



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Deadline: 5pm on Thursday, November 29, 2018

Please review the FAQ document along with the Submission Guidelines before beginning your application.

1. HOW IS THIS GRANT STREAM DIFFERENT FROM VITAL IDEAS AND VITAL PEOPLE?

Vital Ideas and Leadership is an enhanced and integrated grant stream. Vital Ideas and Leadership grants are up to \$50,000 that support Toronto-based organizations to implement:

- “The idea” – strategic activities to position an initiative for deeper impact (like the Vital Ideas grant stream) - \$30,000 to \$40,000,
- Professional development – to support key leadership for the idea (like the Vital People grant stream in supporting leaders) - \$5,000 to \$10,000, and
- Evaluation – to develop an evaluation framework to measure the deepened impact of the initiative - \$5,000 to \$10,000.

2. WHAT ACTIVITIES DO VITAL IDEAS AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS SUPPORT?

- Vital Ideas and Leadership grants support capacity-building strategic activities that help make an initiative more sustainable and effective.
- These grants are not program funding. They enable proven, high-impact organizations to expand their reach and improve their impact.
- The support of these strategic activities is meant to be a one-time investment, which will set the stage for deeper impact.

3. WHAT DOES DEEPER IMPACT MEAN?

Each organization will have the best sense of the impact of their work towards improving quality of life for Torontonians. Please identify what areas you will focus on to enhance your impact. They may include:

- Service improved
- Access increased
- Replicating or expanding your model

4. WHO CAN APPLY?

The Vital Ideas and Leadership grant stream is open to any charitable organization registered with Canada Revenue Agency whose work directly benefits the quality of life for residents of the city of Toronto. For organizations that do not have charitable status, but would still like to be considered for the Vital Ideas and Leadership grant stream, please see the "[Who Can Apply?](#)" section on our website for information on partnerships with a charitable organization and what elements must be included in a signed agreement.

5. WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Organization:

- Articulates a solid understanding of good practice addressing issues raised in [Toronto's Vital Signs Report](#).
- Is high-impact:
 - Works for social change through education and/or advocacy (not a band-aid solution);
 - Adapts and innovates to ever-changing needs and conditions;
 - Inspires participants or end-recipients to become effective advocates;
 - Nurtures networks and partnerships with other organizations;
 - Has a strong and diversified funding base;
 - Shares leadership and best practices with others.

The Idea:

- Is at a stage in its development that justifies the support requested (i.e. not in the pilot stage).
- Is on a trajectory of success:
 - Programming is successful, and has a demonstrable track record;
 - There is a plan for deepening impact and the organization is now in a position to activate it;
 - The activities proposed for the use of funds align with that plan and will enable the organization to have deeper impact in the future.
- Impact to date presents a compelling opportunity for the Foundation's investment to make a significant difference in Toronto's quality of life.

Professional Development:

- For lead staff within the organization who are or will be instrumental in implementing the initiative and/or the grant activities.
- They are initiators, innovators, and collaborators, and they do more than just perform their jobs well – they break new ground and advance their organizations, and possibly their field.
- A well-articulated alignment between proposed professional development activities and the anticipated outcomes of the activities for the initiative to achieve deeper impact.

Evaluation:

To develop an evaluation framework to measure the enhancement and deepened impact of the initiative after this grant is complete. The framework will:

- Specify objectives for deepening impact in measurable terms;

- Identify possible metrics and evaluation tools;
- Identify key indicators of success;
- Outline data collection and analysis activities; and
- Detail a timeline to monitor the success of the activities to deepen the initiative's impact on an ongoing basis.

6. WHAT IS THE SUBMISSION PROCESS?

By e-mail: the complete application in Word format (with all required attachments) must be **received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2018**. All applications received will be acknowledged by e-mail by December 14, 2018.

By email:

In ONE EMAIL please e-mail the Application Form **in Word format** with all attachments to:

Tyler Demers

Program Officer

tdemers@torontofoundation.ca.

The Application Form must **NOT** be a PDF.

7. WHAT IS THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS?

Foundation staff will review all applications and will contact the short-listed applicants in February 2019. All other applicants who did not make the short-list will receive email notification that their request for grant funds has been declined.

A volunteer Selection Committee (comprised of Toronto Foundation Fundholders, Board Members, partners, previous grant recipients and other community leaders) will deliberate on the short-listed applications in March 2019 and final granting decisions will be made at the end of March. Grantees will be notified in April.

Feedback on proposals will be available in April 2019 once all final decisions are made.

8. WHAT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT THERE BE IN ADDITION TO THE GRANT FUNDS?

In addition to making grants, Toronto Foundation offers additional avenues to connect philanthropy to community needs and opportunities:

- Events by invitation
- Events open to the public (ie. Toronto's Vital Signs Launch)
- Social media opportunities – please send us photos and videos of your work and its impact.