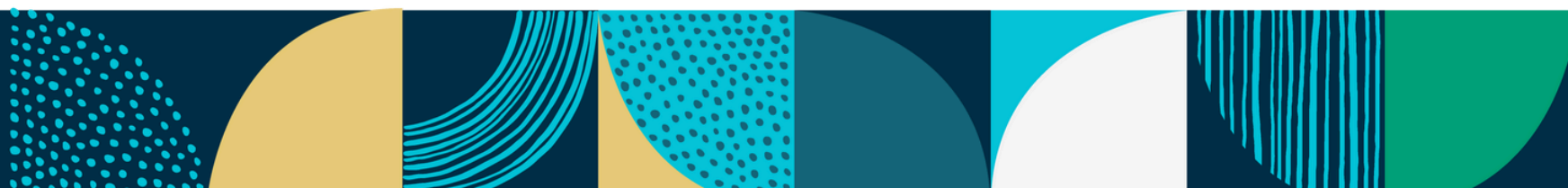


Transforming Systems Grants (TSG) Information Session

2024





We would like to begin by acknowledging that Vancouver Foundation's offices are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. Our work spans the lands now known as British Columbia, home to many diverse Nations and Indigenous peoples who have cared for and protected these lands and waters since time immemorial.

Acknowledging and honoring the traditional and ancestral stewards of these lands is one step toward confronting the legacy of colonialism and the systemic harms it perpetuates. This recognition is part of our ongoing commitment to challenging and transforming these systems together.



Info Session Agenda:



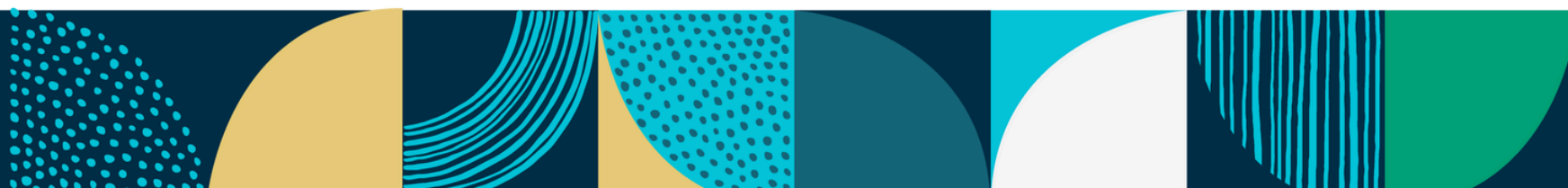
1. Program Background
2. Eligibility Criteria
3. TSG Purpose:
 - Alignment Criteria
 - Eligible Expenses
 - Funding Commitment
4. Selection Process
5. Steps to Apply
6. Key Dates
7. Online Grant Management System
8. Resources
9. Q&A

Contact Us:

grants.admin@vancouverfoundation.ca

Transforming Systems Grants (TSG) Background

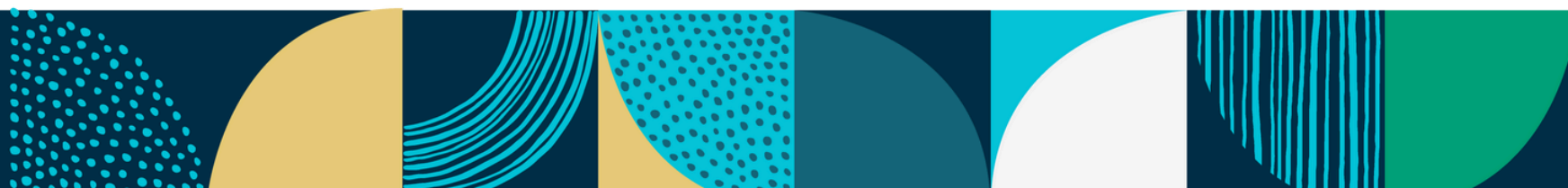
- Vancouver Foundation is reimagining grantmaking to shift power and foster trust-based, equitable practices.
- Launched new programs like the LEVEL BIPOC Grants and Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund while concluding the Systems Change Grant Program in 2021.
- TSG builds on the principle of addressing root causes of systemic issues but differs in that it provides operational funding, not project-based support and focuses on transforming systems of oppression.
- TSG is a one-time grant program that will inform and support a co-design process with community, which aims to launch a new initiative in early 2026.



Eligibility Criteria: who can apply?

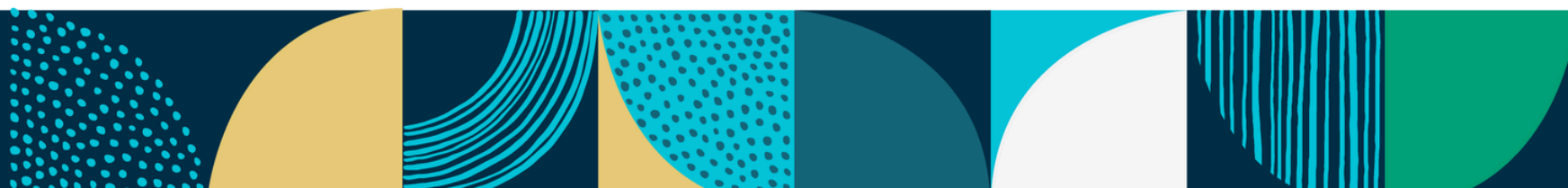
To be eligible for a Transforming Systems Grant, your organization's **primary purpose must be for community benefit AND**, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- **Qualified donees** operating in British Columbia (e.g., registered charities or other qualified donees as per CRA regulations).
- **Registered non-profit societies** operating in British Columbia since January 1, 2024.
- **Unregistered non-profit societies** operating in British Columbia since January 1, 2024, with **plans to register as a society by February 28, 2025**.
- **Registered community service co-operatives** operating in British Columbia.



TSG Purpose

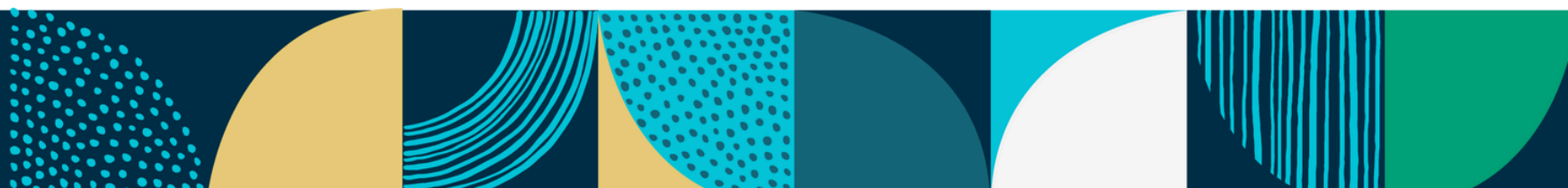
The Transforming Systems Grants (TSG) help to fund organizations **advancing systemic change by addressing the root causes** of inequality and **supporting those most affected** to shape their own futures. It is intended to support **organizations that prioritize intersectionality, allyship and mutual liberation** in their efforts to challenge oppressive systems.



TSG Alignment Criteria

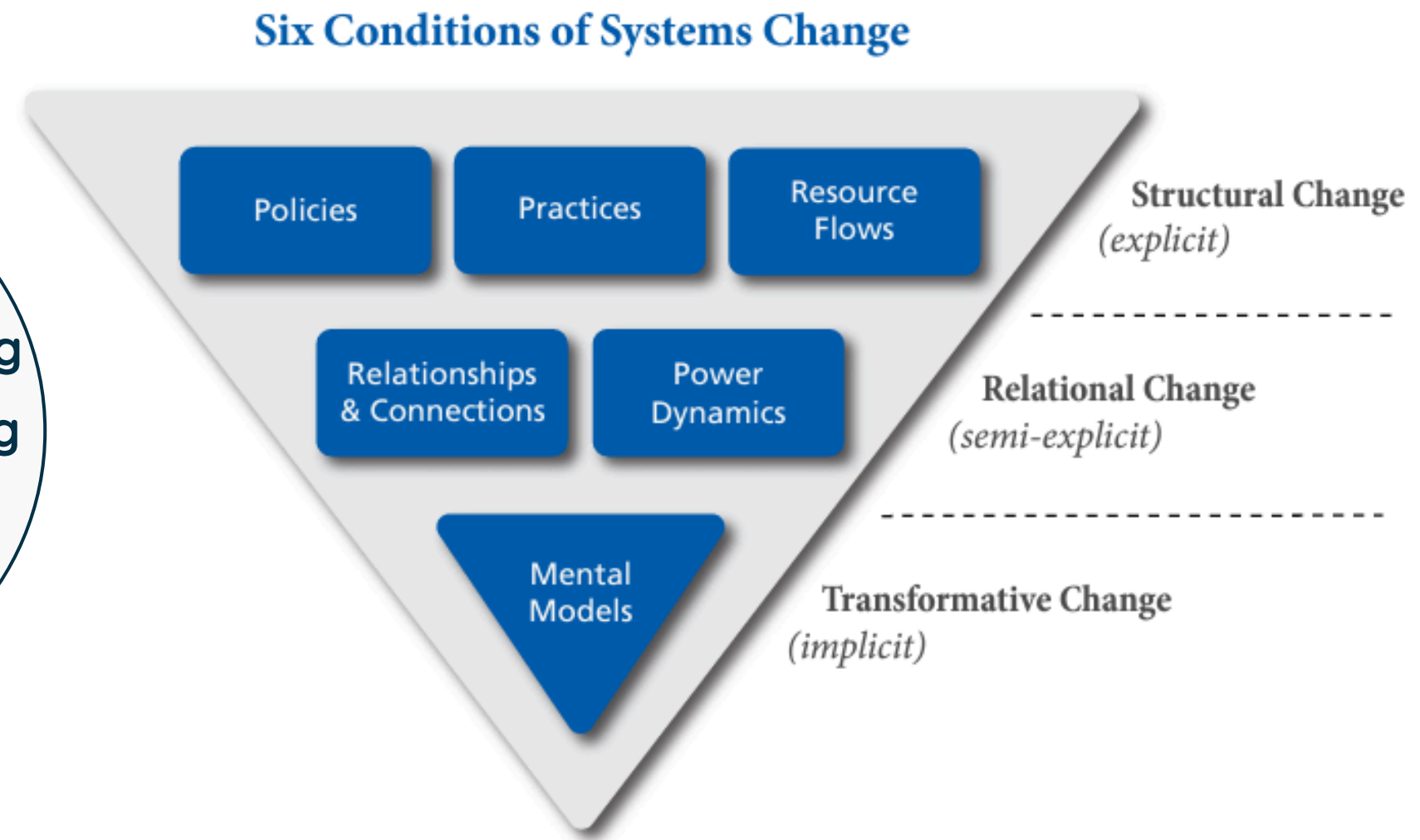
- 1. Organization is advancing systems change by addressing root causes of inequality.**
- 2. Organization prioritized self-determination & is rooted in intersectionality, allyship & mutual liberation.**
- 3. Funding will be allocated to well-established and existing work.**

To be eligible for the randomized selection process, all three criteria must be met.



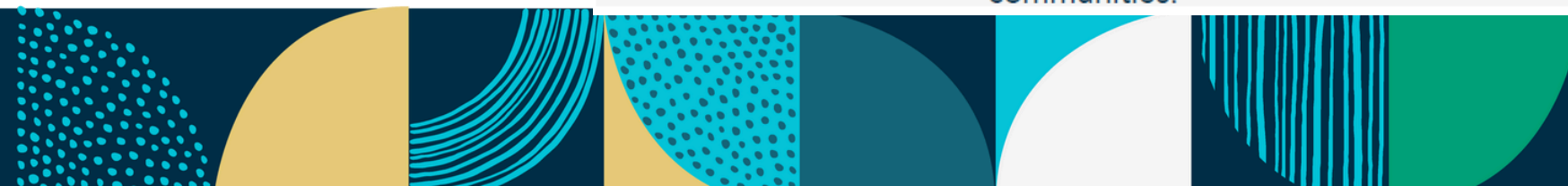
Criteria 1: Organizations are advancing systems change by addressing the root causes of inequality.

Systems change work focuses on addressing the root causes and shifting the structures that uphold systems of oppression aiming to create lasting change.



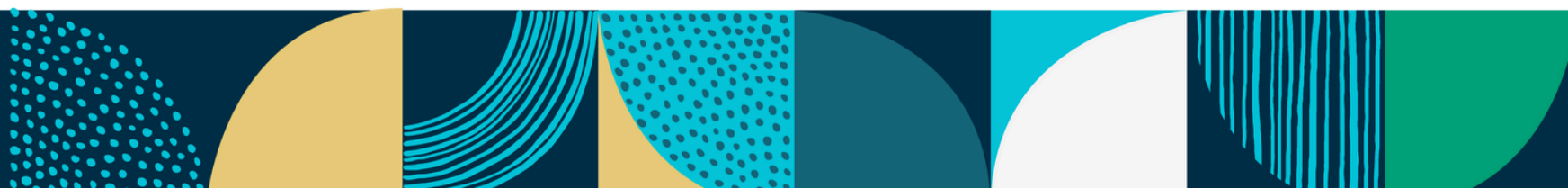
Source: Collective Impact Forum

Oppressive System	Definition	Example of an Initiative Addressing the System
Ending Exploitation	Ensuring equitable access to support and opportunities for systemically marginalized groups by fostering economic independence and enabling social mobility.	Supporting and collaborating with migrant farm workers to address exploitation by employers.
Challenging Marginalization	Funding organizations and communities that work to uplift systemically marginalized communities, ensuring equal access to support, opportunities, and decision-making processes.	Addressing the disproportionate effects of poverty experienced by people with disabilities.
Combating Powerlessness	Investing in programs that build leadership, agency, and self-determination among communities that have historically been denied power and influence over their own lives and environments.	Addressing the fundamental and long-standing causes of boil water advisories in an Indigenous community.
Resisting Cultural Imperialism	Supporting efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity by organizations that resist the imposition of dominant cultural norms and values on minority groups.	Challenging norms in the public school system by promoting 2SLGBTQIA+ youth leadership.
Preventing Violence	Funding organizations and communities that address both direct, structural and institutional violence, and other forms of harm directed at systemically marginalized communities.	Engaging with seniors to create policies that address elder abuse.



Funding Systemic Change

TSG grants are *not* intended to fund organizations focused on helping individuals navigate immediate circumstances. Instead, they are designed to **invest in organizations that aim to transform the root causes and structures creating those circumstances**, with the goal of fostering lasting systemic change.



Criteria 2: Prioritize self-determination & are rooted in intersectionality, allyship & mutual liberation.



Intersectionality

A term coined by Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, offers a framework for understanding that our identities are interconnected and cannot be separated from one another. Crenshaw's work highlights how individuals with multiple marginalized identities experience compounded forms of systemic oppression, as these overlapping aspects of identity intensify inequalities.



Allyship

Refers to the active and ongoing commitment of individuals and organizations to support, amplify, and stand in solidarity with marginalized communities. It involves recognizing and addressing power imbalances, leveraging one's privilege to advocate for those who are underrepresented, and working collaboratively to dismantle systemic barriers.



Mutual Liberation

Recognizes that everyone's freedom is interconnected and dependent on one another. It suggests that achieving justice and dismantling oppressive systems goes beyond individual efforts and requires collective actions that uplift all. This concept emphasizes that true liberation cannot be realized until every group in society is free from injustice and inequality.

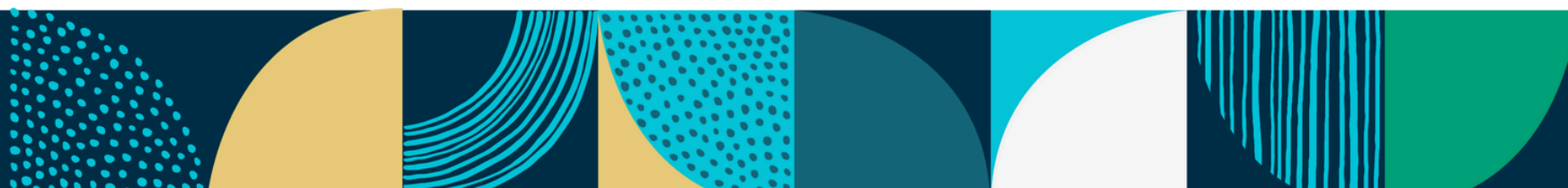
Criteria 3: Funding supports well-established and existing work.

Funding is intended to support organization's **existing work** and may be directed toward one or more of the following:

- **Sustaining, deepening, and/or expanding current operations and initiatives;**
- **Building or expanding networks or strategic partnerships; and/or,**
- **Amplifying reach and effectiveness.**

“Existing Work”:
Current activities, programs
and initiatives that are well
established and actively being
implemented

The grant is not intended for new work or unimplemented ideas.

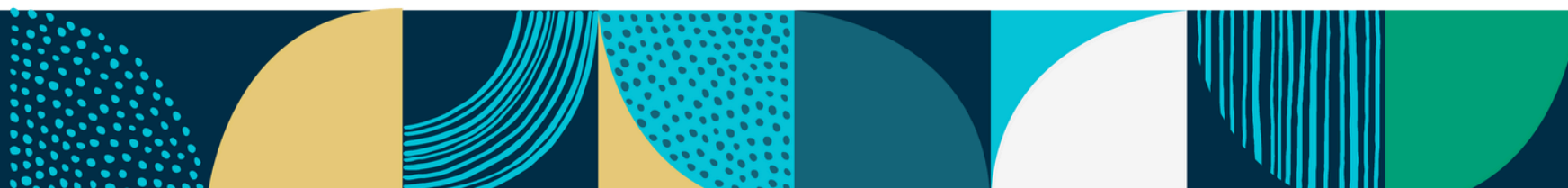


What can grant funds be used for?

Transforming Systems Grants were designed to support **operational costs**, rather than specific project funding.

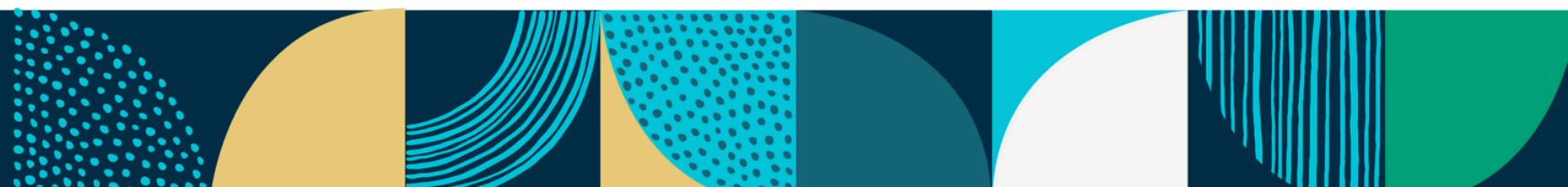
Examples of Eligible Expenses:

- Staffing costs including salaries and benefits, professional development, training and coaching etc.
- Administration and overhead
- Capacity building including strategic planning, board governance and partnership development etc.
- Relationship and network building
- Communications and outreach
- Program delivery costs
- Technology and infrastructure investments



Ineligible Expenses

- Activities or programs primarily benefitting communities **outside of British Columbia.**
- Endowment funds or capital campaigns.
- Operating deficits or after-the-fact support for completed activities.
- Debt retirement or monetary reserves.
- Mortgage pay-downs.
- Large public infrastructure projects.
- Activities not deemed charitable as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
 - *Example: expenses related to fundraising efforts.*



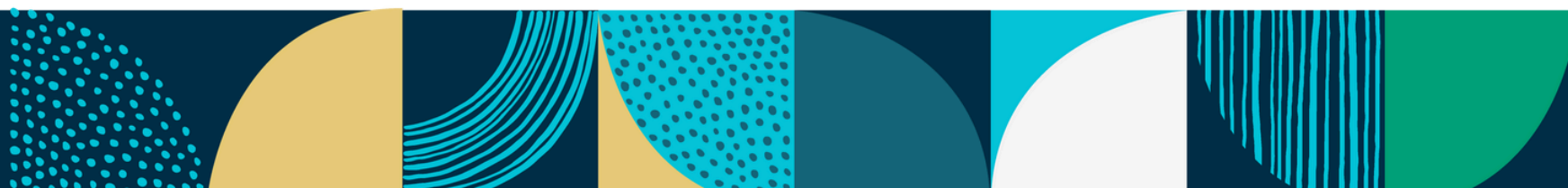
TSG Funding Commitment

Total Budget: Approximately \$9 million.

Grant Amount: \$100,000 per year for 3 years.

Stage 2 Selection: 45 eligible applications will be randomly selected to submit a Stage 2 Application.

Final Selection: 30 grants awarded.



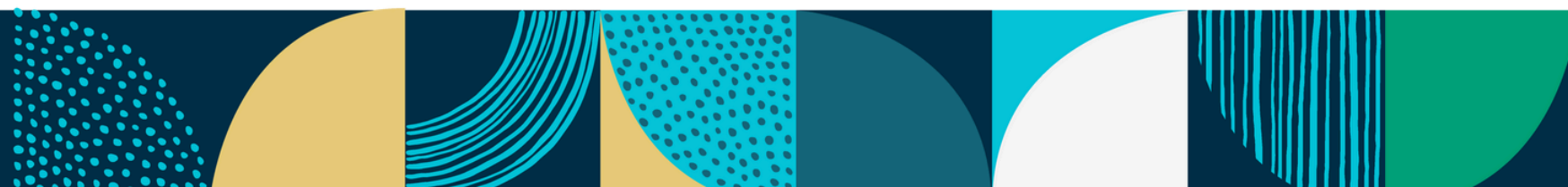
How will funding decision be made?

Stage 1 Selection Process:

- Staff will assess all Stage 1 applications to confirm basic eligibility and alignment to the grant's purpose, prior to randomized selection process.
- All eligible applications will be distributed into **equitable distribution pools** based on organization's area of benefit: large/urban, remote/rural, or both equally.
 - 60% allocated to large/urban serving organizations and 40% allocated to rural/remote serving organizations.
- **Only eligible applications that align with TSG's criteria will be eligible to enter randomized selection process.**
- 45 applications will be randomly selected to submit a Stage 2 application.

Stage 2 Selection Process:

- **Stage 2** written and oral applications are **facilitated and reviewed by staff and Community Advisors.**
- Community Advisors make final funding recommendations to VF.
- **30 grants will be awarded.**



How do we apply?

Stage 1 Application Process:

1.



Read the **guidelines, FAQs** and take the online **eligibility quiz**.

2.



Complete the **online** application.

3.

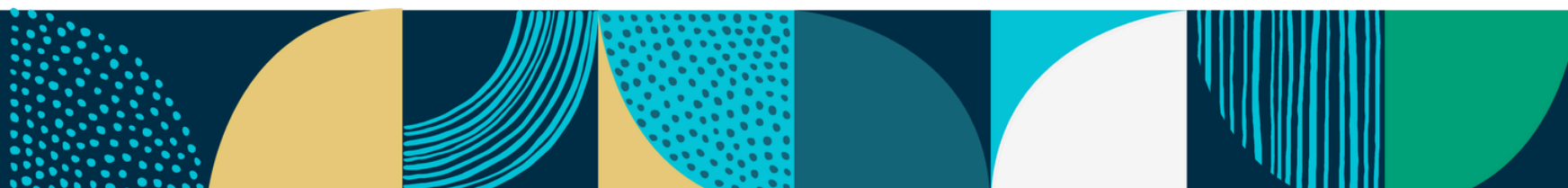


Submit your online application by 5pm PT on Tuesday **January 14, 2025**.

4.



Stage 1 results of the randomized selection process and invitations to submit a Stage 2 application will be **sent via email in early March 2025**.



How do we apply?

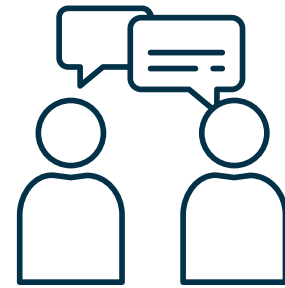
Stage 2 Application Process:

1.



If invited to submit a **Stage 2 application**, you will be notified by email in early March 2025

2.



or



Choose between a online **written** application or a **oral** application by the given deadline.

3.

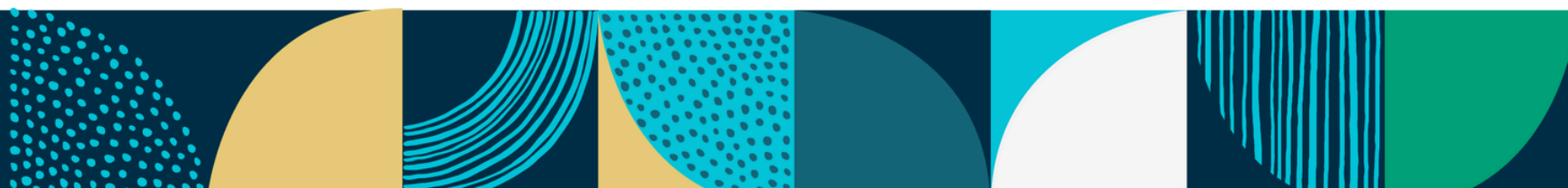


Complete the **Stage 2 application** by submitting a written application online or attend your scheduled oral application via Zoom [**March-April 2025**].

4.



Final funding decisions will be announced by **June 2025**



Key Dates:



November 18, 2024

Stage 1 applications open online at 9am PT.

January 14, 2025

Stage 1 applications close at 5pm PT.

January 2025 to March 2025

Stage 1 application review begins to confirm eligibility and alignment with TSG funding purpose.

March 2025

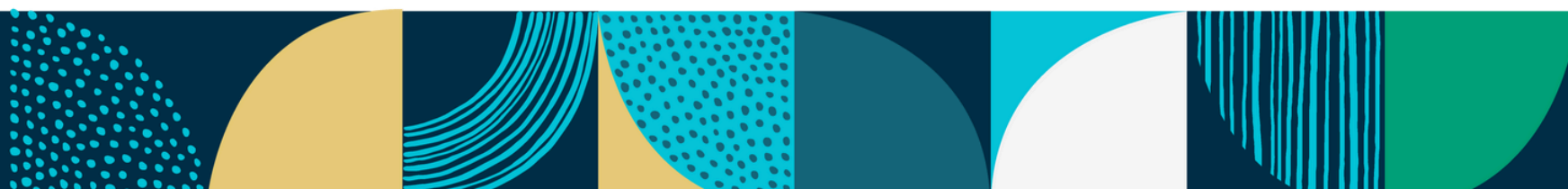
Randomized selection process completed and **Stage 1 results communicated via email**. Organizations selected will be invited via email to submit a Stage 2 application.

March 2025 to April 2025

Stage 2 applications open.

June 2025

Final funding decisions communicated via email to all Stage 2 applicants.



Grant Management System

1.

Welcome to Vancouver Foundation's Online Grant Management System

[Register Here](#)

Instructions

1) **First time here?**
Click on the **Register Here** button above to enter your name and email address. An activation link will then be emailed to you. Use the link in the email you receive to log in -- you'll be prompted to change your email the first time you log in.

If you receive a message that your email is already registered within the system, then use the **Forgot your password?** feature to receive a new temporary password. The activation link expires after 24-hours. Check your spam or junk folder in case it was diverted there.

2) **Returning user?**
Enter your email and password in the **Login** area.

Need help?
There are several options available to you depending on the grant type:

2024 Transforming Systems Grants

1) Review the [Program Guidelines](#) for the LEVEL BIPOC Grants.
2) Confirm that your organization is either a [registered charity](#) or an [incorporated non-profit society](#) (including community service cooperatives) operating in BC since January 1, 2024, and has (or will have) society incorporation or charitable registration by November 30, 2024..
3) View one of the [How To Create a User Account video](#) to see a video demonstration of this first step in the online grant application process. Although these videos were created for the Systems Change grants process, much of the step-by-step instructions are similar.
4) For general inquiries or trouble shooting [Send an email message](#) detailing the issue and we will respond. Depending on demand, responses may be delayed by 2-5 business days.

Login

Please login below if you already have an account.

Email:

Password:

[Login](#)

Forgot your password? [Click here](#)

2.

Use the Apply Now button associated with one of the funding calls below to begin the application process for that specific funding call.
To return to an application you started previously, navigate to the My Applications menu item located at the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Call Name	Program	Sub-Program	Application Type	Deadline (PST)	
2024 Transforming Systems Grants	Transforming Systems Grants	Transforming Systems Grants	Two-Stage	01/14/2025 5:00 PM	Apply Now

3.

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION **STAGE 1 APPLICATION QUESTIONS** TERMS & CONDITIONS ADMINISTRATION

Organization Type: Registered Charity

4.

[Save My Work](#) [Submit Application](#) [Delete this Proposal](#) [Withdraw](#) [Delete](#)



Transforming Systems Grants

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Transforming Systems Grants












Flexible, operational grants of \$300,000 for organizations driving systemic change by addressing the root causes of inequality.

 *Status:* Applications now open

[Learn More: Transforming Systems Grants](#)

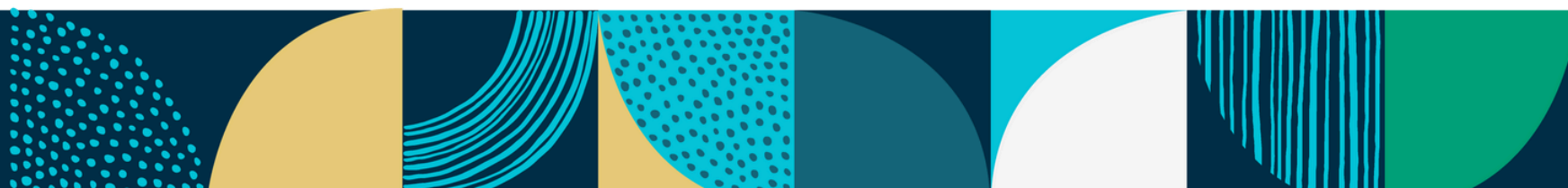


Resources

-  [TSG Information Sessions](#)  (Nov 21, 25 & 27 and Dec 3)
-  [TSG Eligibility Quiz](#) 
-  [TSG Application Guide](#)
-  [TSG FAQ](#)
-  [TSG Application Questions](#)
-  [The Water of Systems Change](#): This resource explains systems change, particularly for those who are working to advance equity. It was authored by John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge at [FSG](#) .
-  [The Water of Systems Change Action Learning Exercise](#): This is a guided activity designed to help individuals and organizations examine the underlying systems that influence social change. This activity was developed by John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge at [FSG](#) .

Contact Us:

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Questions?



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