



# ALBERTA WILDFIRES 2023

## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GRANTS

### Program Guidelines

#### Welcome

In the spirit of reconciliation, and through the Creating Safe Environments program, the Canadian Red Cross walks alongside Indigenous communities as they recover from the impacts of emergency events and strengthen their resilience for the future.

With the support of the Government of Alberta, the Indigenous Community Recovery and Resilience Grants are available to Indigenous communities for resilience-building projects that respond to the recovery needs of communities impacted by the 2023 Alberta wildfires. This program builds on previous and ongoing engagement with fire-impacted communities and aims to contribute to recovery gaps and priorities.

#### Available funding

The Indigenous Community Recovery and Resilience Grants will provide one-time funding to communities 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 will be aligned to the degree of direct impact from the wildfires<sup>1</sup> 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 \$50,000<sup>2</sup>





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

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on assessment criteria, please refer to the appended document.

<sup>2</sup> 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 in at least one of the following focus environments**:

|  <b>Human environment</b>   |  <b>Natural environment</b>   |  <b>Social environment</b>  |  <b>Cultural environment</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <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>  | <p>Recognize and elevate Indigenous knowledge, values and cultural practices in disaster recovery to promote resilience. It is understood that cultural and spiritual meanings are often attached to nature, such that changes to the natural environment after disasters have implications for mental health and wellbeing.</p>  |
| <b>Outcomes</b>  |  |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community members have increased knowledge, skills and resources for managing and dealing with issues related to the disaster experience—through individual and collective capacities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Service providers have increased capacity to meet their clients’ immediate and emerging needs in ways that respect culture, diversity and inclusion.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Governance, community structures and support mechanisms are better able to adapt to emergencies when these occur as part of the recovery process.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased engagement in climate action, adaptation and planning as part of the recovery process.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The community has increased understanding of the characteristics and functioning of the local natural environment and ecosystems as well as awareness of the disaster risks to natural and cultural heritage assets and ways of being.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community members have strengthened awareness of each other’s potential needs through enhanced formal and informal networks and plans (i.e., social connectedness).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social, leisure and artistic activities build cohesion and promote inclusion and are more available and accessible from the cross-section of community members.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintained opportunities promoting culture, practices and rituals benefitting people’s wellbeing, recovery and resilience, including rekindled connection to the natural environment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cultural heritage sites or assets of importance are restored and provide cultural and spiritual values to the community.</li> </ul> |

## Eligibility

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

- They are an Indigenous governing body or a charity or non-profit organization that is designated to lead the project at the community's request\*.
- They are registered and are in good standing.

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

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

- × Individuals
- × For-profit organizations and businesses
- × Organizations serving private businesses or economic development needs
- × Political organizations
- × Municipalities or municipal entities and provinces or provincial entities

## Eligible activities

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


Projects may include a range of activities that are determined by community as 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, such as Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program or the provincial Disaster Financial Assistance program
- × Fundraising events or any other revenue-generating initiatives
- × Research projects

 **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 if your proposed activities are eligible.

- × Disbursement of financial assistance or non-material supports for individual clients (e.g., rent coverage, internet subscriptions)
- × 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

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|---|---|
| <b>Proposal submission deadline</b><br>Proposals will be assessed on a rolling basis. | November 30, 2024                                       |
| <b>Eligible cost dates</b>  | October 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025                        |
| <b>Final report submitted</b>   | One month after project completion until June 30, 2025. |

## Proposal

Organizations are asked to submit the provided proposal form to [AlbertaCSE@redcross.ca](mailto:AlbertaCSE@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 community's recovery priorities based on impact and experience of the 2023 Alberta wildfires.

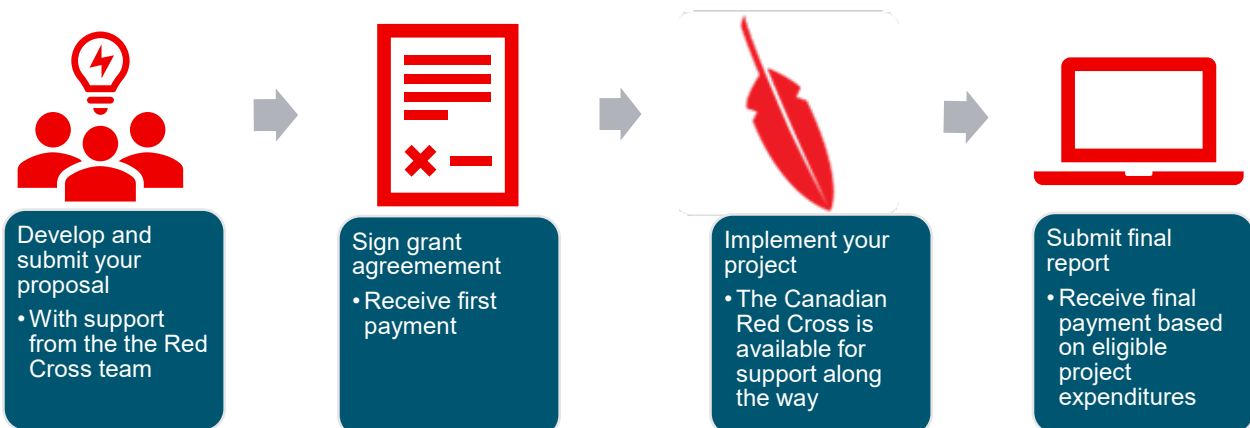


The Canadian Red Cross team is available to support you with developing your proposal. We encourage you to discuss project ideas with us before finalizing and submitting your proposal.

This program is intended for 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 [AlbertaCSE@redcross.ca](mailto:AlbertaCSE@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><b>High impact<br/>(up to \$150,000)</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term evacuation orders (14 days+) to a widespread population.</li> <li>• High impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. Possible reports of minor to serious injuries; may have reports of fatalities.</li> <li>• High impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property.</li> <li>• Disruption or physical damage leading to high impacts to businesses and industry.</li> <li>• High impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Medium impact<br/>(up to \$100,000)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short- to medium-term (between seven and 14 days) evacuation orders to a localized or widespread population.</li> <li>• Moderate impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. Possible reports of minor to serious injuries.</li> <li>• Moderate impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property.</li> <li>• Some disruption or physical damage leading to moderate impacts to businesses and industry.</li> <li>• Moderate impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Low impact<br/>(up to \$50,000)</b></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term (less than seven days) evacuation orders to a localized or widespread population.</li> <li>• Minimal or no impact to residents' mental and/or physical health and safety. No reports of injuries.</li> <li>• Minimal or no impacts to critical infrastructure, private property or public property.</li> <li>• Minimal or no disruption or physical damage leading to moderate impacts to businesses and industry.</li> <li>• Minimal or no impacts to environment and/or environmentally significant areas, such as hunting and medicine-gathering grounds and traditional or culturally significant spaces.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>  |