

COVID-19 updates for Community Gaming Grant recipients and applicants

Effective: **February 01, 2023**

Community Gaming Grants is committed to supporting not-for-profit organizations through the transition from COVID-19 back to regular programming. There has been no change to the annual \$140 million budget for Community Gaming Grants.

Since 2020, Community Gaming Grants has made temporary changes to program criteria to help not-for-profit organizations continue to provide vital services to British Columbians throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Many organizations have adapted and made the necessary changes required to continue delivering programs and services in their communities. To ensure that grant funds are provided to the organizations and programs that need it the most, Community Gaming Grants will apply temporary criteria changes for those applicants who are able to demonstrate they have a need for funding and are still being impacted by COVID-19.

Applying for 2023/24 grants

Applications for 2023/24 grants open on February 1, 2023. We are processing applications as they come in.

For the 2023/24 grant year, the following criteria may not be enforced, or may remain flexible if an applicant can demonstrate their programming continues to be impacted as a direct result of COVID-19:

- Government funding made up more than 75% of your program's operating costs in the previous year.
- Your organization had more than 50% of its previous year operating expenses on hand in the form of current cash assets and investments.

Applicants must explain in the application how program(s) were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and provide the current balance of the gaming account as of the date of the application.

To demonstrate that the program has been impacted by COVID-19, the applicant should provide details to support this. Depending on the reason that COVID-19 has continued to impact programming, the following could be demonstrated in the application:

- Explain why government funding is high due to COVID-19 (e.g., include the name and amount received in COVID-related grants in your financials and whether these grants have been spent).
- Explain why programming has not transitioned back to previous operating levels as a direct result of COVID-19.

Community Gaming Grants Branch

- Explain whether programming for 2022 was postponed or cancelled as a direct result of COVID-19.
- Provide pre COVID-19 financials that do not show an operating surplus and show that expenses are continuing to increase to normal levels.

Using grant funds

Grant funds may only be used to support the direct delivery of programming. If programs are not running, funding can't be used for your organization's general operating expenses, even if you are unable to deliver programming because of COVID-19.

Grant funds awarded in 2023/24 must be used within 12 months of receipt. If you are unable to do so, you must contact us for approval to hold the funds for longer. You should include:

- A description of any postponements or cancellations to your programming.
 - The reasons for retaining the grant funds beyond 12 months.
 - The amount of funds to be retained.
 - The proposed purposes and timeline for disbursement of those funds.
-

CONTACT INFORMATION

Web: <https://gov.bc.ca/gaminggrants>

Email: CommunityGamingGrants@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-356-1081

Toll-free: 1-800-663-7867