



2024 RAINBOW GRANTS APPLICATION GUIDE

This document covers our updated Rainbow Grants program, program timelines, application process, and as a guide to completing the online application.

MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY ONE FOUNDATION

The Community One Foundation creates a strong, vibrant, and diverse community by supporting individuals and groups that enhance the development of the 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer plus) communities and equity-deserving community groups in the Greater Toronto Area (the "GTA") including Toronto, Durham, Peel, Hamilton, York and Halton regions, and Indigenous Communities across Ontario.

INDIGENOUS COMMITMENT

The Community One Foundation recognizes it lives and operates on the ancestral, occupied, and traditional lands of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We are grateful to the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, who have cared for these lands since time immemorial and believe in holding up the resistance of Indigenous Peoples and the voices of Two-Spirit, Queer, and Trans Indigenous Peoples in our communities. We are always striving to support anti-/de-colonial initiatives and move toward reconciliation and Indigenous sovereignty. We strive towards allyship in all forms and aim for accountability and transparency by listening to and centering Indigenous voices and voices of colour in our work.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY ONE FOUNDATION'S RAINBOW GRANTS?

The Community One Foundation provides diverse funding opportunities catering to groups, registered charities, and individuals, aiming to address community needs and align with the philanthropic interests of our donors and the organization's strategy to support 2SLGBTQ+ BI POC grassroots community groups.

Through our annual Rainbow Grants, the Community One Foundation provides grants to individuals, groups, and organizations undertaking projects within the GTA (encompassing Toronto, Durham, Peel, Hamilton, York, and Halton Regions, and Indigenous Communities across Ontario) focusing on priority areas where significant community support is deemed crucial. Additionally, grants are extended to individuals or organizations spearheading projects intended to make a tangible and notable impact on the wider community.

The Rainbow Grants are made possible, among other equally significant contributors, by the substantial bequest from the late James Stewart, a mathematician and musician based in Toronto who passed away in December 2014.

ELIGIBILITY

The Community One Foundation awards Rainbow Grants annually to individuals with lived experience as 2SLGBTQ+ community members, groups, and organizations carrying out community projects for the 2SLGBTQ+ community within the GTA (including Toronto, Durham, Peel, Hamilton, York and Halton Regions, and Indigenous Communities across Ontario).

GRANTS STRUCTURE **NEW**

James Stewart Research & Education Award

Rainbow Grants Award (Foundation and General)



HIV/AIDS



Indigenous Communities



Refugees



Trans Communities



Spiritual/Social Groups



Arts & Culture

New Grant Structure	Description	What is different from last year's Rainbow Grants program?
James Stewart Research and Education Award	This award honours registered charities with projects in research and education pertaining to the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The Award Recipient will receive \$15,000 in funding to continue their work.	<p>The grant amount for this award has been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000.</p> <p>In the honour of James Stewart's legacy, this award will specifically focus on research and/or educational projects.</p>
Rainbow Grants Foundation Award	Within each of the six (6) streams listed above, Community One may grant one or more Rainbow Foundation Grant(s) of up to \$10,000 per award for registered charities or groups trusted by a registered charity.	Community One has increased the number of streams under the Grant Awards to recognize and elevate more individuals and projects within the community.
Rainbow Grants General Award	Within each of the six (6) streams listed above, Community One may grant one or more Rainbow General Grant(s) of up to \$3,000 per award for unincorporated groups, collectives and/or individuals.	<p>The grant amount for Foundation Awards has been increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000.</p> <p>The grant amount for General Awards has been increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000.</p>

Please note that each project is only eligible under one stream of the Foundation and General Grants. If your project covers more than one area, please select the best fit on the checklist page of the application, but indicate how it crosses across other areas under the Project Detail section.

If an applicant has more than one project for which they are applying for a grant, the applicant must apply for grants under different streams for each project.

KEY DATES

<u>Important Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
March 11, 2024 (Mon)	Applications Open
May 3, 2024 (Fri)	Applications Close
Mid-May 2024	Rainbow Grants Committee Meets to Make Funding Decisions
Late May 2024	Funding Decisions Announced
Early June 2024	Funds Awarded
July 11, 2024 (Thurs)	Rainbow Grants Ceremony
Dec 2024 - Jan 2025	Mid-year Check-in
Late March 2025	Final Evaluation Due

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE RAINBOW GRANTS PROGRAM

- The Community One Foundation prioritizes granting seed money to new and/ or groundbreaking ideas that have a difficult time accessing funding through mainstream sources.
- The Community One Foundation strongly encourages applications that prioritize and center on the work of Two-Spirit, Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, Trans, Non-binary, and other equity-deserving communities.
- Grant-funded activities for the 2024 Rainbow Grants must take place between the dates of June 1, 2024* and March 31, 2025. **Based on the above timelines, the funds might be awarded and made available after June 1.*
- While Rainbow Grants are not intended to provide ongoing operating and financial support for projects or programs, we respect that projects may take time to become self-sustaining or find other sources of funding.
- For applications made through trustees, the cheque will be made out to the trustee who holds and distributes the funds. Please assure that they have been notified about their role and their roles have been agreed and clarified. The trustees will need to sign and provide contact info as a part of the application.
- Charitable status is not a requirement for Rainbow General Grants. Those applying for this grant, in particular, should be aware that it is a competitive process; it is recommended that you consider securing a trustee and applying for a Rainbow Foundation Grant if possible.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRANT STREAMS (UNDER RAINBOW FOUNDATION AND GENERAL GRANTS)

1. **HIV/AIDS:** Grants can support organizations focusing on prevention, treatment, and support services for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals living with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. This might involve funding for medical research, access to healthcare, awareness campaigns, and community outreach programs.
2. **Refugees:** 2SLGBTQ+ refugees often face unique challenges due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Grants can aid organizations that provide safe spaces, legal assistance, mental health support, and integration programs to help 2SLGBTQ+ refugees navigate their new environments and communities.
3. **Spiritual/Social Groups:** Grants might support initiatives that promote 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion within spiritual or social communities. Funding could go towards education, dialogue facilitation, and support networks aimed at fostering understanding and acceptance.
4. **Indigenous Communities:** Grants can aid 2SLGBTQ+ individuals within Indigenous communities with specific cultural challenges, and fund initiatives focused on preserving and strengthening Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions while addressing 2SLGBTQ+ issues, offering culturally appropriate services, and preserving 2SLGBTQ+ Indigenous history and knowledge.
5. **Trans Communities:** Grants can assist organizations dedicated to Transgender rights, healthcare access, legal support, advocacy, and community-building. Funding could go towards hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgeries, mental health services, and anti-discrimination campaigns.
6. **Arts & Culture:** Grants can aid 2SLGBTQ+ artists by supporting projects that explore 2SLGBTQ+ themes, histories, and experiences. This will include funding for exhibitions, performances, and supporting creative endeavours related to 2SLGBTQ+ issues.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Grant Applications Submitted Online

All grants will be submitted to Community One through the online *Zengine* application management platform. Once applications open, a link will be provided on the Community One Foundation website. There, you will register an account using an email address and a password. Once registered, you may complete the online form. Drafts of your application can be saved at any point and returned to later for completion.

Please ensure that completed applications are submitted by hitting the "Submit" button at the end of the application. Otherwise, applications remain in "draft" mode and will not be considered complete or accepted.

The deadline for submitting 2024 Grant Applications is Friday, May 3rd
2024, 11:59 pm EST.

LATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

If you have other questions, please contact us at grants@communityone.ca

Please note that the Rainbow Grants are administered by the Community One Foundation volunteers, and they are not able to meet individually with you or your group or advise on your grant. We will collect and provide answers to the common questions on our website on an as needed basis. Based on the nature of the question, some questions may not be answered at the discretion of the Community One Foundation.

JAMES STEWART AWARD: COMPLETING THE APPLICATION ONLINE

PART A – APPLICATION SUMMARY

Applicant Name

Please provide a descriptive name for the registered charity you are nominating.

Were you an applicant in the past?

If yes, please list the name(s) of any previous applications to Rainbow Grants (General and Foundation) and/or James Stewart, and mention which were funded.

PART B – KEY INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

Write a 1,000-2,000 word letter outlining the organization’s accomplishments and significant contributions to the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Provide a detailed description of the achievement and impact of the organization in the community and how this aligns to the Research and Education discipline.

Letters of Reference

Please attach two (2) letters from individuals or organizations (“referees”) familiar with the applicant. Letters should include the date, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and signatures of the referee and may be followed up on. Letters must be specifically in support of the applicant.

What is a good Letter of Reference?

Ideally referees should be at ‘arms-length’ from the applicant and their project but should be familiar with and able to vouch for the applicant and their work.

References should indicate the context they know the applicant in and how long they have known them, and should comment on the experience, skills and capacity of the applicant to carry out this specific project. For returning applicants, please ensure an updated reference letter.

Latest Financial Statements

The applicant must provide their latest financial statements.

Nomination Letter

The applicant for the James Stewart Award needs to provide at least two (2) nomination letters detailing the reason for nomination and detailing the impact of the organization’s work and how to address the key areas of focus for Community One, as detailed in this guide. Please ensure that the nominators are familiar with the applicant but not associated with the proposed project.

Letters should include the date, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and signatures and may be followed up on. *Letters must be specifically in support of the project*, and not just the organization or lead individual applying.

PART C - APPLICANT SUMMARY

You will be prompted to provide the basic information of your organization.

PARTS D & E – PROJECT DETAILS AND ACTIVITY PLAN

These sections should generally highlight why the project is needed and how you hope to achieve your goals. You should demonstrate how your project will have an impact on the community, that it has realistic goals, and that you have the necessary resources to complete the project.

Project Summary

Generally, this section should provide a brief overview of the projects' activities and aims and its key beneficiaries. Please do not write "See Application." The Community One Foundation will publish this summary in its publicity materials.

Project Name

Please provide a descriptive name for your project; the project name should not be the name of the organization or individual applying for funding.

Project Timeframe

Please outline the anticipated start and end dates for the proposed activities. Grants can be made for projects of any length, but grant activities for the 2024 cycle must take place between June 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025.

How does your project meet the needs of 2SQT-BIPOC (Two-Spirit, Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) communities?

Priority will be given to first-time applicants and members of Two-Spirit, Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour groups.

Beneficiaries

Please provide a clear description of who will benefit from the project within the GTA and how they will benefit; also, an estimated number of community members/participants/clients who will benefit from the initiative.

Additional Material

If any additional information or supplemental material may help grant reviewers understand the organization, the capacity you have to carry out the proposed project, or how the proposed project will look, please submit them with your application. Examples of additional material include annual reports, financial statements, brochures, videos, etc.

Activity Plan

Please outline the activities pertaining to your project and key milestones.

PART F – COLLABORATION

The Community One Foundation requests that successful grant applicants communicate that their projects were funded in part by a grant from the Community One Foundation. We support projects in the community not only through granting, but also through promotion. The Community One Foundation supports the cross-promotion of our grantees and their projects through our social media (*Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In, and Website*). We ask our grantees whether they would like to be involved in this initiative. Please note that whether successful applicants choose to participate or not, Community One reserves the right to publish any organizations/projects that have received a grant both on our website and through other communication materials.

PART G – SIGN-OFF

This section must be completed. The signature acts as a certification that all of the information in the application is true and complete. It also certifies that if funds are awarded, they will be used for the purposes described in this proposal and that the applicant will abide by the policies and requirements of the Community One Foundation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to forward any information changes to Community One as soon as possible.

RAINBOW GENERAL & FOUNDATION GRANTS: COMPLETING THE APPLICATION ONLINE

PART A – APPLICATION SUMMARY

Applicant Contact Information

Please ensure that the contact person will be available between the dates that applications are submitted, and results are notified. The contact person should be able to respond to questions about the project and will receive all correspondence about the application and its result. This should be the individual managing the project.

Grant Stream

Please select the eligible stream your project most closely aligns with. We match applications with grant reviewers with relevant expertise. *If your project covers more than one stream, please select the best fit on the checklist page of the application.*

Were you an applicant in the past?

If yes, please indicate whether any individuals or organizations involved in the proposed project have applied for funding from the Community One Foundation in the past five years – including grants from the Foundation’s former Pride Grants Program. If you have received funding in previous years for projects, you must have submitted all required reporting documentation to be considered for funding. If you received a grant in 2023, please ensure that your final report has been submitted no later than March 31, 2024. If there have been delays with your 2023 project

and you will not have your final report submitted by the end of March 2024, please mention it in your application and be sure to have been in contact with the Rainbow Grants Chair as soon as possible grants@communityone.ca.

PART B – KEY INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

Budget

Please fill in and upload the [budget template](#) for your project to the online application. You MUST use the template provided as a part of this application form. No other formats will be accepted.

Letters of Reference

Please attach two (2) letters from individuals or organizations (“referees”) familiar with the applicant but not associated with the proposed project. Letters should include the date, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and signatures of the referee and may be followed up on. *Letters must be specifically in support of the project*, and not just the organization or individual applying.

What is a good Letter of Reference?
Ideally referees should be at ‘arms-length’ from the applicant and their project but should be familiar with and able to vouch for the applicant and their work.

References should indicate the context they know the applicant in and how long they have known them, and should comment on the experience, skills and capacity of the applicant to carry out this specific project. For returning applicants, please ensure an updated reference letter.

Applications for Rainbow General Grants require two (2) reference letters that can be from individuals or organizations.

Amount Requested

Please note that for Rainbow Foundation Grants, organizations are restricted to a total dollar request of \$10,000 per application. For General Grants, requests should not be more than \$3,000. Funds are not intended for projects that will be completed by the end of July 2024 nor for multi-year projects. *Please see the Budget section for details on how to provide the budget details.*

PART C – APPLICANT SUMMARY

Organization / Applicant Information

Please provide a brief summary of your group or organization’s history and experience working with the 2SLGBTQ+ community and BI-POC individuals. This can include your organization’s mission & goals. For individuals, please briefly describe your mission, goals, experience, and how you came to be active in the community in your specific area, craft, or artistry. Both groups should include particular issues or challenges that you, your community, and/or organization are facing.

PARTS D & E – PROJECT DETAILS AND ACTIVITY PLAN

These sections should generally highlight why the project is needed and how you hope to achieve your goals. You should demonstrate how your project will have an impact on the community, that it has realistic goals, and that you have the necessary resources to complete the project.

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Additional Material

If any additional information or supplemental material may help grant reviewers understand the organization, the capacity you have to carry out the proposed project, or how the proposed project will look, please submit them with your application. Examples of additional material include annual reports, financial statements, brochures, videos, etc.

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PART F – COLLABORATION

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grantees whether they would like to be involved in this initiative. Please note that whether successful applicants choose to participate or not, Community One reserves the right to publish any organizations/projects that have received a grant both on our website and through other communication materials.

PART G – SIGN-OFF

This section must be completed. For groups or charitable organizations, the signatory must be an authorized signatory of the organization. Otherwise, the signature should be the applicant. The signature acts as a certification that all of the information in the application is true and complete. It also certifies that if funds are awarded, they will be used for the purposes described in this proposal and that the applicant will abide by the policies and requirements of the Community One Foundation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to forward any information changes to Community One as soon as possible.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The Rainbow Grants Allocation Committee, composed of a broad range of 2SLGBTQ+ BIPOC community members, reviews all grants in May 2024. All applicants will receive notification regarding their grant by mid-May to June 2024.

The Rainbow Grants Allocation Committee uses the following criteria to determine successful applications:

- Individual, group or organization is eligible (see Eligibility)
- Completed submitted application, including all requested unique letters of reference and nomination and the completed budget template (see Completing the Application Online)
- Alignment of the proposed project's activities and goals with the Community One Foundation's mission, grant stream, and commitment to meeting the needs of equity-deserving community members (see Mission & Grants Overview)
- Clear, feasible and eligible project idea, activities and budget
- Clarity and value of community-level impact (this could include the number or the way community members are impacted by your project, etc.)
- Project performance for any previous funding from the Community One Foundation

Due to receiving a higher volume of proposals compared to funds available, even if a project meets the criteria above, the Community One Foundation will not be able to fund every eligible project proposal received.

Successful grant applicants will be invited to attend the Rainbow Grants Event, which will take place on July 11, 2024. It is at this event that successful applicants will be recognized and will have the opportunity to meet other members of the community who have supported or been impacted by the Rainbow Grants program.

REQUIREMENTS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

All grant recipients must sign and return the Letter of Agreement (LOA) prior to receiving funds from the Community One Foundation. The Letter of Agreement will be sent with the acceptance notification in mid-May to June 2024. All grant recipients must report back to the Community One Foundation on their progress over the course of the year. Depending on the length of the project, the recipient may be required to complete an interim progress report along with a final progress report. *Failure to report will have an impact on future grant applications.*