United Way
Greater Toronto

Community Real Estate Grants

Expanding Community Service Space Capital (ECSSC) Grant 2025

November 25, 2025

Agenda

- ❑ Welcome
- ❑ Land Acknowledgement
- ❑ Eligibility and Decision Criteria
- ❑ Application Sections and Tips
- ❑ Key Dates
- ❑ Q & A

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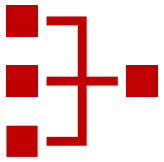
Land Acknowledgement

Illustration by Chief Lady Bird

Evolving Priorities & Deepening Impact

Neighbourhoods Strategy



Systems focused solutions

Social Purpose Real Estate

Reconciliation and Equity

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Community Real Estate

The UWGT Community Real Estate Initiative aims to sustain not-for-profit (NFP) organizations in the pursuit of their missions by enabling control over their locations through ownership and public partnerships, providing sustainable community space.

UWGT interventions will:

- Protect not-for-profit organizations from market pressure, making them more resilient to displacement and enabling them to protect housing and community services to address poverty in inclusive communities.

- Empower not-for-profit organizations to maintain their presence in high demand areas.

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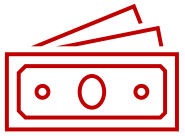
Community Real Estate

Goals of UWGT Community Real Estate Initiative

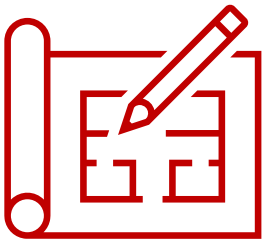


Provide Funding – Ensuring grant and financing opportunities are made available for non-profit service organizations that focus on meeting community needs and emerging opportunities.

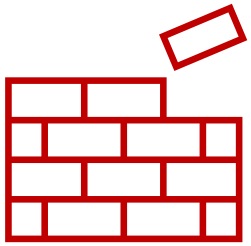
Provide Space(s) – Supporting an increase in non-profit public assets focused on community partners and the UWGT Hub Strategy.

Provide Capacity Building– Facilitating opportunities for non-profit service organizations participate in knowledge building relevant to needs, as well as direct support opportunities and mentorship opportunities.

ECSSC Grant - Purpose



1. **Enable pre-development** which includes costs related to the pre-construction phase of a project including consulting studies, municipal approvals, and site assessments.



2. **Small capital project implementation** which includes costs related to the construction and fit out of community service space(s), including mechanical, electrical and plumbing.

Funding Term and Range

Funding Term:

Up to 2 years (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028)

Funding Range:

- $50,000 - $250,000 per project
- Applicants may apply for more than one project, however it is unlikely that more than one project will be funded per agency, given the limited amount of funding

Eligibility Criteria - general

- ✓ Alignment with UWGT priorities
- ✓ Ownership/ Lease Status
- ✓ Impact and evaluation
- ✓ Use of funds
- ✓ Agency capacity to deliver the project

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ECSSC Grant Funding Priorities

- Projects that help **expand service provision** and increase access or capacity of services currently provided
- Projects that promote **collaboration & enhanced service coordination**
- Projects that demonstrate **environmental and financial sustainability.**
- Projects that are **funding ready and operationally feasible**.
- **Population:** Projects for and with Indigenous, Black and or structurally disadvantaged populations, and are culturally responsive
- **Geography:** Projects that address unmet needs in high-growth, high density or underserved areas.

ECSSC - Funding Criteria

UWGT will not fund:

Projects that are located in a property that is leased in the private market; (i.e., the project is located in a retail storefront owned by a for-profit landlord)

Projects that are located in a property with legal claims against it. (Please note, property and title searches will be conducted to ensure eligibility)

Agencies that received the ECSSC Grant in 2024-2025 and have not yet completed all funded phases/reporting.

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SMA Application

Complete a 2025 Expanding Community Service Space Capital Grant application

Task instructions Hide

Click on the link below to access the 2025 Expanding Community Service Space Capital Grant Application Guidelines.

RFP and GUIDELINES

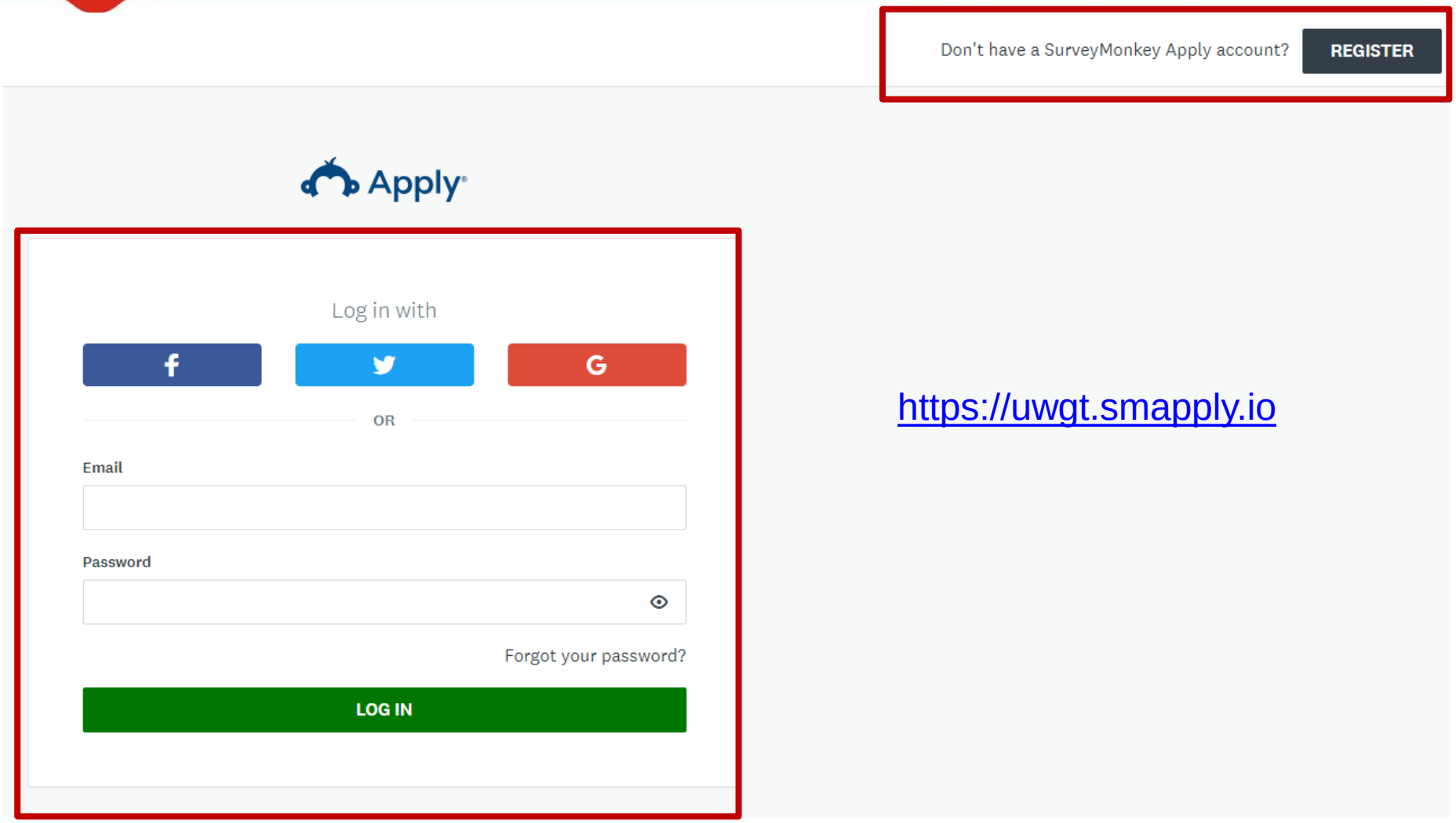
For content-related questions, questions about the process, or technical support, contact us at communityrealestate@uwgt.org

Application Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

For your reference, see the full list of APPLICATION QUESTIONS

NOTE: Only online applications submitted via this portal (SMA) will be accepted. Word or PDF applications sent by email will not be accepted.

SMA Application



https://uwgt.smapply.io

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Funding Applications

Applications due January 9th, 2026

Eligibility Screen

Project Information

Agencies not currently receiving Anchor or Community Program Grants may need to complete an Organizational Health Application if shortlisted.

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Funding Application

Project Information

Completion of online application

Required document upload(s)

Documents required for upload include:

1) Letters patent / articles of incorporation
2) Property/zoning report (if applicable)
3) Project Plan
4) Project Budget
5) Photos of location

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Application Tips

- **Start early! Waiting to ask for support just before the deadline is risky.**
- **Submit on-time – late applications will not be considered.**
- **Lots of check-boxes to reduce admin burden.**
- **Respond to the questions for any reader – including those who are not familiar with your work or organization.**
- **Be concise: quality of content > quantity of words.**
- **Word maximums are limits not guides – we hope you will write less than the limit.**

ECSSC Grant Key Dates

Activity	Date
Expanding Community Service Space Capital Grant SMA launch	November 17, 2024
Expanding Community Service Space Capital Grant Application Due	**January 9, 2025 by 5 p.m.**
Staff and volunteer reviews, UWGT governance funding approvals	January to February 2026
Applicants notified of decisions	March 2026
Funding agreements begin	Between April 1 – June 30th, 2026

Office Hours for Questions

There will be 3, online sessions where agencies are welcome to join the CRE team on Zoom and ask questions about their application

Sessions will occur:

- ❑ December 3rd, 10am-12pm
- ❑ December 10th, 2pm-4pm
- ❑ December 16th, 11am-1pm

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84634556775?pwd=HKD5PBpe9L8TseGMpj9U1T9YfXfO4y.1

Meeting ID: 846 3455 6775, Passcode: 657088

Contact Us

- Contact us at communityrealestate@uwgt.org and our team will reply to questions within two business days
- For technical support, contact csstechsupport@uwgt.org
- If you face barriers in accessing the platform or require a different format for the application, contact communityrealestate@uwgt.org

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Question & Answer

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Thank You

Applications Due

January 9th by 5 p.m.