



ALBERTA WILDFIRES 2023

COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GRANTS

Program Guidelines

Welcome

During spring 2023, several wildfires broke out across northern Alberta, leading to significant community impacts and needs across the province. The Canadian Red Cross recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to recovery and resilience and the intersectional nature of impacts and activities.

With the support of the Government of Alberta, the Canadian Red Cross has funding available for recovery and resilience-building projects that respond to the recovery needs of communities impacted by the 2023 Alberta wildfires. The Community Recovery and Resilience Grants program builds from previous and ongoing engagement with fire-impacted communities and aims to contribute to recovery gaps and priorities.

Available funding

The Community Recovery and Resilience Grants program will provide one-time funding to communities and community organizations for **projects that address the impacts of the 2023 wildfires and that support recovery and resilience-building priorities.**

The amount of funding available for each organization align with the degree of direct impact from the wildfires¹ and is categorized as follows:




- High-impact communities: \$10,000 to \$150,000
- Medium-impact communities: \$10,000 to \$100,000
- Low-impact communities: \$10,000 to \$50,000²

A Canadian Red Cross representative will consult with community leadership to determine the level of impact.

¹ For more information on assessment criteria, please refer to the appended document.

² Amounts are inclusive of administrative costs calculated at 12 per cent of all direct costs.

This funding may be used for a new project or as a contribution to work addressing the community’s existing recovery plan for costs incurred on or after **October 1, 2024**, provided it is directly linked to the 2023 Alberta wildfires and contributes to **one to two outcomes that support at least one of the following focus environments**:

 Human environment	 Natural environment	 Social environment
<p>Build skills and capabilities addressing recovery priorities, including the ability to access resources, knowledge and formal training. This focus includes education, physical and mental health, functional needs, knowledge from lived experience, and leadership capabilities.</p>	<p>Contribute to the protection and restoration of the natural environment impacted by the disaster event and/or create diverse opportunities for connecting with nature and adapting to climate change, including Nature-based Solutions (NbS).</p>	<p>Promote connections, networks (formal and informal), reciprocity and trust between community members and structures, as well as external bodies supporting community-defined means of recovery. This includes space for gathering, strengthening community groups and providing information to enhance inclusive opportunities for community cohesion and participation.</p>
Outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increased access to barrier-free counselling for adults and families <input type="checkbox"/> Increased community capacity for mental health crisis intervention and response <input type="checkbox"/> Increased resilience of community organizations through support for staff and volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Increased awareness and access to information, education and communication tools and resources, promoting understanding and skill-building to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to and recover from disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of sustainable and inclusive climate adaptation practices that foster long-term resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increased community connections in support of mental health and wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthened community networks, governance structures and knowledge exchange for effective coordination and decision-making in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthened resilience capacities that promote local knowledge, skills and asset-building to effectively manage and reduce disaster risks

Eligibility

The Community Recovery and Resilience Grants program is open to communities that were directly impacted by the Alberta wildfires in 2023 and that meet the following criteria:

- They are a municipality or municipal entity, charity, other qualified donee or non-profit organization that is designated to lead the project at the request of the municipality*.
- They are registered federally, provincially or territorially and are in good standing.
- They have been in operation since before June 1, 2023.
- They are not receiving funding through the Canadian Red Cross's Creating Safe Environments program.
- They align with the Red Cross and Red Crescent's [Fundamental Principles](#).

*A letter of support for designated charities or non-profits from the municipality must accompany the proposal.

The following are **ineligible** for this program:

- × Individuals
- × For-profit organizations and businesses
- × Organizations whose sole purpose is to fundraise or provide funding to other organizations
- × Organizations serving private businesses or economic-development needs
- × Political organizations
- × Indigenous governing bodies

Eligible activities

Community Recovery and Resilience grants are intended to support community-led initiatives that respond to community priorities based on impact and experiences of the 2023 Alberta wildfires.


Projects may include a range of activities that the community determines are most needed and meaningful and that

- ✓ together form a cohesive project,
- ✓ are directly linked to the community's experience of the 2023 wildfires,
- ✓ respond to the community's recovery needs resulting from the 2023 wildfires and
- ✓ can be completed by **May 31, 2025**.

Ineligible activities

While the Canadian Red Cross aims to be as flexible as possible to respond to community-identified needs, there are some activities that we are unable to fund. The following activities are ineligible for funding:

- × Activities that extend beyond the activity end date of **May 31, 2025**
- × Construction of housing or shelter structures
- × Equipment purchases that exceed **\$10,000** in value, per functional unit.
- × Activities that are covered by other funding or government assistance
- × Fundraising events or any other revenue generating initiatives
- × Research projects
- × Disbursement of financial assistance or non-material supports for individual clients (e.g., rent coverage, internet subscriptions)

 **Important:** This program is not intended to fund activities that respond to the impact of disasters on the built environment. **Major capital investments, repairs and renovations are not eligible.** Please reach out if you are unsure whether your proposed activities are eligible.

- × Activities that do not fall within Canadian Red Cross charitable objectives or that do not adhere to the **Fundamental Principles** and humanitarian values of the Canadian Red Cross

Key dates

Proposal submission date	November 30, 2024
Eligible cost dates	October 1, 2024–May 31, 2025
Final report submitted	One month after project completion up until June 30, 2025.

Proposals

Organizations are asked to submit the provided proposal form to crcgrants@redcross.ca. **We encourage you to submit your proposal early to maximize the time available to implement your project.**

The Canadian Red Cross will use the following criteria to assess alignment with the purpose of this funding program. Please carefully review the criteria below and use them as a guide when writing the proposal:

- Alignment with one or more of the focus environments for communities impacted by the 2023 Alberta wildfires as outlined above
- Alignment of budget expenses with the Eligible Cost Guidelines
- Demonstration of a strong correlation to your community's recovery priorities based on the impact and experience of the 2023 Alberta Wildfires

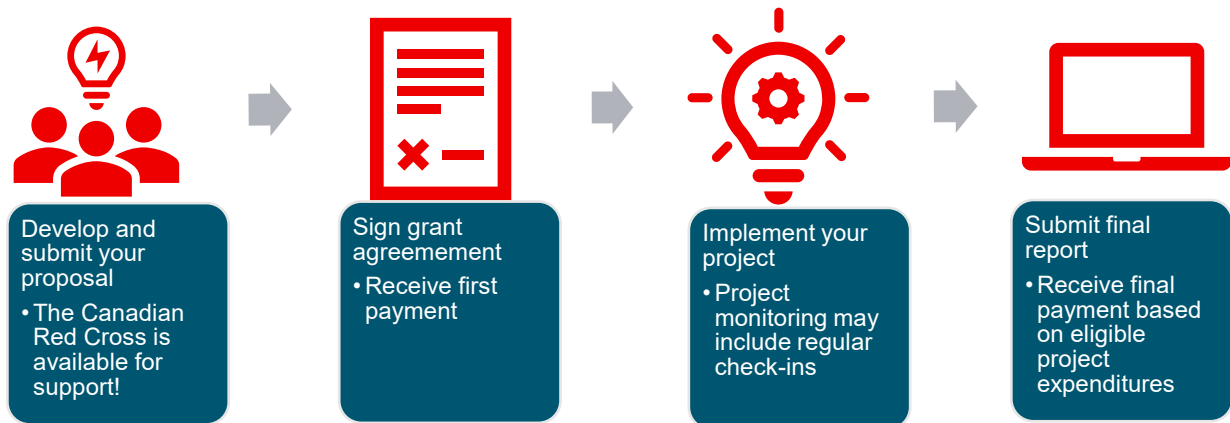


The Canadian Red Cross is available to support proposal development. We encourage you to discuss project ideas before finalizing and submitting a proposal.

This program is intended to support projects that are completed on or before **May 31, 2025**. Please allow for **up to one month** to process your proposal and factor this into your planning.

The Canadian Red Cross may not be able to fund all applicants or fund proposals to the full amount requested.

Process



Contact information

The Canadian Red Cross can offer support for understanding the funding parameters and completing your proposal. Email us at crcgrants@redcross.ca.

Appendix A: Impact assessment

The Canadian Red Cross will align the amount of funding available for each community or community organization with the degree of direct impact from the wildfires. Classification is based on one or more indicators appearing in a given context or best fit. A Canadian Red Cross representative will consult with community leadership to determine the level of impact. The levels of impact are categorized as follows:

<p>High impact (up to \$150,000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term evacuation orders (14 days+) to a widespread population. • High impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. Possible reports of minor to serious injuries; may have reports of fatalities. • High impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property. • Disruption or physical damage leading to high impacts to businesses and industry. • High impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces. • High impacts to community's overall health (social, cultural, economic, built, natural environments); risk of long-term challenges due to loss of supports, services and connections and/or recovery supports; significant impacts to long-term economic sustainability; significant impacts to private property; significant impacts to critical infrastructure and/or public property; moderate to major impacts to environmentally significant areas and/or historically and culturally significant sites.
<p>Medium impact (up to \$100,000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short- to medium-term (between seven and 14 days) evacuation orders to a localized or widespread population. • Moderate impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. Possible reports of minor to serious injuries. • Moderate impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property. • Some disruption or physical damage leading to moderate impacts to businesses and industry. • Moderate impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces. • Moderate impacts to community's overall health (social, cultural, economic, built, natural environments); risk of short-term challenges due to loss of supports, services and connections.
<p>Low impact (up to \$50,000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term (less than seven days) evacuation orders to a localized or widespread population. • Minimal or no impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. No reports of injuries. • Minimal or no impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property. • Minimal or no disruption or physical damage leading to moderate impacts to businesses and industry. • Minimal or no impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces. • Minimal impacts to community's overall health (social, cultural, economic, built, natural environments); no risk of future challenges due to loss of supports, services and connections.