

# Grant Policy

***The small grants initiative is designed to meet a specific need or a specific project that would not otherwise be able to happen or would be significantly impacted without funding.***

Our Cowichan- Communities Health Network (OCCHN) recognizes that each of the Cowichan Communities is unique and that the determinants of health involve many factors. OCCHN strives to improve the overall health of our communities and in so doing supports community initiatives that directly address one or more of the determinants of health as defined by Health Canada and the OCCHN strategic plan.

Our Cowichan will budget annually for ***one-time only*** community grants. The maximum funding for any one initiative will be limited and determined with the annual budget. *Depending on the number of eligible submissions not all requests may be funded*. OCCHN is committed to a fair funding process, therefore all grants intakes will be advertised publicly and funding decided by a committee using the criteria outlined below.

## Our Cowichan will support initiatives that:

* Are linked to OCCHN goals, vision and strategic plan ***priorities***, and;
* Expand and enhance capacities of local people and communities, and;
* Show evidence of community collaboration, and;
* Build on community strengths and resources, and;
* Are funded 50% or more by another source***(s)-this may be your organization or another source*** in ***cash or in kind***, and;
* Involve the people of the communities or target groups that the initiative is intended to address, and;
* Can serve as a model for other communities and / or community organizations, and;
* Are likely to have a positive long-term impact on the targeted population.

## Our Cowichan will not fund:

* Lobbying or political activities
* Office supplies ***or assets including furniture, office equipment***
* Operational or core costs which include:
  + ***Ongoing operating expenses already undertaken by the organization***
  + ***Salaries including: project management, admin support, administration fees***
  + ***Core or ongoing programming***
* Capital projects such ***as renovations***, ***storage structures, fencing***
* Fundraising activities, ***organizational fundraising or for profit.***

OCCHN requires a final report at the completion of the project including an account of how the funds were spent.