



2025 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

James Stewart Research & 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.

Rainbow Grants Award (Foundation and General)

Foundation Award

Within each of the three (3) streams, 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 & Social Development



Arts & Culture



Community Wellbeing & Direct Services

General Award

Within each of the three (3) streams, 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.

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

1. **Arts and Culture:** Initiatives that support 2SLGBTQ+ artists by supporting projects that explore 2SLGBTQ+ themes, histories, and experiences, or initiatives that create opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ community members to engage in arts-based programming. This includes funding for exhibitions, performances, and supporting creative endeavours and programs related to 2SLGBTQ+ issues.
2. **Community and Social Development:** Initiatives that create opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ communities to come together and build community, advocate for change, or provide mutual support. Examples include education and support networks that foster understanding, non-partisan advocacy, awareness, and organizing efforts, and community building initiatives of a social, cultural, or recreational nature.
3. **Community Wellbeing and Direct Services:** Initiatives that focus on providing direct social service or other support to 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Examples include legal assistance, mental health support, settlement and integration, case support and systems navigation, and health-related initiatives.

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>
Feb 26, 2025 (Wed)	Applications Open
Apr 11, 2025 (Fri)	Applications Close
Late April 2025	Rainbow Grants Committee Meets to Make Funding Decisions
Early May 2025	Funding Decisions Announced
June 2025	Funds Awarded
June 2025	Rainbow Grants Ceremony
Dec 2025 - Jan 2026	Mid-year Check-in
Late March 2026	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 2025 Rainbow Grants must take place between the dates of June 1, 2025* and March 31, 2026. **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.

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 2025 Grant Applications is Friday, April 11
2025, 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.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION ONLINE

PART A – APPLICATION DETAILS

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 (General and Foundation Rainbow Grants)

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 2024, please ensure that your final report has been submitted no later than March 31, 2025. If there have been delays with your 2024 project and you will not have your final report submitted by the end of March 2025, 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 – APPLICANT DETAILS

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 C & D – PROJECT DETAILS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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 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.

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 2025 nor for multi-year projects unless applying for the James Stewart Award. *Please see the Budget section for details on how to provide the budget details.*

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 2025 cycle must take place between June 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026 unless applying for the James Stewart Award.

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.

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.

Letter of Reference

Please attach one (1) letter from individuals or organizations (“referees”) familiar with the applicant but not associated with the proposed project. The letter should include the date, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and signatures of the referee and may be followed up on. *The letter 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.

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.

PART E – 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 F – 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 April 2025. All applicants will receive notification regarding their grant by May 2025.

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 in June 2025. 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 2025. 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.*