



Healing Fund Criteria and Guidelines

The Healing Fund supports healing, language, and cultural projects for Indigenous communities affected by the Indian Residential School System and its intergenerational impacts. The overall purpose of every project is to promote healing.

Application Process

1. Download an application from the United Church website under Healing Fund (search “Healing Fund” on www.united-church.ca) or contact the Healing Programs Coordinator (healing@united-church.ca) for assistance.
2. Carefully review the Healing Fund Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Fill out the application.
4. Submit your application and supporting documents by mail, fax, or e-mail by the deadline. Sending in your original copies is not necessary.
5. There are two funding cycles. New applications should be submitted by the following dates:
 - a. **March 15** at 11:59 pm ET (for projects beginning on or after June 1)
 - b. **September 15** at 11:59 pm ET (for projects beginning on or after December 1)
6. Applications received after these deadlines are not considered.
7. The Healing Programs Coordinator will contact you about the Healing Programs Working Group’s decision in May (for March 15 applications) or November (for September 15 applications).

Healing Fund Criteria

Successful applications will most closely reflect the criteria outlined here:

1. Applications will be specific as to how proposed projects will address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system and intergenerational trauma through innovative healing, cultural and/or language projects.
2. Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Successful applicants in good standing (i.e., submitted their reports) may apply again after three years.
3. Applicants will be an Indigenous group (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit); community (urban, rural, or remote); or agency.
4. Projects will be part of a community-based program or grassroots initiative.
5. Applications will request an amount for their project (up to a maximum of \$15,000) to use within one year starting from either June 1 (for March 15 applications) or December 1 (for September 15 applications).
6. Applications will include two letters of support: one from a local agency and one from a member of the community.
7. Projects will use trauma-informed practices (i.e., aftercare) to promote the emotional safety of participants, where necessary.
8. Indigenous applicants may apply with non-Indigenous applicants. We encourage Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants to follow the principles, norms, and standards of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) as a guide in your work together.

Types of Projects Funded

The process of healing is unique to each Indigenous community; a variety of projects have received funding from the Healing Fund. Types of project supported by the Healing Fund in the past include

- healing circles, sharing circles, and other programs for residential school survivors and their children
- residential school reunions
- workshops and training for Elders, resource people, counsellors, and parents
- language and culture recovery programs
- traditional and cultural events, including gatherings for Elders and youth with a focus on wellness
- collecting and publishing stories in books, newsletters, and other media such as videos, DVDs, and CDs
- healing for young people and Two Spirit people

Types of Projects Not Funded

The Healing Fund will not consider applications that are

- from or for the benefit of an individual
- to reduce accumulated capital or operating deficits, or to retire debt
- for general operating costs not linked to a project that meets the fund's granting criteria
- for building projects
- for furniture or capital equipment purchases
- for salaries or wages
- for non-Indigenous churches/ministries
- for education tuition
- for projects already in progress
- for projects that have outstanding reports

Budget

All applications will include a budget outlining expenses and a requested amount (up to a maximum of \$15,000). The Healing Fund may cover transportation, food, materials, rentals, honoraria (\$100 per day), facilitators' fees (\$250 per day), and the like. If your project expenses are more than \$15,000, clearly outline the items you would like the Healing Fund to support.

If the budget is unclear, your project may receive less than the amount requested or your application may be returned to you to revise for the next funding cycle.

The budget will not include wages, salaries, administrative costs, or capital costs such as purchasing property, furniture, and/or office equipment. If these items are included in the budget, they will be subtracted from the requested amount.

All applications will specify any additional sources of funding and in-kind donations.

Approved Projects

- All approved applicants will receive a letter outlining the funding amount, cheque, receipt, and funding agreement.
- Cheques are made payable to organizations and community grassroots groups (not to individuals). Be sure to specify the name and mailing address of the organization or group to whom the cheque is payable.
- All approved applicants will submit an interim or final report and budget detailing their progress, successes, learnings, and outcomes.
- Successful applicants that complete their reports will be eligible for funding again three years after the end of their project.

If you have additional questions, contact the Healing Programs Coordinator or Program Assistant.

Contact Information

The Healing Fund
c/o The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Healing Programs Coordinator or Program Assistant, Indigenous Ministries and Justice

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