



# Community Funding Opportunities!

Hope **Thrives** Here



APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**AUGUST 21 &  
OCTOBER 23, 2026**



**LEARN MORE & APPLY**

**<https://ccat.ca/>**

## PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS

Guided by its mission to serve those on the margins and demonstrating its commitment to responding to emerging community needs, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT) has expanded its Community Grants Program. Through this expanded program, we aim to support and partner with organizations that address critical social needs in communities across the Archdiocese of Toronto<sup>1</sup> and demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding human dignity and promoting the flourishing of individuals through their programs, services, and operations.

The expansion is made possible through a generous legacy gift and a strategic investment to support CCAT's member agencies and other community organizations whose work reflects the values and community priorities outlined in this program.

This document summarizes the expansion of our community grants to align with projects and initiatives intended to respond to the following seven identified community needs:

- Food security
- Housing/homelessness
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Migrants and refugees
- Palliative care
- People with disabilities
- Seniors

The first four areas were identified through recent environmental scans and stakeholder feedback conducted by the Center for Organizational Effectiveness for CCAT's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, while the last three were identified in CCAT's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Archdiocese of Toronto includes the City of Toronto, the regional municipalities of Peel, York and Durham and Simcoe County.

## 2026 CALL FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT) is pleased to invite applications for its 2026 Community Grants Program. We welcome applications from organizations that are working to address pressing community needs in the City of Toronto, the regional municipalities of Peel, York, and Durham, and Simcoe County.

The Community Grants support initiatives that promote human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, the common good, and a preferential option for the poor; values that are rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and shared by many organizations across the charitable sector.

This funding opportunity is open to registered charities, non-profit organizations, and other eligible entities<sup>2</sup> whose proposed projects address one or more of the identified community needs.

For 2026, we have committed \$700,000 across seven priority areas. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

## PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS

Applications are invited for new or ongoing initiatives addressing one or more of the following priority areas. Depending on the priority area, eligible projects may include direct service delivery, capacity building, community engagement, advocacy, education, or systems-change initiatives.

### 1. Food Security

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ improved access to affordable and nutritious food through community-based approaches (this can include community gardens, urban farms, rooftop gardens, or community kitchens),
- ✓ building food skills and nutrition knowledge,
- ✓ strengthening local food systems, or
- ✓ increasing organizational capacity to address food insecurity or advocate for policy changes that can contribute to addressing food insecurity

*(Note: Food banks, meal programs, and other direct food relief initiatives are not eligible under this program because dedicated funding for these activities is available through ShareLife's Food Security Grants Program.)*

### 2. Housing/Homelessness

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ prevention of homelessness,
- ✓ provision of supportive or transitional housing supports,
- ✓ Creation of innovative community housing solutions,
- ✓ outreach and shelter services,
- ✓ accompaniment/supportive service models, or
- ✓ strengthening organizational capacity to address housing insecurity or advocate for policy changes that can contribute to addressing inadequate housing and homelessness.

### **3. Mental health and wellbeing**

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ Mental health promotion,
- ✓ Therapeutic counselling and/or support services,
- ✓ Day treatment,
- ✓ Peer group,
- ✓ Child and youth development,
- ✓ Wellness programming,
- ✓ Residential treatment,
- ✓ Employment, housing and employment supports, or
- ✓ Innovative approaches, including advocacy, to improving wellbeing

### **4. Migrants and refugees**

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ Settlement,
- ✓ Integration,
- ✓ Accompaniment,
- ✓ Mentorship,
- ✓ Education,
- ✓ Housing,
- ✓ Employment, or
- ✓ Community participation for migrants and refugees
- ✓ Innovative approaches, including advocacy, to improving the plight of migrants and refugees

### **5. Palliative care**

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ Hospice care,
- ✓ Home-based palliative care,
- ✓ Caregiver support,
- ✓ Bereavement services,
- ✓ Advance care planning, or
- ✓ Compassionate end-of-life care
- ✓ Innovative approaches to palliative care, including advocacy efforts in improving patient care

### **6. People with disabilities**

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ Belonging,
- ✓ Accessibility,
- ✓ Participation,
- ✓ Respite care,
- ✓ Caregiver support,
- ✓ Housing,
- ✓ Employment,
- ✓ Community engagement for people with disabilities
- ✓ Innovative approaches, including advocacy, to improving the lives of people with disabilities

## 7. Seniors

Eligible projects that support:

- ✓ Reduction of social isolation,
- ✓ aging in place,
- ✓ Provision of companionship and practical assistance,
- ✓ Strengthening of intergenerational connections, or
- ✓ Improving the quality of life of seniors, including advocacy efforts

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We encourage applications from:

- Registered charities
- Non-profit organizations
- Community organizations or grassroots initiatives sponsored or trusteeed by an eligible charity
- Indigenous organizations

Projects should serve residents of the Archdiocese of Toronto and address one or more of the identified funding priorities.

## GRANT CYCLE

In 2026, there are two grant cycles: 1 Summer Cycle and 1 Fall Cycle.

**Application deadlines:** Summer Cycle - August 14, 2026  
Fall Cycle - October 16, 2026

If you are unsure whether your organization or project is eligible, we encourage you to contact us via email [allocations@ccat.ca](mailto:allocations@ccat.ca) before applying.

Funding decisions for each cycle will be made by September 2026 and November 2026, respectively.

Applications and supporting documents should be submitted to [allocations@ccat.ca](mailto:allocations@ccat.ca)

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### Organizational Eligibility

- Be a registered Canadian charity, qualified donee, or be sponsored/trusteed by a registered charity or qualified donee.
- Operate within or provide services that directly benefit residents within the geographical borders of the Archdiocese of Toronto: the City of Toronto, regional municipalities of Peel, York, Durham, and Simcoe County.
- Be governed by an active Board of Directors or equivalent governing body.
- Demonstrate sound financial management and organizational stability.
- Provide audited financial statements or independently reviewed financial statements from the most recent fiscal year.

## Values Alignment

- Demonstrate alignment with the values outlined in the Community Grants Funding Philosophy
- Serve individuals and families without discrimination
- Demonstrate practices and activities that respect human life and dignity and contribute positively to individual and community well-being.
- Demonstrate commitment to compassion, belonging, and service for all
- Demonstrate responsible stewardship of resources

## Project Eligibility

- Address one or more of the seven priority funding areas
- Benefit vulnerable, marginalized, isolated, or underserved populations
- Demonstrate measurable community impact
- Must be started and in place within the first two months, once the grant is received
- Include a realistic budget and implementation plan
- Budget identifies other funding sources and their contribution to support implementation
- Demonstrate financial need and responsible stewardship of resources
- Foster community participation

## INELIGIBLE REQUESTS

- Deficit reduction or debt repayment
- Political activities
- Endowment campaigns
- Capital projects not directly connected to service delivery
- Retroactive funding for completed projects
- Food banks, meal programs, and other direct food relief initiatives are not eligible under this program. Organizations seeking support for these activities are encouraged to explore ShareLife's Food Security Grants Program. [slife@archtoronto.org](mailto:slife@archtoronto.org).

## FUNDING CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of community volunteers and CCAT staff based on the five criteria:

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
Alignment with Priority Area and Mission	25%
Community Need and Impact	25%
Program Design and Innovation	20%
Organizational Capacity	15%
Budget and Value for Funding	15%
Total	100%

Each criterion is scored on a 5-point scale.

## FUNDING DECISION PARAMETERS

Score	Recommendation
85% - 100%	Strongly recommend for funding
75% - 84%	Recommend for funding (second priority)
65% - 74%	Recommend if funding is available
50% - 64%	Not recommended
Below 50%	Do not fund

The volunteer panel and/or the Membership and Allocations Committee may consider other factors, including geographic distribution, underserved populations, opportunities for collaboration, and emerging community needs, when finalizing funding recommendations for the CCAT Board.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- All pages of the application must be completed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Grants are not typically awarded to fund 100% of the budget for an initiative or project/program need.
- Any unspent grant funds must be returned to CCAT within 30 days of project completion.

## PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Successful grant recipients will be required to:

- Sign a funding agreement
- Submit interim reports when requested by CCAT
- Provide an end-of-project report, including an expense report, within 30 days of project completion. This will include a report on results, outcomes and/or community impact, including testimonials or program users' stories, when available, for our own use and purposes
- Participate in activities as defined in the funding agreement

Failure to meet reporting requirements may affect future funding eligibility.