

FIRE Program: Cultural Connection Fund (CCF) FAQs

How much funding can I request?

You can request up to \$4,000 for your cultural connection initiative. Your budget may be less or more than the limit, and that's okay! All budgets will be unique to your particular initiative. The max amount that you are eligible to receive from us for your cultural connection experience is \$4,000.

What does it mean to have a cultural connection experience that “has a connection to Edmonton/ Amiskwaciwâskahikan?”

This means that your cultural connection activity might be based in Edmonton (eg. a historical or cultural connection to the kisiskāciwani-sīpiy), that knowledge learned during your cultural connection experience will be shared with communities in Edmonton in the future. It can also mean that there are people who are a pivotal part of your cultural connection experience in Edmonton.

If you have any questions on whether your activity/experience has a connection to Edmonton, please reach out to the FIRE grant coordinator at fire@edmontonheritage.ca.

I'm an Indigenous person living on a First Nations reserve or in Métis Settlement in Treaty 6, am I eligible to apply?

Yes! Indigenous peoples living on First Nations reserves and/or Métis Settlements in Treaty 6 are encouraged to apply provided they can demonstrate that their cultural connection activity has a connection to Edmonton in some way.

What is the difference between the FIRE Impact Grant and the Cultural Connection Fund?

The FIRE Impact grant provides up to \$10,000 and funds larger-scale projects that engage broader audiences and engages in community storytelling and heritage work. The Cultural Connection Fund (CCF) provides up to \$4,000 to support cultural connection experiences that strengthen personal and community ties to Indigenous culture and heritage. While CCF supports individual and small-group activities, FIRE Impact is designed for projects with a broader public heritage impact.

What is the visiting way?

The visiting-way, or [keeoukaywin](#), is a Cree and Métis cultural practice that centers relationship building, kinship, and reciprocity. In the Cultural Connection Fund, the visiting way allows applicants to replace the formal written application with a decolonial methodology through storytelling, trust-building, and community interaction.

What if I choose to complete the visiting application?

If you choose to complete a visiting application you will meet in person with EHC staff, likely the FIRE Grant Coordinator and/or the Indigenous Initiative Lead, to share about your cultural connection opportunity over tea. Your visit will be recorded and transcribed so that the peer juror and reviewers will be able to look at your application alongside any written or video/audio applications that are received that month. You will hear about the results of your application within 6 weeks of the end of the month in which you applied.

What kind of initiatives does the Cultural Connection Fund support?

The Cultural Connection Fund supports attendance, organization, or participation in opportunities that will enhance applicants' cultural knowledge and participation.

Some examples of how the Cultural Connection Fund can be used include: travelling to another treaty or province to attend a ceremony, purchasing supplies to make regalia, organizing a sweat in Edmonton, meeting with an Elder or Knowledge Keeper and ensuring that proper protocol, honorarium and gifts are given, and more.

If you are unsure of whether your cultural connection opportunity or initiative is eligible for CCF please reach out to fire@edmontonheritage.ca or book an appointment with the FIRE Grant Coordinator [here](#)

If I'm not Indigenous, can I apply?

No. This funding stream is intended for Indigenous individuals and Indigenous small groups

What does it mean to apply as a small group?

A small group can be between 2-12 people and is defined as a group that works closely together toward a common goal, but that is not formally incorporated as an organization or non-profit. This can include Indigenous collectives but does not include organizations or non-profits. If you are part of a larger group, organization, or non-profit, or have a larger project, we encourage you to look at our [FIRE Impact grant](#)

Can I apply for CCF funding more than once?

You can apply for CCF as many times as you want; however, you can only receive Cultural Connection Funding once per calendar year. For example, if you are unsuccessful in January then you can apply again in February but once you receive a grant, you will not be eligible to apply again until the next calendar year.

What happens after I submit?

Once you submit your application, it is checked for eligibility by our staff and then sent to our review jury for consideration. If your application is incomplete or you have errors in things like your budget, staff will reach out and give you time to correct the errors. You will be notified of whether or not you received funding within 6 weeks of the monthly review.

How does the Cultural Connection Fund jury process work?

The Cultural Connection Fund uses a mixed-review process to ensure that applications can be reviewed monthly and that applicant receive notification of results in a reasonable timeframe. This means that applications will be reviewed by two Indigenous EHC staff and one external peer reviewer.

How long will it take for me to learn the results of my application?

Applications are reviewed monthly at the end of the month. Notification of funding can take up to Four (4) weeks following the monthly review (e.g. if an application is submitted in mid-April, and the notification would be sent by the end of May). The event must be completed within one (1) year of notification of funding.

I am a student. Can I submit?

Absolutely! CCF excludes educational institutions and government-owned and/or operated facilities, but students can submit. Individuals employed by educational institutions and government-owned facilities can also submit, if they can demonstrate their initiative is outside the scope of their professional role within the organization.

How long do I have to complete my cultural connection experience?

Your cultural connection experience should have a start and completion date that is within 12 months of receiving funding. Please note that we understand that initiatives often experience delays, shifts, and scheduling changes, so we are flexible and open to granting extensions if necessary!

What if my project expenses are greater than my revenues, or vice versa?

Your budget must balance, meaning your total revenues and total expenses match. If the expenses are greater than your revenues, or vice versa, this is an unbalanced budget, and the application may be deemed ineligible for funding. A balanced budget shows that your project is feasible. If your expenses are higher than your revenues, you will have to think of other revenue sources you can include in your budget or scale back on your expenses. If your revenues are higher than your expenses, then your grant funding request should be lower because we do not provide surplus grant funding. Here is a sample of a balanced budget. Please contact us at fire@edmontonheritage.ca if you need support in developing a balanced budget.

I want to ensure that I am participating in cultural connection in a good way but am reconnecting so am not sure where to start.

Ensuring you understand protocol and community-minded intention when taking part in a cultural connection experience, it is important! We suggest consulting the Indigenous Protocols for the Visual Arts resource:
<https://www.indigenousprotocols.art/>

Read more about the Cultural Connection Fund and other [grant opportunities](#) through EHC. Please contact fire@edmontonheritage.ca with any questions.