# Accessibility Standards Development

## Community Engagement: Funding Information

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## Background

From May 31 to July 31 2024, people and organizations in British Columbia are invited to provide input on initial draft recommendations for new accessibility standards. The standards are meant to identify and remove barriers to accessing employment and accessing services from provincially regulated organizations. This feedback will be used to help shape standards recommendations the Provincial Accessibility Committee will send to the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) in 2025. These recommendations will form the basis of future accessibility regulations in B.C.

To ensure effective and meaningful participation in the upcoming public engagement, SDPR is providing funding to facilitate input and feedback from persons with disabilities, equity deserving groups, individuals and organizations that support persons with disabilities, rights holders, Indigenous partners, businesses and industry associations.

## Purpose

The funding will support organizations to host small group feedback sessions between May 31 and July 31, 2024.  This input will inform the final draft recommendations the Provincial Accessibility Committee will present to the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

## Eligibility requirements

Organizations/groups seeking funding to host community-led sessions must:

» Be an established organization located within British Columbia that represents, serves or works with priority population groups (see below).
» Be able to host virtual sessions and /or in-person roundtable session(s) in an accessible format for all participants.
» Accept feedback in accessible formats, such as video responses from ASL users.
» Be able to receive an e-transfer or cheque for the requested amount.
» Be able to submit a written report of the session feedback by September 30, 2024, using a template provided in the facilitation toolkit.
» Provide a simple breakdown of how the funding is spent.

Multiple organizations or partners can be included in a single application. We encourage applicants to clearly identify all active partners within their application.

## Maximum allowable funding

The maximum amount available for the community-led engagement sessions is $2,500 per organization/group. The amount of funding provided to each successful grantee will depend

on the number of community-led sessions proposed, expected number of participants and accommodations required.

## Priority populations

Limited funding is available and will be prioritized based on need and supporting engagements for prioritized population groups, including:

- » People with disabilities
- » People living in rural and remote communities
- » Seniors
- » Indigenous Peoples
- » Black and people of colour
- » Newcomers, immigrants and refugees
- » 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
- » Children and youth
- » Young adults

In order to facilitate an equitable process, ensuring diverse geographic representation may be considered in evaluating grant applications.

## General considerations for proposal submission

Funding will be available for engagement activities taking place between May 31 and July 31, 2024.

Funding will be allocated to applicants based on submitted proposals and funding availability. Each proposal will be assessed independently. Funding applications will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis until funds are expended.

If you are unable to submit a proposal for funding but still wish to participate in the engagement process, please send your feedback through a written submission on the draft recommendations by email to EngageAccessibility@gov.bc.ca. You may also submit feedback through the various online submission options provided on our engagement webpage including an online questionnaire.

## Proposal requirements

All proposals must include, at minimum:

- » A completed application form

» The scope of engagement (how many people, groups or organizations will be included in your activities)
» Budgeted expenditures that link to planned activities
» A commitment to clear outcomes/deliverables, including a report or summary of findings that includes feedback from participants that will contribute to draft accessibility recommendations

## Proposal submission process

Complete the accessibility standards engagement funding application here.

You can also complete a funding application offline in your preferred format and submit it by email to: accessiblebc@urbansystems.ca.

## Deadline

The deadline to submit a proposal is June 30, 2024, at 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time. Applications received after the deadline will be considered if resources permit.

## Funding Stipulations and Terms

The funding is designated specifically for community-led session expenses.

| Eligible costs | Non-eligible costs |
|---|---|
| Food for participants | |
| Participant honoraria | Salaries and fees not directly related to delivering the project |
| Transportation costs for participants | Fundraising beyond project cost-recovery |
| Childcare for participants | Capital projects |
| Wellness support | Major equipment purchases |
| Venue bookings | Alcohol |
| Organizational staff time required to coordinate and facilitate the roundtables | Recurring business expenses, such as: utilities, insurance, rent, payroll expenses etc |
| Interpretation or translation services (e.g., ASL, CART, etc.) | Rental of office space |
| Reasonable wages/staff time and administration costs | Utility, telephone, and other recurring expenses |

All funds are to be used for outreach activities outlined in the organization/group grant application. Significant changes to the use of funds must be approved by SDPR. Funds may

not be transferred to other activities or organizations, except when acting as the fiscal agent for another organization who is running an eligible activity.

Grants will be paid in one installment to the organization/group. Organizations/groups will be required to retain all supporting receipts. Receipts only need to be submitted if requested by the Ministry. Unspent funds must be reported to the Ministry in the Final Report in the 'additional questions' section.

The organization must repay funds if:

» Outreach activities are not undertaken or completed;
» The organization is no longer eligible;
» The organization provides fraudulent or inaccurate information;
» Payment was made in error; or
» If the organization has not complied with the terms and stipulations for the payment.

## Reporting Requirements

The Final Report (template is provided) is to be submitted to accessiblebc@urbansystems.ca by September 30, 2024.

**Note:** If some or all of your activities are in partnership with another organization that received funding, EACH organization is responsible for submitting their own unique Final Report to account for their activities.

### Contact Us

If you require assistance, please contact: accessiblebc@urbansystems.ca