



Guidelines for the BC Rehab Community Partnerships Initiative

Who we are: The BC Rehab Foundation is a registered Canadian Charity supporting people with physical disabilities. At BC Rehab we are committed to closing the gaps between people with and without disabilities. Our organization encourages and supports universally designed spaces and opportunities that can be utilized by everyone, regardless of physical ability.

Purpose of the BC Rehab Community Partnerships Initiative: The intent of the BC Rehab Community Partnerships Initiative is to increase accessibility in BC communities and create opportunities for the full participation of people with physical disabilities. BC Rehab is committed to equal opportunities and improving community inclusion in the Province of BC. We encourage projects that involve multiple community partners, promote universal access and demonstrate community support.

Under this program, BC Rehab is offering five grants of up to \$10,000 to improve community accessibility in the Province of BC. Applications will be accepted until May 13th, 2011. The five successful applicants will be announced by June 10th, 2011.

What is a Community-Based Project?

A community-based project is one that benefits a particular community by improving accessibility and increases opportunities for people with physical disabilities living in BC. Our review committee will consider a range of grant requests and project proposals. Examples of areas where BC Rehab will consider granting funding range and could include retrofitting a building, upgrading existing facilities to improve access, community-based programming, public space projects (e.g. accessible urban gardens) and equipment acquisitions to improve universal public access (e.g. ramps, lifts, etc).

Eligibility:

Who can apply? Funds are available to non-profit organizations or community groups based in British Columbia. In addition, we will consider applications from BC municipalities that are undertaking projects that will provide universal public accessibility or to upgrade existing facilities in order to make them fully accessible.

Please note that expenditures for renovations and/or equipment incurred prior to the date of the application approval will not be eligible for funding under this program.

In general, eligible projects will:

- Be consistent with BC Rehab's mission of supporting efforts to create inclusive communities in BC and expand opportunities for people living with disabilities;

- Demonstrate the extent to which the project will create a sustainable and lasting impact in the community;
- Have a program budget and will have applied for or accessed other funding sources if the project budget exceeds \$10,000;
- Establish a tangible timeline;
- Have a capable project leader or team in place to see the project through from start to finish; and
- Shows that there is community support for the proposed undertaking.

Please note if the project is part of a large capital campaign, an approved project must be a distinct and recognizable (“stand alone”) part of the campaign.

What will our review committee be looking at when evaluating submitted application?

There are only five grants of up to \$10,000 available through the BC Rehab Community Partnership program. We anticipate receiving a number of applications and consequently we are unable to respond favourably to all requests for grant funding. Applications will be assessed on a variety of criteria including, but not limited to, the following:

- The extent to which accessibility needs in the community will be met through this program
- Cost effectiveness and a thorough project budget
- History of the applicant organizations service to the community
- Ability of the lead organization to maintain the program or project and complete it on time and on budget
- The recognition provided to BC Rehab for sponsoring this initiative
- Evidence of community support, especially from members of the community who have a physical disability

The application process

Download the application and guidelines for the BC Rehab Community Partnerships Grant from our website or request a copy from the BC Rehab office. Read over the application questions and guidelines. If you have any questions about the eligibility of your project please contact Pamela MacDonald, Manager of Projects and Communications, at the BC Rehab office.

Applications must be sent to the BC Rehab office no later than Friday, May 13th, 2011. Each applicant will receive an official letter of receipt within two week of the application being submitted to the BC Rehab office. The entire review process after May 13th will take up to four weeks. Our selection committee will be composed of people from the disability community, BC Rehab staff and Board members.

Applications can be sent by fax, e-mail or regular mail to the BC Rehab office. Please send to the attention of Pamela MacDonald, Manager of Projects and Communications.

FAX: 604-737-6494

E-MAIL: pam@bcrehab.com

MAILING ADDRESS:

BC Rehab Foundation
4255 Laurel Street
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 2G9