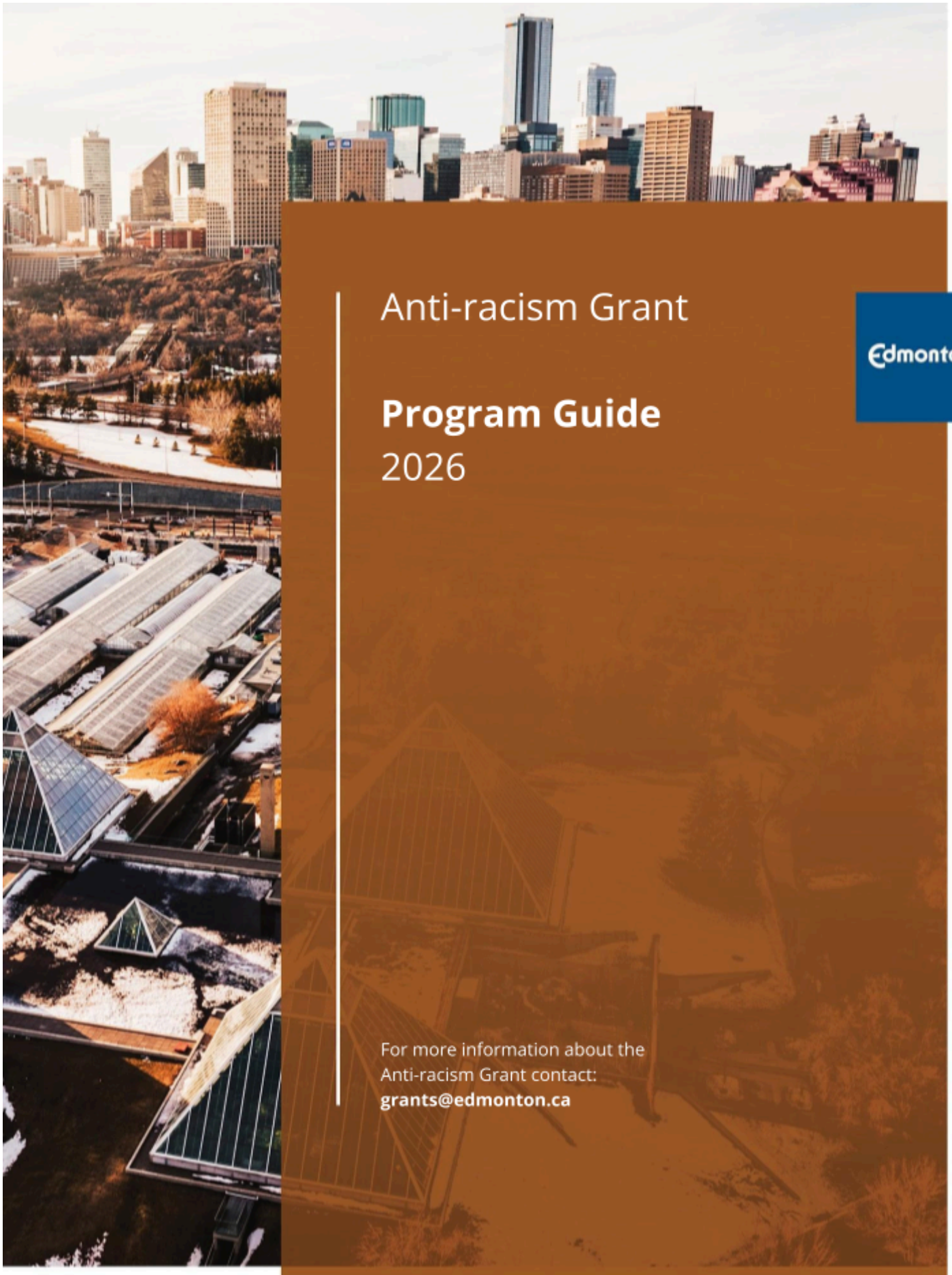

Anti-racism Grant

Program Guide
2026

For more information about the Anti-racism Grant contact:
grants@edmonton.ca

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Program Overview

The City of Edmonton's Anti-racism Grant Program supports the Anti-racism Strategy and the Anti-Black Racism Action Plan, which are intended to address all forms of racism and discrimination. Our investments help:

- Address racially-motivated hate;
- Build community capacity and cultural understanding;
- Promote awareness, training and education; or
- Support research, monitoring and evaluation on diversity, anti-racism and/or discrimination in Edmonton.

Anti-racism is defined as, "*the active, ongoing strategy and process that seeks to identify and eliminate racism by changing systems, institutions, policies and attitudes that perpetuate racism*." For more information please refer to Defining Racism.

This year, a total of $1,860,000 in funding is available for local collectives* and not-for-profit organizations.

*Local collectives are informal community groups supporting community work towards inclusion and are not necessarily registered as a formal organization.

The grant program has five (5) funding streams intended to help achieve the following three (3) outcomes:

- Edmontonians are aware of the impact of racism and have a greater understanding of how to take action to address racism and discrimination.
- Edmontonians are knowledgeable about the community organizations that work to dismantle systemic racism (interpersonal, institutional, and structural).
- Edmontonians are working together to build a diverse, inclusive, and equitable city.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Collaboration between organizations/collectives is strongly encouraged across all grant streams.

Formal partnerships will require one of the following:

- a memorandum of understanding (MOU);
- an agreement; and/or
- a commitment letter.

These documents must clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of the partners and their commitment to the project.

Funding Streams

1. **Community Activation**
   Up to $15,000; $300,000 of total funds available (for collectives or organizations with under $250K annual budget)
   - This funding is for local equity-deserving collectives wanting to promote solidarity/collective action in anti-racism work. Projects that encourage relationship-building, connection, and dialogue between different cultures and generations to eliminate racism will be prioritized.

2. **Local Anti-racism Capacity Building/Innovation**
   Up to $30,000, or up to $100,000 for collaborative projects with formal partnerships (see requirements for formal partnerships, above); $400,000 of total funds available.
   - This funding is for local collectives and/or organizations engaged in anti-racism projects or initiatives through partnerships and/or collaboration.
     - Projects that focus on capacity-building work:
       - Empower the community.
       - Ensure full and equitable participation.
       - Foster healing and advance reconciliation.
       - Expose challenges and dismantle systemic racism.

3. **Local Community Participatory Action Research**
   Up to $50,000; $400,000 of total funds available
   - This funding is for local communities or collectives experiencing racism to work in partnership and/or collaboration with local academic and research-driven organizations. This research will identify local challenges and guide practitioners, community leaders, and policymakers in implementing proactive solutions.

4. **Shifting the Perspective**
   Up to $100,000; $480,000 of total funds available
   - This funding is for local collectives or organizations to create digital media (videos, podcasts, online art, short movies etc.) that address systemic racism through community stories and/or conversation that provokes thinking and helps shift the perspective.

5. **Anti-Black Racism**
   Up to $50,000; $280,000 of total funds available
   - This funding is for local collectives or organizations looking to implement actions in the Anti-Black Racism Action Plan through collaboratives and/or partnerships.

Grant Priorities

As part of the application, you will be asked to identify what form of racism you are addressing:

- **Between People (Interpersonal):** This is about negative feelings and actions between individuals. It can be things we say or do without even thinking, like microaggressions, or more obvious things like racial bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes.
- **Within Organizations (Institutional):** This happens when schools, workplaces, and other organizations have rules and policies that unfairly favor the dominant group. Even if they don't say anything about race, these rules can lead to unfair outcomes.

- **Throughout Society (Structural and Societal):** This is about the big, long-term ways our society is set up that give some racial groups more advantages than others. It affects many different parts of our lives. This is about the big, long-term ways our society is set up that give some racial groups more advantages than others.

Please see the definitions for more information.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how their project meets one or more of the Anti-racism Grant Program outcomes and focus areas:

- **Mental Health:** Mental health is crucial for overall well-being. This is possible when someone is able to manage stress, use their talents, learn effectively, is able to contribute, and feels a part of the community.

- **Employment**: Gainful employment is work that provides a steady, regular income and enough money to live on. It requires access to skill-building, training, constructive guidance, and/or workplace adjustments. It also includes accessible tools for individuals with disabilities, clear paths for promotion, and offers fair pay in a safe and encouraging environment.

- **Education:** Education can be formal or informal. Education helps gain essential societal values, build literacy, and foster critical thinking for personal and community development. Education is gained through school or outside of a formal setting, and includes diverse ways that we learn and grow through knowledge and experience.

- **Food Security:** Food security means that everyone has reliable access to enough food that is affordable and healthy. It can also mean having access to foods that are important to different cultures.

- **Disability:** Responding to disability challenges requires physical accessibility, respectful communication and systemic inclusion. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines disability as a broad term that includes:
    - Impairments: Issues with how your body functions or is structured.
    - Activity Limitations: Difficulties doing things like walking or reading.
    - Participation Restrictions: Challenges getting involved in social activities or work.

* Racism and other forms of discrimination often overlap, creating compounding and complex systemic barriers for Indigenous and culturally diverse communities/collectives. These focus areas create an opportunity for collectives and organizations to meaningfully address one or more systems of oppression.

Eligibility

Applicant

To be eligible for the Anti-racism Grant, the applicant is one of the following:

- Non-profit organization registered for at least 1 year and in good standing with the incorporating body (Alberta Society, under the Alberta Societies Act, Non-profit Private Company, Non-Profit Public Company, Extra-Provincial Non-profit Company)

- Local collective that has a fiscal agent that meets the eligibility requirements for non-profit organizations (above). (If the applicant is awarded funding through this grant program, the fiscal agent must agree to act on the applicant's behalf to sign a funding agreement with the City and to receive, administer, and report on the grant).
    - We recommend you work with a fiscal agent to complete your application. Organizations and fiscal agents must be based in Edmonton and serve Edmontonians.

The applicant must demonstrate that 75 per cent or more of project participants are based in Edmonton.

<u>Ineligible organizations include:</u>

- Municipal departments or other governmental organizations
- For-profit organizations/enterprises
- Organizations that have overdue or incomplete accounting/reporting relating to any grant previously awarded by the City of Edmonton
- Organizations that are not in good standing with the City of Edmonton
  *Individual applicants are not eligible to apply for this grant

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include:

- Staffing costs specific to the projects/initiative
- Honorariums
- Program/project material and supplies
- Printing and communications
- Training expenses
- Travel expenses, within Edmonton
- Evaluation expenses
- Insurance
- Food Expenses (maximum 10 per cent of total project costs)
- Administrative costs and fees (up to 10 per cent of the total project costs e.g., legal fees, accounting and bookkeeping fees, bank/financing-related charges, ongoing operational expenses such as rent/lease payments and facility maintenance, and insurance)
- Fiscal Agent fees (if applicable; usually 10 per cent of total project costs)

Please note the combined limit: Administrative costs and fees, including fiscal agent fees, cannot exceed a combined maximum of 15 per cent of total project costs. While each category may be up to 10 per cent, the combined total cannot exceed 15 per cent.

Ineligible Expenses

Program funding cannot be used for expenses related to:

- Events/festivals
- Contingency fees/costs
- Time and labour provided towards preparation of funding applications, fundraising including costs for fundraising campaigns and websites for fundraising purposes.
- Endowments, charitable donations, bursaries, developing business cases or proposals for funding, donor recognition, and gifts (with the exception of gifts for Indigenous protocols).
- Project expenses that are incurred before the application has been approved and agreement signed.
- Capital and facility upgrades, renovations, and construction.
- Debt reduction, financing charges and/or interest payments on loans.
- Administrative costs and fees exceeding 10 per cent of total project costs. Administrative costs and fiscal agent fees that exceed a combined total of 15 per cent of total project costs.
- Direct government lobbying or partisan political activities (i.e. activities related to advocacy must demonstrate non-partisan approaches.)

Grant Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Organizational/Collective Capacity:** The organization/collective financial and reporting obligations, demonstrates sound governance and the proposed project is within the scope of the organization/collective's mandate. Organizations whose mandate, values, and purpose are focused on addressing racism will be prioritized.
- **Project Viability and Financial Feasibility**: A project is viable when there is a clear plan with timelines, activities and readiness to implement. A complete and balanced budget is essential. Costs included in the budget must reflect the actual, fair-market value of goods or services required for your project.
- **Project Impacts**: The project must address one or more of the grant program outcomes and priorities.
- **Access**: The project must minimize barriers to participation, including broad public involvement beyond the organization's direct membership (if applicable), and include how project resources, findings and/or learnings will be shared.
- **Community Need and Allyship**: The organization can demonstrate community need and community support. The organization leverages support from work already underway and/or includes partnerships and collaboration from ally groups directly related to the proposed project.

Higher priority will be given to organizations that:

- Are led by Indigenous, Black, or racialized community members.
- Demonstrate a mandate, purpose, and values that are focused on addressing racism.

- Work in collaboration with other groups or partners.
- Have an operating budget under $250,000 per year (Community Activation Stream only).

Funding decisions will be based on a number of factors including:

- Alignment with the City of Edmonton's City Plan's 6 Guiding Values and the Inclusive and Compassionate Big City
- Assessment scores
- Evidence of sound financial processes
- Fully compliant with City standards and past funding agreements

Grant Timelines

- August 25, 2026 - Grant opens
- **September 25, 2026 - Application deadline, 4:30pm**
- September/October 2026 - Application review
- November/December 2026 - Applicants will be notified of funding decisions

Note: These timelines are subject to change.

Please note:

Late submissions or incomplete applications (missing attachments and/or incomplete responses, incomplete financial information) will not be reviewed.

Collectives/organizations can participate collaboratively in more than one funded project; however, a collective/organization can be the lead applicant on only one application.

Required Documents

The following required documents must be attached with the on-line application. If you are using a fiscal agent please include Fiscal Agent documents:

- Most recent audited year-end financial statements, signed by 2 Board members

Or

- Most recent internally generated financial statements (those that are not presented either as a notice to reader, a review or an audit) signed by 2 Board members and must include a bank reconciliation and bank statement as at the fiscal year-end

To be considered a formal partnership or collaboration, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), agreements and/or letters of commitment are required.

Applicants approved for funding will be required to sign a funding agreement or funding letter with the City before funding will be provided.

For more information, including examples and templates of audited financial statements, internally generated financial statements, and more, please visit the City's Support for Community Organizations page.

Reporting

Projects must be completed within one year from the date that a funding agreement is executed with the City. Extensions to this deadline may be granted by the City in its sole discretion.

A final report is due within 90 days of the project completion in the grant portal. A notification email will be sent in advance of the reporting due date.

Successful applicants will be responsible for final reporting within 90 days of the project completion, including:

- An outline of project activities, outputs and outcomes of the project, as well as a financial report showing the approved and actual expenses.

For Further Questions

For more information about the Anti-racism Grant Program, please contact Grants@edmonton.ca.

Disclaimers:

The City reserves the right to make decisions and award funding to projects in its sole discretion. Decisions are final, and the amount of funding commitment by the City may vary in the City's sole discretion.

Please note, at minimum and without limitation, the City reserves the right to withhold payment of grant funding where:

- The Applicant has made any material misrepresentation or provides any materially false or materially misleading information to the City;
- The Applicant or any associate or affiliate entity of the Applicant is in arrears on any payment or reporting obligation to the City under the terms of any other agreement made with the City;
- The Applicant has outstanding amounts owing to the City due to property taxes that are past due or in arrears;
- The Applicant is in litigation with the City over any matter;
- The Applicant is or becomes bankrupt, insolvent, commits an act of bankruptcy, makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, has a receiver or trustee appointed, or ceases to function as an active legal entity under the laws of Alberta; or,
- The Applicant is or becomes the subject of a Canada Revenue Agency judgment or tax lien.