

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants (R-NSG)

Please note the Terms and Conditions below have been modified for this year in line with the Province of British Columbia public health guidelines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Because these guidelines are subject to change on short notice, we recommend staying in close contact with your NSG Coordinator and monitor the provincial health orders.

1. What are Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants and their purpose?

The **Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants (R-NSG)** is a new grant stream created to support small scale community projects that comply to the new social/physical distancing guidelines. The purpose of R-NSG is to build community strength and resilience, foster community creativity and wellbeing and tackle social isolation.

2. Who can apply for Responsive NSG?

Anyone from an NSG community is eligible to apply for R-NSG of up to \$500. This includes all residents in the RDOS/SOS. Projects can be carried out by **individuals and/or family members** with proper social distancing practices. Charities, business, and service clubs are not eligible to apply.

3. Where can projects take place?

Projects must take place **from/close to** one's home in order to accommodate the self-isolation public health requirements.

4. What are Responsive NSG eligible projects?

- Projects that can ease social isolation of vulnerable people with physical distancing in mind
Example: Dropping off care packages of dry goods to elderly or other vulnerable people from safe distance
- Projects that use, share and exchange local assets/gifts using online platforms such as **ZOOM, FaceTime, Skype**
Example: Arts and culture workshops, cooking demonstrations, storytelling or yoga and meditation sessions

5. What kind of materials can be included in care packages?

Dry goods including canned food items, healthy snacks, toiletries, water bottles, grocery cards can be included into care packages. Food can be distributed **ONLY** if it's prepared at a 'food safe' kitchen where at least one person has Food safe training. If fresh fruits or veggies are included in a package, it's important that there is an accompanying note to properly wash fresh foods before consumption.

6. Are social gatherings eligible for Responsive NSG?

Indoor activities are prohibited. All projects would have to take place in accordance with the PHO and local health authority guidelines (as of 03/31/21):

- Up to 10 people may gather at a park or beach
- Up to 10 people may gather in the backyard of a residence

7. Are community garden or boulevard gardening projects eligible for Responsive NSG?

Yes, individuals with their families with proper social distancing measures can carry out boulevard gardening and/or beautifying of public space projects nearby.

Community garden projects that comply to social distancing of two meters apart are eligible. Community gardens will need to:

- have sign up sheets to assign all members specific dates and times for gardening in order to reduce crowding
- gardeners will need to use their own protective gloves and disinfect shared garden tools before and after usage

8. Can Responsive NSG projects take place at public parks?

Projects that follow social distancing and municipal by-laws are eligible. Projects that require a municipality/park board permit or a liability insurance might take longer time to process due to COVID-19.

9. What is the grant amount limit on Responsive NSG?

Grant requests for Responsive NSG projects are expected to be under \$500.

10. What kind of expenses can the Responsive NSG cover?

The goal of the grant is to contribute to expenses associated with your project such as canned goods, art and craft supplies, building supplies, gift cards, Zoom, Skype or Zoom subscriptions and honorariums or other items as necessary.

11. Can I use some of the Responsive NSG towards honorariums?

Yes, you may budget up to \$350 towards honorariums for skill sharing projects such as an artist facilitating drawing workshop for children and adults. You may pay yourself or someone else for in-kind skills or knowledge contributions. The decision on the honorarium amount is decided on a case-by-case basis by the Neighbourhood Grants Committee members.

12. How many Responsive NSG can I apply for?

You can apply for **one** NSG project at a time and as soon as you complete your project and upon the submission of your project story to your local NSG Coordinator, you can **reapply for another grant**.

13. Are organizations or businesses eligible to apply for Responsive-NSG?

Registered charity organizations and businesses are **not eligible** to apply. Service delivery and emergency relief programs supporting low-income and other vulnerable people are out of the scope of NSG.

14. Who delivers the Responsive NSG program across the province?

CFSOS delivers the Responsive NSG program in the South Okanagan|Similkameen; and “flow through” partnerships include administrative support via the RDOS and local municipal governments.

If you would like to learn more the provincial program, please visit the following:

<https://neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca/communities/>

15. Who reviews the responsive NSG applications?

One of the core values of Neighbourhood Small Grants is that residents know what is best for their community. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds and life experiences are organized **in Neighbourhood Grant Committes** (NGC) according to their community or regions across the province to review the applications and make grant decisions. If you are interested to volunteer for a NGC in your area, please contact your local NSG Coordinator.

16. When will I know about the status of my grant application?

There is no deadline for the Responsive-NSG applications so you should hear about the status of your application within two weeks. However, the cheque/award will take up to six weeks.

Neighbourhood Small Grants in the South Okanagan|Similkameen are co-funded by:



Flow-through partner



Inquires contact:

Kim English, Regional NSG Coordinator kimenglish@cfso.net

To apply visit:

www.cfso.net

To read the most up to date guidelines please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus#orders>