indigenous government, organization, and community expenses** – such as venue rental, travel mileage, food, accommodation, and childcare for attending partnership meetings or events.
➔ **Data collection** – including activities like asset mapping or environmental audits.
➔ **Honoraria** – to help reduce barriers for volunteers.
➔ **(Stream 2 only)** – Capital costs that directly support programs or activities for older adults may be included. These must not exceed 40% of the total Stream 2 grant (for example, a $15,000 grant could include up to $6,000 for capital expenses).

Ineligible costs:

The following costs cannot be included in your budget:

➔ Activities that have **already taken place**.
➔ **Existing community programs**, unless you are expanding them to increase proven impact.
➔ **Entertainment or personal expenses**.
➔ **Feasibility studies, business cases, or design drawings** (such as architectural or engineering plans) for building or renovating facilities that serve older adults, including housing or care facilities.
➔ **Fundraising activities**.
➔ **Infrastructure projects**, such as sidewalk, path, or trail construction or improvements.
➔ **One-time events** that are not part of a larger healthy community strategy (for example, community dinners, festivals, or community gardens).
➔ **Furniture, equipment, or other capital costs** that exceed 40% of the total project budget.

Additionally, any community that has received an AFC grant in the past must have completed and submitted all required reports for those grants before applying again.

4.6 BCHC Staff Supports

In addition to funding, BC Healthy Communities (BCHC) provides hands-on support to help communities succeed in developing and implementing age-friendly initiatives.

The Age-friendly Communities Program offers both a cash grant and in-kind support from BCHC staff. Support may include consultations by phone, email, or video conference—and in some cases, in-person collaboration within your community.

BCHC helps build community capacity in many ways, including (but not limited to):

➔ Offering input on goal setting and policy recommendations.

➔ Providing guidance on reflective planning practices.

➔ Supporting monitoring and evaluation by helping develop indicators, data collection methods, and evaluation frameworks.

➔ Conducting research on a variety of topics—such as partnership development, housing, food systems, and transportation planning.

➔ Assisting with community engagement, including planning and design for both in-person and online sessions.

➔ Connecting local and Indigenous governments with organizations, other governments, and regional health authorities (for example, through introductions or meetings).

➔ Reviewing documents and advising on best practices.

➔ Serving on advisory committees.

➔ Sharing helpful resources developed by BCHC and other partners.

➔ Creating and leading online training and webinars tailored to your needs.

4.7 Grant Management and Applicant Responsibilities

When your community is awarded funding, you'll receive a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form to sign. These forms allow BCHC to transfer funds to your organization.

Once BCHC receives the signed forms:

➔ 80% of the grant funding will be sent to your community.

➔ The remaining 20% will be sent after you submit your final report in June 2027

Final report forms will be provided to all grant recipients in Spring 2027.

If you need to make changes to your plan or request an extension, these will be reviewed case by case. BCHC aims to be flexible and supportive—our goal is to help you succeed!

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Sample Workplan & Budget

If you have questions about how to create your own budget or workplan for the application, please contact us at grants@bchealthycommunities.ca. We'd be happy to answer your questions or set up a call to help you get started.

Sample Workplan for Age-friendly Assessment and Action Plan (Stream 1: Planning)

PROJECT MILESTONE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	DATE OF COMPLETION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	BCHC SUPPORT ANTICIPATED
PROJECT INITIATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING	Connect with project partners to confirm the project plan and agree on how we'll work together.	November	Kai Cabot	Connecting with Regional Health Authority
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING	Develop goals, strategies, and communication plans for community engagement.	January	Amina Merjem	Review the engagement plan and communication materials to make sure they are clear, inclusive, and ready to share.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Host four virtual and two in-person engagement sessions with partners and stakeholders	May	Angela Lee	Facilitation design / technical support
SHARE-BACK AND BEST PRACTICE RESEARCH	Summarize and report back on engagement session info. Research best/wise options.	July	Esma Davud	None
ACTION PLANNING	Co-develop proposed Action Plan with key partners, prepare final report and action plan.	September	Ahmed Adin	Participate as member of review committee

Sample Budget for Age-friendly Assessment and Action Plan (Stream 1: Planning)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES CONTRIBUTION	OTHER SOURCES (CASH, IN-KIND)
PLAN or PROJECT COORDINATION (PART-TIME)	Part-time role, reporting to steering committee	$17,500	$17,500	$0
MULTI-SECTORAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS	Quarterly meeting (venue, refreshments)	$1,000	$0	$1000
HONORARIA FOR PARTICIPANTS	To support travel, internet, or other costs ($50 x 60 participants)	$3,000	$3,000	$0
COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH	Online and radio ads, etc.	$1,000	$1,000	$0
DATA COLLECTION	Design, printing, distribution, analysis (two surveys)	$3,500	$3,500	$0
TOTAL		$26,000	$25,000	$1000

EXPECTED SUPPORT FROM AFC AND OTHER SOURCES	CASH OR IN-KIND?	PROJECTED AMOUNT
AFC Grant	Cash	**$25,000**
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE	In-kind	$1000

Sample Workplan for Project (Stream 2: Projects)

PROJECT MILESTONE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	DATE OF COMPLETION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	BCHC SUPPORT ANTICIPATED
PROJECT INITIATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING	Reach out to and coordinate with project partners to confirm project plan and outline how we will work together	September	Kai Cabot	Connecting with other BC communities that have completed similar projects
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING	Develop engagement objectives to meet with impacted group(s), strategies and communications tactics	October	Amina Merjem	Review of engagement plan and communications materials
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Host two virtual and two in-person engagement sessions with impacted community members to determine routes/locations for bench installation during the Summer and winter snow removal	First two weeks of November	Angela Lee	Facilitation design / technical support
SHARE-BACK	Summarize and report back on engagement session info.	Last two weeks of November	Ahmed Adin	None
IMPLEMENTATION PART 1 (SNOW REMOVAL)	Determine snow removal companies/volunteers. Snow removal implementation (Schedule for locations and snow clearers).	December – March	Esma Davud	None
PART 2 (BENCH PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION)	Research bench installation companies (March). Source (April), purchase (May), receive benches (June) and install (July – August).	March – August	Jo Martin	None
REPORTING	Create report	September	Stephen Wong	None

Sample Workplan for Project (Stream 2: Projects)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED COST	AFC CONTRIBUTION	OTHER SOURCES (CASH, IN-KIND)
GENERAL COSTS				
Project Coordinator	Part-time role reporting to steering committee	$10,000	$10,000	$0
Multi-sectoral steering committee meetings	Venue and refreshments for quarterly meetings	$1,000	$0	$1,000
Participant honoraria	Support travel, internet and other costs. $50 x 40 participants	$2,000	$2,000	$0
Data collection	Design, printing, distribution and analysis (two surveys)	$2,500	$2,000	$500
Snow clearing	Snow clearing company fees	$3,000	$0	$3,000
General Costs Subtotal		**$18,500**	**$14,000**	**$4,500**
CAPITAL COSTS				
Benches and installation	Purchase and install benches	$10,000	$1,000	$9,000
Capital Costs Subtotal		**$10,000**	**$1,000**	**$9,000**
Total Expenses		**$28,500**	**$15,000**	**$13,500**

EXPECTED SUPPORT FROM AFC AND OTHER SOURCES	CASH OR IN-KIND?	PROJECTED AMOUNT
AGE FRIENDLY GRANT	Cash	$15,000
REGIONAL DISTRICT	In-kind	$12,500
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE	In-kind	$1000

Our team is available to support you during the application process through answering any questions you may have about the grant application process, the decision criteria, or anything else about the process.

Questions? Please feel free to contact our team and/or to set up a consultation regarding the application process: **grants@bchealthycommunities.ca**.

BC Healthy Communities

Age-friendly Communities