

Building Safer Communities Fund

Application Guidelines

2026/27 to 2028/29



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Building Safer Communities Fund overview

Public Safety Canada is working to build a safer and more resilient Canada through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), a targeted, time-limited contribution program providing \$157.5 million over 3 years (2026/27 to 2028/29) to municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop and implement community-based youth prevention and intervention strategies that address gun and gang violence. Peel Region has been allocated up to \$4.8 million over the 3-year funding period. This builds on Peel's previous Phase 1 BSCF funding, which supported initiatives from 2023/24 to 2025/26. Through Phase 2, the Region will continue to support the community and provide funding to local organizations to address the conditions and underlying factors that contribute to youth violence.

Through Phase 1 BSCF funding, Peel worked collaboratively with cross-sector partners to identify shared priorities for youth violence prevention and develop coordinated approaches to addressing them. The relationships, insights, and collective priorities established through this work have helped inform the Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan's renewed strategic focus on children and youth, with an emphasis on upstream, systems-level approaches that improve outcomes and address the underlying conditions that contribute to youth violence.

Provincially mandated CSWB Plans support proactive, upstream approaches to addressing local risks and strengthening protective factors through collaboration across sectors. Peel's current CSWB Plan has a strategic focus on children and youth ages 0 to 24, with a particular emphasis on middle childhood (ages 7 to 14). This focus provides a strong foundation for aligning Phase 2 BSCF investments with Peel's broader CSWB priorities and supporting coordinated, community-driven approaches to youth violence prevention.

Funding amount: up to 10-15% of organizational revenue

Funding term: The funding term varies for each priority initiative:

- Youth Hubs: 3-year funding (2026/27 to 2028/29)
- Youth Agency: 2-year funding (2026/27 to 2027/28)
- Youth Housing: 2 to 3-year funding (2026/27 to 2027/28 or 2028/29)
- Microgrants: 1-year funding (2026/27)

Application deadline: October 14, 2026, 11:59pm

Application information

To access the EOI Forms and Budget Template email cswb@peelregion.ca

How to apply

The following documents must be submitted by October 14th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. to cswb@peelregion.ca:

- EOI Form (accessed by emailing cswb@peelregion.ca)
- Budget template (accessed by emailing cswb@peelregion.ca)
- Articles of Incorporation
- Organizations with annual gross revenues **above** \$500,000 must submit 2024 and 2025 Audited Financial Statements prepared by an accountant that is registered with CPA Ontario.
- Organizations with annual gross revenues **below** \$499,999 must submit a Review Engagement Report prepared by an accounting that is registered with CPA Ontario
- Year to date (YTD) Balance Sheet and Income Statement
 - The YTD statements from the last fiscal period for which financial statements (Audited Financial Statements or Review Engagement Report) have been provided until July 31, 2026
- Copy of 2025 filed taxes
 - T1044 (non-profits only)
 - T3010 (charities only)
- Copy of your organization's most recent Annual General Meeting minutes

When submitting, please use the subject line:

- ORGANIZATION NAME - EOI YOUTH HUBS (for youth hub applications)
- ORGANIZATION NAME - EOI MICROGRANT (for microgrant applications)
- ORGANIZATION NAME - EOI YOUTH HOUSING (for youth housing applications)
- ORGANIZATION NAME - EOI YOUTH AGENCY (for youth agency applications)

All inquiries regarding this opportunity should be directed to cswb@peelregion.ca.

Application deadline

Submit all documentation to cswb@peelregion.ca by **October 14**, at **11:59 p.m.** Late and incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.

Notification of funding decision

Funding decisions are anticipated to be communicated 4 to 6 weeks after the application intake deadline. All applicants will be notified whether their application is approved or declined for funding.

Equity

Peel Region recognizes the importance of equity and is committed to applying an equity lens to the funding program to ensure that the diversity of our local service providers and community is reflected in decision-making, grant opportunities, policies, and practices.

General eligibility

The agency must:

- Be in Peel and/or primarily serve Peel residents.
- Be mandated to provide human and community services.
- Be incorporated as a not-for-profit organization for a minimum of 2 years.
 - Organizations who have been incorporated for less than 2 years may apply by partnering with a lead agency as a collaborative.
 - Unincorporated groups may apply with a lead organization as a collaborative.
- Compliant with the Ontario Human Rights Code in hiring practices and provision of services.
- Compliant with all applicable federal and provincial legislation, municipal by-laws, and any current or past funding agreement(s) with Peel, including meeting all necessary reporting requirements.
- Have established and documented financial management systems in place and be able to provide annual audited financial statements.
- Provide non-faith based services (if a faith-based organization) and maintain separate financial records for those programs.

Ineligible applicants

The following applicants are not eligible for funding:

- Individuals.
- For-profit organizations.
- Organizations acting in the capacity of a funding body.
- Faith based organizations that do not offer direct programs or services to the broader community.
- Organizations that only offer programs that involve religious activities or require participation in faith-based practices.

- Organizations affiliated with a political party or that have a political mandate.
- Any organization that does not meet the eligibility criteria written above.
- Programs where the federal or provincial government has the primary responsibility for funding, including but not limited to:
 - Hospital-based health programs
 - Medical research
 - Formal education and training
 - Settlement and English language instruction programs

Eligible expenditures

Funds cannot replace or displace existing federal or provincial funding and cannot be used to fund ongoing core activities, which includes costs already supported through existing police service agreements (i.e. Police Advisor salaries, incremental and general policing services).

The funding can support the following areas:

- Salaries and wages and benefits.
- Professional and consultant costs, not limited to audit and evaluation expenses and professional fees related to the preparation of financial statements.
- Costs related to childcare services incurred by the recipient or the project participants. These costs would only be eligible to cover childcare costs incurred to enable parents/legal guardians to participate in activities.
- Access/admittance fees for project participants in recreational or cultural activities.
- Transportation, inclusive of vehicle rental costs, non-capital vehicle leases and related insurance, bus tickets, tokens and other participant-related transportation reimbursements.
- Recruitment and training costs.
- Costs associated to conferences, including conference room, virtual conferences and associated equipment rental.
- Travel, accommodations and related expenses in accordance with National Joint Council Guidelines as well as other reasonable participant related transportation reimbursements.
- Incremental rent, normal utilities such as electricity, heat, water and telephone, insurance, and maintenance of offices and other buildings where the expenses are directly related to the development and implementation of the project.
- Office equipment, supplies and materials, including computers, printers/scanners, and communications equipment and associated costs, and educational or outreach materials.

- Translation and simultaneous interpretation costs.
- Meals and/or refreshments for participants in activities and workshops directly related to the project.
- Honoraria, defined as time-limited remuneration for a volunteer service or participation in project delivery that is consistent with, and essential to the attainment of, the project's objectives. This can include, but is not limited to, volunteer services and guest speakers; but cannot be provided for individuals whose participation in a project is already being compensated (e.g., by their employer) or is being accrued as part of an in-kind contribution.
- Further distribution of funds by the initial recipient(s) to the ultimate recipient(s) if approved by Peel Region via a signed contract.
- Administrative expenses as agreed to by the parties of the Agreement, which should not exceed 15% of the total budget, if not already included in other line items. The limit is 20% for Indigenous recipients.
- The following expenditure category is only eligible for Indigenous recipients: Culturally appropriate expenditures, including gifts/honoraria in the form of gift cards (for a maximum of \$200 per individual per event per day), community feasts, ceremonies and ceremonial meals, gatherings, and circles; and gifts/honoraria up to \$250 per individual per event per day for events with overnights (i.e. camps, out of community travel requiring overnights, etc.). Communities may spend up to \$20,000 in the first year of the agreement, and up to \$30,000 in subsequent years if a detailed plan of activities is provided to the Department.

Any expense incurred outside of these categories will be considered ineligible, and the Region may require those funds to be repaid.

Ineligible costs

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to the following:

- Activities completed or costs incurred before final contract signature with Peel Region.
- Cannot be used to pay for regular or ongoing police services.
- Core or ongoing operating expenses.
- Hospitality, that does not meet the eligible expenses criteria.
- Interest charges or costs of borrowing; and
- Amortization.
- Gift cards as honorarium.

Assessment criteria and review process

Review process

Peel Region remains committed to the transparent assessment of funding applications. We aim to invest in organizations that demonstrate financial viability while meeting service delivery and program objectives. To accomplish this, each application that meets the general eligibility requirements will be reviewed by a Fund Review Committee comprised of Region of Peel staff, external system and community partners, youth with lived experience and assessed based on the established criteria and the following:

Eligibility review

Each application will be assessed against the General Eligibility requirements. If these requirements are met by the application deadline, the application will proceed to the next steps of the review process.

Fund Review Committee

Applications will be assessed by a Fund Review Committee. Applications must meet the application score threshold set by Peel's Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) team to proceed to the next step of the assessment process.

- The Fund Review Committee will be comprised of Region of Peel staff, community and system partners and youth with lived experience to ensure there is community voice in the decision-making process.

Financial viability assessment

Peel Region completes a financial viability assessment as a part of the eligibility and approval process, to broadly assess risk present in not-for-profit funding applicants. In addition, a reassessment of financial viability may be completed during Year 2 (if applicable) in order to ensure agency's fiscal stability and adherence to predetermined standards.

The following mandatory documents must be submitted with the EOI application and budget template, as part of your application:

- Articles of Incorporation
- Organizations with annual gross revenues **above** \$500,000 must submit 2024 and 2025 Audited Financial Statements prepared by an accountant that is registered with [CPA Ontario](#).

- Organizations with annual gross revenues **below** \$499,999 must submit a Review Engagement Report prepared by an accounting that is registered with [CPA Ontario](#)
- Year to date (YTD) Balance Sheet and Income Statement
 - The YTD statements from the last fiscal period for which financial statements (Audited Financial Statements or Review Engagement Report) have been provided until July 31, 2026
- Copy of 2025 filed taxes
 - T1044 (non-profits only)
 - T3010 (charities only)
- Copy of your organization's most recent Annual General Meeting minutes

Rating considerations

The risk factors include benchmarks and financial ratios that are analyzed using the financial statements submitted by the organization. The financial ratios are grouped into the following categories:

Item	Description
Liquidity	Measures the ability to meet short-term financial obligations
Leverage	The ability to operate within the agency's means during the year; assets that are financed by creditors; liabilities and debt
Profitability	The average of last 2 years of Surplus (Deficit)
Revenue	Diversity of revenue sources
Expenditures	Looking for a high proportion dedicated to delivering programs

Development of funding recommendations

Application and financial assessment scores that meet the thresholds set by the CSWB team will be used to rank applications to develop a list of funding recommendations.

Assessment criteria

EOIs will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with Peel's CSWB Plan and the objectives of the priority initiative
- Demonstrated organizational capacity, expertise, and experience to successfully deliver the priority initiative
- Evidence of meaningful and inclusive engagement of children, youth, families, and equity-deserving communities
- Strength of partnerships, collaboration, and collective approaches to service delivery
- Feasibility and readiness of the proposed implementation approach

Applications that demonstrate strong alignment with CSWB priorities and principles, meaningful community engagement, and a well-defined approach to achieving measurable outcomes will be prioritized. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate collaboration, build on existing community strengths and assets, and contribute to sustainable community and systems-level impact.

Reporting requirements

An evaluation framework aligned with CSWB goals will be developed collaboratively by the CSWB team and the successful organizations. As a condition of funding, recipients will be required to collect and report on agreed-upon outcomes and performance indicators using standardized measurement and reporting tools.

In addition to quantitative reporting, organizations will be expected to provide qualitative insights, including participant feedback, implementation experiences, sustainability considerations, impacts on community connectedness, challenges encountered, and promising practices. This information will support continuous learning, quality improvement, and evidence-informed decision-making. Funding recipients will submit a mid-year progress update and a year-end report.

Additional documentation such as related invoices, receipts, and if applicable, payroll records, may be required for auditing purposes. If you are unable to provide the required invoices, receipts, and payroll records, you may be required to repay the funds to the Region.

If an organization has outstanding reports, continued funding may be paused until the report is submitted.

General information

Appeals policy

Purpose

The purpose of the appeals policy is to provide unsuccessful applicants with the opportunity to appeal funding decisions. Peel Region strives to provide equitable treatment of applications and funding decisions.

Policy

Appeals can be requested by the primary applicant by emailing cswb@peelregion.ca.

Appeals will not be accepted for the following reasons:

- Application deemed ineligible/incomplete application.
- Mandatory documents were not submitted by the application deadline.
- Eligibility requirements specified in program guidelines not met.

Appeals policy procedure

Step 1: Appeals must be submitted by email to cswb@peelregion.ca within 5 business days of receiving a funding decision email and should clearly explain the rationale for the appeal. Appeals can be made for the following reasons:

- Evidence of an error in, or deviation from, fund assessment process and criteria.
- Undeclared conflict of interest.

Step 2: The appeal will be reviewed by the Advisor, Community Safety and Well-being, Health Strategy, Planning and Performance.

Step 3: The Advisor will:

- Request additional information or schedule a meeting with the agency to discuss further.
- Advise of appeal result in writing within 5 business days of receiving the appeal.

Step 4: If an agency disagrees with an appeal decision, they can escalate the decision to the Manager, Strategic Planning and Initiatives. The manager will review the Advisor's decision and follow up with the agency in writing within 5 business days.

Application specific resources

Freedom of information

All information that is in the custody or control of the Region is subject to the access provisions of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information submitted in your funding application will be used for the purpose of assessing your application for funding.

Information sessions

- Virtual information sessions will be held to answer any questions about the application.

Key dates

Applications open	September 2, 2026
Application deadline	October 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Late applications and incomplete applications will not be considered.
Decision notification	Mid/Late November 2026 All organizations will be informed of the status of their application by email.