



Black and Indigenous Futures Fund FAQs

Why a focus on organizations serving and led by Black and Indigenous communities?

Black and Indigenous communities are traditionally the most underserved by philanthropy. The effects of the pandemic have exacerbated these inequities and it has motivated us to use the opportunity of the international conversation around structural and systemic racism to help mobilize philanthropy. Our hope and goal for this funding opportunity will be to influence other donors and will encourage Toronto Foundation's family of Fundholders to provide additional long-term investment to the funding recipients.

We convened a diverse sector leadership table to inform and develop this funding opportunity. The funding guidelines and parameters as well as the approach we are taking were unanimously recommended by this leadership table.

What do you mean by Black or Indigenous led?

Black-led means that the leadership positions and governance structure are primarily occupied by people who self-identify as Black.

Indigenous-led means that the leadership positions and governance structure are primarily occupied by people who self-identify as Indigenous.

Examples of these leadership positions include the executive director, CEO, president and chair. Examples of these governance structures include the board of directors, steering committee, executive and/or senior management team.

What do you mean by Black or Indigenous serving?

Black serving means that your mandate is Black-focused and that the programs you offer are centred on Black beneficiaries.

Indigenous serving means that your mandate is Indigenous-focused and that the programs you offer are centred on Indigenous beneficiaries.

If your focus on serving Black or Indigenous communities is not clear in your mandate, you will need to explain and demonstrate your focus in your application.

How was membership of the leadership table selected?

We invited several Indigenous and Black leaders as well as other People of Colour from the non-profit sector in Toronto that work in an array of networks serving many different community organizations and individuals in the city. We wanted to ensure that representation was as robust as possible. An essential element of this leadership table is moving towards a model that shifts power in granting.

Do I need to be a registered charity to apply for this opportunity?

No. This funding is available to charities, organizations that wish to apply with a charitable trustee, as well as grassroots initiatives, organizations, and collectives without charitable status.

Who can apply for funding?

This funding opportunity is open to any Black or Indigenous led and serving registered charity, non-profit, or grassroots group, organization, or collective, whose activities and programs benefit Black or Indigenous Torontonians and improve their quality of life.

All successful applicants will need to demonstrate an established basic leadership and governance structure, comprised of at least three people. They will also need to have an ability to accept funds via electronic funds transfer to a bank account, and demonstrate in the application that they have experience in serving their community.

Who is not eligible to apply for funding?

- Organizations that are not Black or Indigenous led
- Organizations that do not focus on serving Black and Indigenous individuals
- Organizations that do not primarily serve Torontonians
- Individuals
- Organizations without any basic organizational governance structure
- Organizations that have barriers (financial or otherwise) for participation for marginalized communities
- For-profit initiatives

For non-qualified donees (NQDs) how many people need to be in a group to apply for funding?

For non-qualified donees, there needs to be a governance structure in place comprised of at least 3 people. No applications from an individual will be accepted.

What are the grant sizes?

For qualified donees (registered charities and organizations applying with a trustee), funding is up to \$20,000. For non-qualified donees, funding is up to \$10,000.

What expenses are eligible and ineligible?

This funding is intended to support leading Black and Indigenous led and serving organizations filling a gap in their communities to help them adapt to and plan for recovery from the challenges of the pandemic. All funds will be used for charitable purposes, but otherwise, funding is unrestricted.

For successful qualified donee applicants, funding will be allocated directly as an unrestricted gift.

For successful non-qualified donee applicants, planned activities will need to be outlined in a scope of work contract written between that group and Toronto Foundation after funding has been confirmed (this is due to the regulations of the Canada Revenue Agency).

****Successful applicants have the flexibility to use the money as they see fit, including to cover operational and/or staffing costs. The funding must support charitable work and may not cover partisan political activities.***

Here is a list of some examples of costs you may want to use your funding on:

- Wages and employment-related costs for existing or additional staff;
- Fees for professional service;
- Disability supports for staff of the funding recipient;
- Materials and supplies;
- Printing, marketing, outreach and other forms of communications;
- Travel costs;
- Utilities;
- Food;
- Insurance;
- Space rentals
- Lease, purchase and maintenance of equipment;
- Performance monitoring and reporting costs;

- Data collection;
- Knowledge development activities; and
- Other administrative costs associated with your organization

Examples of INELIGIBLE expenses:

- Any expense for projects designed to support beneficiaries other than Black and Indigenous populations
- Any expense outside of the work of the organization intended to be funded
- Any expense to generate profit for an individual
- Any expense related to partisan political activities

How can I apply?

You can go to this website <https://torontofoundation.ca/black-and-indigenous-futures-fund/> and click the ‘**apply now**’ button to access our online portal and application form.

How will oral applications be evaluated?

Oral applications will be evaluated based on the information you provide to the application questions.

Toronto Foundation staff will confirm a date and time to meet with you, and verbally go through each of the application questions, which will be recorded (written) and shared with the selection committee. Following the oral application submission, TF staff will use the information provided during the call to fill out the online form. This ensures that the selection committee will receive the same information from each group for a fair assessment, and allows these volunteers to easily access the information provided.

If your organization does not have the capacity to fill out the online form and would prefer an oral application – please be in touch with Phylicia (pdavis-wesseling@torontofoundation.ca) to schedule a date and time. Slots for this type of application may be limited, so if you are able to fill out the online application, we encourage you to go that route, in order to save the spots for those who need to submit their application in this way.

How will video applications be evaluated?

Video applications will be evaluated not on the production value but on the answers that are provided to the application questions.

Applicants wishing to submit video applications will need to create a video that answers each of the application questions and upload onto YouTube (or another online video platform that is accessible) with a simple one-step hyperlink. ***That link then needs to be submitted as part of the online application.*** Selection committee members will view the videos by clicking on the link.

This ensures that the selection committee will receive the same information from each group for a fair assessment, and allows these volunteers to easily access the information provided.

How will funding decisions be made?

Decisions will be made through two selection committees (one committee selecting funding recipients for qualified donees and another committee selecting funding recipients for non-qualified donees). Selection committees will be comprised of members of the leadership table and others with relevant professional and lived expertise who will be collectively reviewing all applications and participating in a consensus-based decision process. All members will be from Black and Indigenous communities in Toronto.

How will funding be paid out?

Funding will be paid by electronic funds transfers (EFT).

When can I expect to receive results?

Applicants will receive a decision no later than April 30.

What are the expectations around reporting?

For qualified donees, there will be no formal reporting mechanism for this funding opportunity. The Toronto Foundation team, however, may reach out periodically for a picture, story, or quote to share your impact with our broader community in an effort to drive additional giving, and offer opportunities for promotion or exposure to our network of philanthropists.

For non-qualified donees, there will be a mid-point check in advance of releasing the second portion of funding.

What is the timeline for the Black and Indigenous Futures Fund?

Application opens: Wednesday, February 10th

Application closes: Monday, March 15th

Decisions communicated: April 30th or earlier

Funding Released: April - May 2021

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Phylicia Davis-Wesseling at pdavis-wesseling@torontofoundation.ca.