

Civil Remedies Grant Program 2026-2028 Application Guidelines

Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division, Ministry of the Attorney General

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Please note:

- This document is to assist you in completing the Civil Remedies Grant Program application form and provides information and guidance that should be reviewed prior to filling out the application form.
- These application guidelines and instructions outline the grant process and contain information on eligibility criteria, outline outcomes and performance indicators, the application review process, selection criteria and how to get further support.

The Civil Remedies Act, 2001 came into force in Ontario in April 2002. The Act provides for civil forfeiture of property that was obtained as a result of an unlawful activity or that is an instrument of unlawful activity. Property that is forfeited under the Act is converted to cash and deposited into a special purpose account. The Act stipulates that funds may be disbursed from the special purpose account for specified purposes including:

- (a) cost recovery to the Crown;
- (b) compensation to victims of unlawful activity; and
- (c) grants to assist victims or to prevent unlawful activities that result in victimization.**

The Ministry of the Attorney General (Ministry) is pleased to present the 2026-2028 Civil Remedies Grant Program (the Program). The Ministry endeavours to ensure a fair, transparent, and accountable process for the distribution of time-limited, one-time grants to assist victims or prevent unlawful activities that result in victimization.

The 2026-28 Program requires applicants to choose one or more of the following priority victim population groups and/or crime types to be addressed by their proposed initiative:

- Indigenous communities;
- Children and youth;
- Seniors (defined as a person who is at least 60 years of age);
- Intimate partner and family violence;
- Human Trafficking;
- Gun and gang violence;
- Hate Crimes; and/or
- Rural/remote communities.

The Program funds as many projects as possible that can demonstrate that they meet the objectives of the Program. Approvals are dependent on funds available, the number of viable applications received, and an assessment of each application based on the selection criteria. Organizations may submit multiple applications for consideration, up to a total maximum amount as indicated below.

2026-2027 CIVIL REMEDIES GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY

Maximum Amount per Grant: \$200,000

Maximum Amount Per Organization: \$400,000

Application Deadline: November 17, 2025

Funding Estimated to Begin: April 1, 2026

Grant Must be Expended by: March 31, 2028

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Program is to promote one of the objectives of the Civil Remedies Act, 2001, by providing one-time funding to projects that support victims or prevent unlawful activities that result in victimization. In particular, the Program is focused on vulnerable victims of crime who may have difficulty, or face barriers accessing supports.

Applicants must demonstrate that their project meets at least one of the following objectives:

- increases access to services and/or supports for victims;
- assists victims of unlawful activity(ies), particularly vulnerable victims who may face barriers to accessing services and supports;
- prevents unlawful activities that result in victimization;
- supports educational programs that target unlawful activity(ies) that results in victimization, particularly profit-motivated unlawful activity(ies);
- supports stakeholder organizations in addressing the incidence of unlawful activity(ies) that results in victimization, and/or its effects on victims; and/or
- enhances the ability of applicants to combat unlawful activity(ies) to reduce victimization, particularly through the use of technology and other innovations.

Vulnerable Victim is defined as a person, due to age, gender, race, Indigeneity, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics, requires additional support or protection in the justice process

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who is eligible?

The following organizations are eligible to apply to the Program:

- Not-for-profit organizations that are legal entities that assist victims of unlawful activities or prevent unlawful activities that result in victimization;
- Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations; and
- Organizations prescribed in section 6 of [O.Reg. 91/02 \(General\)](#). This includes all municipal law enforcement agencies in Ontario; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and First Nations Police Services.

Note: applications submitted by municipal law enforcement agencies, the RCMP, and First Nations Police Services must be developed and implemented in partnership with at least one community

agency/organization. Partner organizations must provide a letter of support to confirm their participation in the proposed initiative. The application must clearly identify one lead organization who, if successful, would be responsible for entering into a transfer payment agreement with the ministry and managing all aspects of the grant, including funding and reporting.

Application Requirements

- a) Community organizations, as well as Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations, may only apply on their own behalf but may also partner with one or more community agencies/organizations, confirmed by a letter of support from each partner organization. Where an application is submitted by an organization on behalf of a group of partner organizations who are collaborating on the proposal, the roles and responsibilities of each partner must be clearly defined in the application. (Note: all applications from municipal law enforcement agencies, the RCMP, and First Nations Police services must be submitted in partnership with at least one community agency/organization, and must demonstrate how each organization will be involved in the project.)
- b) Projects seeking funding must be:
 - one-time, non-recurring projects that do not create any expectation of future funding (e.g., an event-based project),
 - short-term or pilot projects, and/or
 - projects that can be sustained through existing resources once grant funding ends.
- c) Applicants must track and collect data on required ministry-identified outcomes (see Performance Measurement section).
- d) Objectives must be clearly articulated, tangible and have measurable indicators associated with them. It should be clearly stated how each component of a proposal is intended to meet the identified objective(s).
- e) Organizations must have legal status (e.g., organizations established by or under legislation; federally or provincially incorporated; band councils established under the Indian Act; or other Indigenous-led organizations that are incorporated) and must have been established for at least one year (12 months).
- f) Organizations must be able to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage, including but not limited to commercial general liability coverage.
- g) Organizations must not have a financial interest in the success of any forfeiture; and
- h) Funding must be expended within the fiscal years for which the grant is approved (e.g., April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028).

SCOPE OF PROJECT AND REQUIREMENTS

Projects must be related to one or more of the following priority victim population groups and/or crime types:

- Indigenous communities,
- children and youth,
- seniors,
- intimate partner and family violence,
- human trafficking,
- hate crimes,
- gun and gang violence, and/or
- rural/remote communities.

Projects can focus on prevention of unlawful activities that result in victimization, training, developing new resources, and providing or enhancing support to victims. Where there is a demonstrated need, projects can also focus on building capacity in intelligence gathering, identification, investigation, and/or prosecution.

Requests for training, education, and awareness campaigns should clearly outline the anticipated reach, estimated number of participants, associated travel expenses, and demonstrate how the training addresses a critical gap in the sector or other available trainings. Additionally, project proposals should justify why the proposed approach is the most effective way to deliver and disseminate the intended knowledge.

Grants must not compromise any of the following:

1. victim safety,
2. the effective investigation and prosecution of offences,
3. officer, staff or volunteer safety,
4. the integrity of ongoing investigations or prosecutions, or
5. the constitutional rights of individuals.

Grants must not influence either the decision to investigate in any way or the choice of civil versus criminal forfeiture.

Budget Requirements and Eligible Activities

Organizations may apply for multiple projects up to a maximum of \$400,000 total (\$200,000 maximum per project).

Funding for projects approved under this grant program is estimated to begin in **April 2026**. Projects must be completed, and grant funds must be expended by **March 31, 2028**. Any expenses incurred after this date are not permissible and will not be funded by the ministry. Any unspent or unreconciled grant funds will need to be returned to the ministry.

Funding will only be provided for staffing and other costs directly associated with the project.

Grants may supplement but cannot be used to offset or replace annual staffing and operating budgets. For instance, contract staff may be hired (or staff may be seconded) to carry out the project activities; however, costs associated with covering a portion of an existing staff member's annualized salary/benefits to carry out or oversee project activities in their current role are not permitted.

Grants must not be used to replace other sources of funding available to applicants (i.e., program or grant funding from the Ministry, other ministries or other levels of government).

Grant expenditures are subject to all applicable provincial and where applicable, federal financial and accounting controls and accountability measures.

Expenses related to travel, meal, and hospitality need to be in line with the Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet's [Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive](#).

Organizations must address all HST that is reimbursed.

Examples of eligible activities that could be funded through the CRG include, but are not limited to:

- **Pilot projects** that provide culturally appropriate and trauma informed support to victims and their families.
- **Early intervention programs** intended to prevent victimization (i.e., counselling intervention to prevent unlawful activities or reduce the risk of victimization).
- **Creating and/or providing specialized training** (i.e., training programs focused on hate crimes, guns and gangs, intimate partner violence, or family violence).
- **Development of mentorship programs, awareness campaigns, or educational resources** to prevent the recruitment of at-risk youth into unlawful activities.
- **Creation of an online platform** to store and manage data used by service providers engaged in prevention services.
- **Purchasing technology** to facilitate intelligence gathering and prevent unlawful activity.
- **Staffing and technology costs** that increase an organization's ability to serve more victims and families.

* Note: the above list provides sample activities and is not intended to be exhaustive.

The following items are not eligible for funding under the Program:

- capital expenditures (i.e., property and renovations, vehicles);
- standard health and safety requirements;
- weapons;
- uniforms;
- ammunition; or
- drones.

The Budget Definitions included in the Application Form set out the eligible expenses and how the applicant should capture them within the budget template. A maximum of 15% of total expenditures can be used for Administration/Administrative Costs.

For further information, please refer to the attached Budget Guidelines issued with this Call for Proposals.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Applicants are required to provide information related to four (4) key performance indicators (data elements). While not all performance indicators will apply to each project, applicants are asked to do their best to provide an accurate estimate.

Mandatory performance indicators that all applicants must provide during the application process (as applicable to their project) are as follows:

- Total number of victims served;
- Total number of training sessions held;
- Total number of people trained; and
- Total number of unique resources developed.

In addition to the four mandatory key performance indicators, applicants are also required to identify at least two (2) key performance indicators, including target outputs and outcomes that are relevant to their specific project.

For example:

Key Performance Indicator: Total number of bilateral referral agreements made between agencies

Goal/Target Output: # referral agreements

Goal/Target Outcome: Enhanced collaboration and coordination across agencies serving victims of crime

Key Performance Indicator: Number of mentorship sessions delivered to at-risk individuals

Goal/Target Output: # of mentorship sessions

Goal/Target Outcome: Increased supports for victims of crime; prevention of victimization/unlawful activities

Information provided at application will be used to identify a baseline target for each performance indicator, which will be used to track the status of the project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must:

Be vetted through a central authority – within that organization (listed below).

- **Organization:** Not-for-profit Organizations
- **Central Authority:** With support of their Governing Body (e.g., Board of Directors)
- **Organization:** Municipal and First Nations Police
- **Central Authority:** Respective Police Chiefs
- **Organization:** RCMP
- **Central Authority:** The RCMP Commissioner
- **Organization:** Indigenous communities and organizations
- **Central Authority:** With support of the respective Chief(s) and Council(s) or Executive Director

Be Prioritized - Ensure the priority sequence of applications is specified on the application form where more than one application is being submitted by an organization. Note: Prioritization given by an organization does not necessarily affect prioritization given by the Grant Review Committee.

Be Mindful of the Ministry’s obligations under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) – The Ministry is bound by FIPPA. Any information provided to the Ministry through the application process or in connection with any approved projects may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the Act. As such, all or part of an application and any attachments may be disclosed. Please provide only materials that are essential to the grant application. Any trade secret or any scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information submitted to the Ministry in confidence, which could reasonably be expected to result in certain harms as outlined in section 17 of FIPPA if released, should be clearly marked in the application.

Be compliant with all Ontario and Canada laws, including the French Language Services Act, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and Ontario’s Human Rights Code.

Be complete, comprehensive, and submitted via Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) by 5:00 p.m. EST on November 17, 2025. Incomplete applications, and/or any applications received after 5:00 p.m. EST on November 17, 2025 will not be considered for funding. No exceptions will be permitted.

Applications must be submitted electronically through TPON at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government>. To apply, applicants must have a “My Ontario Account”, and will need to register their organization in TPON. To register, applicants will need their Canada Revenue Agency Business Number, the legal name of the organization, the operating name of the organization, and contact information for at least two contacts within the organization, including one senior contact with signing authority. If the organization is already in TPON, the applicant can request to join the organization’s profile.

Please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government> for detailed steps on how to register and apply.

Confirmation of TPON access may take up to two business days. Please allow enough time to set up an account. The application form can only be accessed once you are registered for TPON. If you have any questions or are experiencing technical difficulties, please contact TPON Customer Service at (416) 325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or by email at TponCC@Ontario.ca.

Required Documentation

In addition to a letter of support from any partner agencies/organizations, all applicants are required to provide proof of legal status (e.g., articles of incorporation), a list of the organization's current board of directors that includes names, positions, contact information and signing authority, and a copy of the organization's most recent review engagement or audited financial statements prepared by a Licensed Public Chartered Professional Accountant. Audited financial statements should include: an income statement, balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenditures, and notes to statements, as well as the Auditor's letter outlining their opinion of the financial statements.

Successful applicants will also be required to provide additional information that will be used by the ministry to conduct a risk assessment. The purpose of the risk assessment is to ensure that public funds are being dispersed responsibly to organizations with a sound financial record and sufficient administrative capacity to manage program funding and achieve program goals.

Ministry Rights

In applying, the applicant is deemed to have acknowledged that the ministry may:

- verify with any applicant or with a third party any information set out in an application.
- at any time, and from time to time make changes, including substantial changes, to this guide and related documents including the application form by way of new information on the designated website.
- cancel this application and call for applications process at any stage of the application or evaluation process.
- reject any or all applications in its sole and absolute discretion.
 - fund legal entities for similar projects regardless of whether these entities have applied in response to this guide.

It is within the sole and absolute discretion of the Ministry to decide whether to approve (in whole or in part) any and all applications submitted for this grant program.

The ministry makes **no commitment to fund all applicants or any one applicant**. Even if an application meets all of the grant program's objectives and criteria, there is no guarantee that funding will be approved, as there may be other projects that, in the sole opinion of the ministry, more effectively meet the grant program's objectives. The ministry further does not guarantee that the total amount of funding requested by a successful applicant will be approved.

SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS

All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed and assessed by a formal Committee, comprised of ministry representatives and subject matter experts. The Review Committee's primary

objective will be to review and evaluate applications to ensure that eligibility criteria are met, and to confirm that applications have clear objectives, specific activities to achieve those objectives, a viable budget and implementation plan, an evaluation strategy, and performance measures that track the success of the project.

Note: incomplete applications and applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be screened out during the intake process and will not be evaluated by the Review Committee.

Selection Criteria

In reviewing applications, the Review Committee considers the following list of criteria:

- Project Summary (5 points)
 - Clear description of the project has been provided;
 - Description clearly explains how it will assist victims of crime and how it is new to the organization or how it will expand or enhance an existing program or project.
- Implementation Readiness (5 points)
 - Key staff required for the project have been identified;
 - Knowledge, skills, qualifications, and experience of key staff have been outlined;
 - Key staff identified have the qualifications and experience required to implement the project, or
 - If staff need to be recruited to support the project, the recruitment plan, including the recruitment approach, timelines, and any required training have been outlined.
- Demonstrated Need (5 points)
 - Application includes an explanation of how the project will address the needs of one or more of the priority victim population groups or crime types;
 - Project will address a serious issue or gap for victims of crime;
 - Current and reliable statistics and evidence have been provided.
- Population served and priority crime type (5 points)
 - Project will address the needs of one or more of the priority victim population groups or crime types;
 - Activities proposed will meet the needs of victims in a manner that is trauma informed and culturally appropriate.
- Innovation (5 points)
 - Applicant has explained how the project is novel and/or responsive either in approach or use of technology;
 - Applicant has explained how the project will leverage innovative practices and techniques to ensure that the project is responsive to the needs of the target population and community.

- Outcomes and Performance Measures (5 points)
 - Target outcomes have been identified for four (4) mandatory key performance indicators;
 - Two (2) additional key performance indicators have been identified that are relevant and reflect the positive impacts/ changes the project is anticipated to make.
- Project Work Plan and Activities (5 points)
 - A description of how the project will be implemented has been included;
 - Key milestones and activities have been outlined;
 - Activities will take place within a 24-month period;
 - Timelines and activities are realistic and achievable.
- Evaluation Strategy (5 points)
 - Applicant has described how the project will be evaluated to demonstrate achievement of the project's goals, impact and benefits;
 - A description of the potential for broader impact and applicability in other areas of the province has been provided.
- Partnerships (5 points)
 - Applicant has provided a description of how the project will leverage collaboration with appropriate community or other partners, including roles and responsibilities for each agency/organization;
 - Partnership/collaboration has been documented with a letter of support from the partner agency/organization that outlines the partner organization's role in the project;
 - Letter of support from a community organization shows strong support for the project and how the collaboration will benefit victims of crime.
- Project Budget (5 points)
 - All budget items that are associated with the project have been included;
 - The need/use for each budget item that requires Ministry funding has been described;
 - Applicant has provided an explanation of how the project is designed to be as cost-effective as possible and how the costs associated with the project cannot be met from other funding sources;
 - All budget items are eligible for funding;
 - Estimates provided are reasonable and realistic.

POST APPROVAL PROCESS

Once approvals are determined by the Ministry, the following steps are undertaken:

Applicants Advised

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the evaluation process and will be notified whether their submission was approved or not.

Grant Agreement

Recipients will receive an Agreement to execute their project which will indicate: approved funding (with full budget breakdown); reporting and compliance requirements; financial and audit guidelines (including return of funds if the project is cancelled and/or savings are realized); requirement to provide proof of insurance, etc.

Funding

Once Agreements are signed and returned with all required supporting documentation, funding will be distributed in accordance with the schedule set out in the Agreement.

Expenditures are subject to all applicable Provincial financial and accounting controls, accountability measures, and any other specific controls that may be applicable to the recipients. Additional requirements may be established to ensure grants are disbursed in accordance with the principles set out in this document and ensure compliance with Management Board Directives. A portion of the funding may be withheld, pending additional requirements or confirmation that performance measures are being met. Specific requirements will be explained and incorporated into Agreements.

Reporting

The Civil Remedies Grant Program is required to report on all transfer payment recipients' compliance with various Acts, i.e. the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act ("PSSDA"). These requirements will be incorporated into Agreements and/or grant recipients will be contacted regarding the PSSDA reporting and/or any other requirements.

Announcements

Grants will be announced through an appropriate Ministry communication vehicle, in consultation with recipients. Recipients are not permitted to make grant announcements without prior Ministry approval.

QUESTIONS

For assistance, please contact: MAG_CivilRemediesGrants@ontario.ca.

For assistance related to TPON, applicants may contact TPON Client Care at 416-325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090 or TPONCC@Ontario.ca.

TTY/Teletypewriter (for the hearing impaired): 416-325-3408 / Toll-free: 1-800-268-7095.

TPON Client Care is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.