

ECSF FAQs
October 5, 2020

Question Theme	Question	Answer
Background on the ECSF	1. How well did the Emergency Community Support Fund work for community organizations in the first round?	In the first round, United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) distributed over \$15M to 376 community service agencies in Peel Region, the City of Toronto and York Region. In this second major RFP, UWGT will be distributing \$5M.
	2. Why is the Emergency Community Support Fund opening a second round when many organizations applied and were rejected for lack of funds in the first round?	The Government of Canada kept back a portion of the Emergency Community Support Fund to give it the flexibility to adjust to evolving needs and cover any gaps from the first round. In the first round of grant funding, the three intermediaries were able to reach all vulnerable groups through funding distributed to all provinces and territories. Building on the success of the first round, the three intermediaries will distribute the remaining funds of \$73.9 million through a second round of open and transparent processes, while also using a targeted approach in their outreach efforts to ensure equitable distribution across vulnerable populations.
Which funder	1. Can we apply to UWGT for projects that occur in the area of another United Way?	No. You can only apply to UWGT for eligible activities that take place in Peel Region, the City of Toronto and/or York Region For ECSF Round 2, national or provincial charities that deliver services to vulnerable people can apply to Community Foundations of Canada . National or provincial non-profits that deliver services to vulnerable people can apply to the Canadian Red Cross .
	2. Can an agency apply to multiple United Ways?	Yes.
	3. If a charity operates in Toronto and in other Canadian cities under the same charitable registration number, can each city branch apply to their local United Way?	Yes. Please contact United Way Centraide Canada or visit their website at: unitedway.ca/blog/ecsf/ .

	<p>4. Can we apply for the same project to UWGT and the Community Foundation and/or Red Cross?</p>	<p>Yes. There is no restriction on applying to multiple organizations as long as you clearly indicate in your application that you have done so. We will work with our funding colleagues to ensure that there is no duplication of funding. For more information about your local Community Foundation and Red Cross funding, please visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Community Foundation: https://torontofoundation.ca/toronto-foundation-accepting-applications-for-government-of-canadas-emergency-community-support-fund/ • Mississauga Community Foundation: hcfofm.org/ecsf, • Brampton & Caledon Community Foundation: bramptoncaledoncf.ca/index.php/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/155-emergency-community-support-fund • Red Cross of Canada: redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/covid-19--novel-coronavirus/information-for-community-organizations-affected-by-covid-19.
	<p>5. Can we apply to UWGT and the Community Foundation and/or Red Cross for different parts of the same project or program?</p>	<p>Yes. See above for links to information about your local Community Foundation and Red Cross funding.</p>
<p>Number of Applications</p>	<p>1. Can we make more than one application to ECSF?</p>	<p>Applicants can make more than one application as long as they are for different projects. Please note that it is expected that the volume of applications will exceed the funding available so it is unlikely that agencies will receive more than one grant.</p>
	<p>2. We applied for funding in the first rounds of ECSF. Can we apply for funding in this round?</p>	<p>Yes. If you applied for funding in the first rounds of ECSF, you can apply for funding in this round. This can be to expand on the first project or for a new project.</p>
	<p>3. Can an agency apply for funding for the same project but in multiple communities?</p>	<p>Agencies can make one application for the same project/program. The program can take place in multiple locations.</p>
	<p>4. Can we apply twice for the same project but in two different regions (e.g.</p>	<p>No. You will need to make one application that covers the two different regions.</p>

	Peel Region and City of Toronto).	
Criteria	1. Can we apply for funding if we are not a UWGT funded agency?	Yes. UWGT is committed to providing support to the most vulnerable individuals, families and neighbourhoods by funding a diverse range of organizations. Approximately two thirds of successful applications in the first rounds of the UWGT ECSF were from agencies and organizations not previously funded by UWGT.
	2. Are United Way agencies given priority over those that are not already funded?	No. Each application is reviewed on the strengths of its own merits.
	3. We are a non-profit, how can we access and partner with United Way Centraides to provide support to vulnerable communities?	Non-profits in Canada are playing an important role in helping to respond to local needs. Non-profit community organizations delivering front-line services may be supported through a qualified donee that is acting as a trustee. In certain circumstances, UWGT may support delivery of services through a Non-profit that is trustee. However, we strongly encourage you to apply through the Canadian Red Cross which has launched a granting program for Non-profits. To find out more about their program please visit redcross.ca/communityorganizations .
	4. Can you define "reasonable number of people"?	UWGT is interested in maximizing the impact of funding of services to the greatest number of vulnerable people. UWGT also recognizes that for vulnerable community members with the most complex issues, more intensive interventions have the most impact and so expect that the numbers served would be lower and the costs higher.
	5. We are a charity that is not incorporated; are we eligible?	No. You must be incorporated and have charitable status. Non-profits that do not have charitable status are encouraged to apply for ECSF funds through the Red Cross. UWGT will approve a limited number of applications for non-profits without charitable status if they are trustee by a charitable agency that meets all the other eligibility criteria.
	6. What if you haven't been able to have an AGM, audit or financial review for 2019/20 because of COVID 19?	If you had an AGM, audit or financial review for 2018/19 you are eligible.
	7. Can we wait to apply for the proof of insurance after we are approved for funding?	Yes, however, to sign the agreement with UWGT, agencies need proof of insurance. Funds must be disbursed by December 31 so you may not be able to get insurance in sufficient time. If you are trustee by another organization, you can request that they extend their own liability insurance to cover the project.

	8. Is it mandatory to involve at least one of the group: volunteer, business and donors?	No. Involvement of volunteers, businesses or donors is not mandatory but can be very helpful to increase impact depending on the nature of the project
	9. Do we need a formal COVID policy in place?	No. But you must have a plan for delivering service that incorporates public health guidelines related to COVID 19 to ensure that participants/service users and staff and volunteers will be using appropriate protocols.
	10. What evidence will you require to demonstrate that we are not receiving duplicate funding?	We are working with other funders to determine whether you have been funded for the same activities/costs in your application. We may require you to provide evidence of your eligibility to finalize our agreement.
Partnership/Collaboratives	1. Are there any restrictions on who we can partner with?	There are no restrictions on partnership, however, in order to receive funds through an ECSF grant, activities must fit with the mandate of the funding.
	2. Is a cluster considered to be a collaborative?	Yes.
	3. Can a group or a collaborative apply as one unit but multiply the maximum budget amount by the number of partners?	In this round of ECSF, we are putting a special emphasis on collaborative projects. The maximum amount of funding possible is \$50,000 per partner. However, please note that it is expected that the volume of applications will exceed the funding available. The selection process will compare impact and seek to distribute funding across the GTA to a diversity of populations and neighbourhoods most affected by COVID-19.
Trustees	1. I am trusteeing a number of organizations to apply for the funds. Can we submit a separate application on our own?	Yes. You can trustee multiple agencies and apply separately for funding for your own organization.
	2. Is it better to have a trustee that is a UWGT-funded agency	You can be trusteeed by any charity, however UWGT has already established that agencies already funded by UWGT have met all of our standards and criteria whereas we may require additional information from agencies with which we have no previous history
	3. Who requires a trustee?	An organization that does not have charitable status requires a trustee. In some cases, a charitable organization that does not meet the other eligibility criteria can also apply with a trustee. All organizations must be registered non-profits even if they are trusteeed.
	4. What are the requirements for trustees?	Trustees must be organizations with charitable status that meet all the other eligibility criteria. The trustee will be the legal contract holder for the project

		with the responsibility of ensuring that contract requirements are met within the proposed timeframe and budget.
Target populations	1. Can volunteers delivering services to vulnerable populations be considered part of the total number of people served by the program?	No. Volunteers are service providers. The employment and engagement of people with lived experience in service delivery is an evidence-based practice and would be considered a strength.
	2. Must all of our clients be vulnerable?	No. But only that part of your program/project that serves vulnerable clients is eligible for funding.
Eligible Costs	3. Can we use ECSF funds for reopening?	You can use ECSF funds to return to providing on-site services if the costs for which you are applying are related to the pandemic and not the ongoing costs of providing regular services.
	4. What is the earliest start date?	December 15, 2020.
	5. We would like to apply for funding to adapt a program funded by MCCSS, are we eligible?	This will be assessed on a case by case basis.
	6. Is an agency funded by the MCCSS eligible to apply to fund programs that run outside of the residential care that are not funded by MCCSS?	Yes.
	7. Can a funding application address more than the 11 service types in the application?	Yes.
	8. Can the activities be delivered solely virtually now and move to in-person activities along the way?	Yes.
	9. If we are a United Way funded organization pivoting UWGT funded programs to respond to	Yes, if the costs of providing the new services are not covered by your current funding and you are unable to re-purpose your current UWGT funding.

	COVID 19 are we eligible?	
	10. We lost funding for a regular program, are we eligible?	Only programs and services that are an urgent response to the pandemic are eligible for funding through ECSF.
	11. Can we claim liability insurance (\$2M) as part of the proposal budget?	No, this is an ongoing cost of the organization and therefore not an eligible cost.
	12. How is financial wellness defined?	A financial wellness program is designed to improve the financial situation of participants by increasing access to financial supports, benefits or entitlements.
	13. Can we use funds to expand a pre-existing program that meets urgent needs?	Yes.
	14. Can a religious organization apply for non-religious programs?	Yes. In order to be eligible, the program or service must be available to vulnerable populations regardless of faith and their membership in groups covered by the Ontario Code of Human Rights. We will not fund religious activities and participants cannot be required to participate in religious activities or proselytization in order to receive said services and programs.
	15. Are virtual services available outside Peel Region, the City of Toronto and York Region eligible?	Only the part of your total project and your total budget that is specifically for vulnerable populations in the three regions will be eligible for funding. You will be required to demonstrate this in your application.
	16. Are virtual activities eligible?	Yes, if they are an urgent response to the pandemic.
	17. Are current clients eligible?	Yes, if the project or program activities are to meet increased or new urgent needs of these clients created by the pandemic.
	18. Can one application cover 2 different programs/initiatives?	Yes, if these programs/initiatives are to meet urgent needs created by the pandemic.
Budget questions	1. Can we submit applications for an amount greater than the \$50K maximum?	The maximum amount of funding is \$50,000 per application. In a limited number of cases where the expected impact is at a system level and/or regional in scope we will approve larger grants. We will consider larger amounts for collaborative projects.
	2. We are applying for CEWS but don't know how much we will receive; how	Funding amounts for which you have applied but not been approved should be entered in the proposed column of revenue sources for the program.

	do we answer the question about federal funding?	
	3. Do we include the budget for the whole organization or the specific project or program for which we are requesting funding?	The budget is for the specific project or program that is the subject of the application. Questions in section 4.1 of the application relate to the specific amount being requested from UWGT, whereas section 4.2 relates to all income and expenses for the full scope of the program or project you are proposing.
	4. Are there maximum percentages per category in the budget?	No. There is a maximum of 15% admin costs.
	5. What if we are unable to spend all the funds?	If you are unable to spend all the funds before March 31, 2021 you will be required to return the unspent funds.