



## United Way of Peterborough & District – Neighbourhood Fund 2026

Thanks to over 80 years of donor support, United Way of Peterborough & District (UWP) has a proud history of working with local groups and agencies to transform our community. Working with our donors and our community, UWP seeks to change social conditions to create opportunities for a better life for individuals, families, and communities by making our community a better place to live for everyone.

**This request for proposals is for grants between \$500-\$5,000 to support community projects taking place between August 1, 2026 and July 31, 2027. A total of up to \$30,000 is available through the Neighbourhood Fund.**

UWP's Neighbourhood Fund provides small, one-time grants to support informal groups of individuals that are working together to improve their community within the City and County of Peterborough. This funding will support residents to identify solutions to local community issues and act on them. The UWP Neighbourhood Fund aims to enhance resident engagement and leadership while offering valuable opportunities for residents to get to know their neighbours and engage in their community.

In 2022, UWP embarked on a strategic reflection process to define community priorities and identify actions we can take to address them. Our vision is that everyone in every community has the opportunity to reach their full potential, but we are learning that various groups face different barriers in accessing this opportunity and the programs and services intended to support them in doing so. UWP is prioritizing initiatives that recognize, support, and celebrate equity-deserving groups in our community. One step we are taking is adding criteria to our funding review process that will highlight projects addressing diversity, equity, accessibility, reconciliation, and/or inclusion.

Providing the opportunity for community members to improve their sense of belonging is an important aspect of addressing diversity, equity, accessibility, reconciliation, and inclusion. We are looking to hear how your project supports individuals and groups in feeling a sense of belonging in our community.

### **Examples of what your group can apply for**

Eligible projects include (but are not restricted to) resident-led initiatives that increase **social interaction, inclusion and diversity, increase community safety, build local skills** and **engage residents in projects that will benefit their community.**

#### **EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES/EXPENSES**

- Community gatherings that promote engagement and interaction of diverse residents. *Example:*
  - Multi-cultural, social or educational activities
- Projects that engage residents in building strong neighbourhoods. *Examples:*
  - Community assessment and local planning
  - Local initiatives that improve neighbourhoods such as community clean-up days, community gardening, mural, art and beautification projects
- Projects developed and led by equity-deserving groups to address needs in their communities
- Enhancing an existing neighbourhood event

### **Examples of what your group cannot apply for**

The below list outlines the main projects and expenses that are **not** eligible for this grant. **Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a question about the eligibility of your project activities and expenses before applying.**

#### **INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES/EXPENSES**

- Costs associated with capital or other fundraising campaigns
- Activities that are not directly related to resident engagement
- Travel expenses (exceptions will be made when travel expenses are essential to participation in activity)
- Election campaign events
- Bingo nights or fundraising activities
- Office administration costs (staffing; rental; utilities etc.)
- For-profit organizations or ventures
- Existing or ongoing programs/services

### **Details your group needs to know**

- This funding is targeted to informal groups of individuals (minimum 3 people) that are working together to improve their neighbourhood or empower a demographic community. **Small grassroots groups will be prioritized over larger organizations, as will new projects that have not been funded in the past three years.**
- Each group needs to delegate a Project Representative who is at least 18 years old and will act as the point of contact between United Way Peterborough and District and your team – if none of your team members are 18+ please contact Elisha Rubacha about selecting a Project Representative.
- Grants will provide from \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 for a project. **When preparing your proposed budget, please note that very few \$5,000 grants are approved in full.**

### **How to Apply**

Interested groups are encouraged to schedule a meeting with Elisha Rubacha, Community Impact Officer ([erubacha@uwpeterborough.ca](mailto:erubacha@uwpeterborough.ca)) prior to submitting their application to discuss the scope of their project, the application process, and reporting requirements. This is an opportunity to ask questions about your project's eligibility and receive feedback on your application. Together, we will make sure all the necessary details are present so that the evaluators are able to understand the intentions of your project.

This meeting is not mandatory and project teams may choose to proceed with this application without this meeting. Attending this meeting is not considered during the scoring of your application.

Complete our online application form at this link:  
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Xz5XsX0mua>

**Applications close on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at noon.**

## **Template**

To prevent you from losing your progress while completing the online application, we encourage you to download the template on our website, write your answers in this document, and then copy your answers into the online form. Incomplete forms cannot be saved and returned to at another time, so please be prepared to answer all the questions once you start the application and ensure that you click 'Submit' at the end.

Writing your answers in the template first will also allow you to: have a copy of your answers for your reference, ensure your specific answers are within the character/word limits, and be able to use bulleted lists in your answers.

Please ensure that you transfer all your information from the template into the form before submitting it – applications sent by email will not be counted as a submission unless prior arrangements with UWP have been made.

## **Accommodations**

Please contact Elisha Rubacha, Community Impact Officer ([erubacha@uwpeterborough.ca](mailto:erubacha@uwpeterborough.ca)) if your project team needs an alternate version of the online application form or accommodations during the application process. We are open to discussing alternative formats, including video applications, or presentations delivered in-person or virtually.

## **Next Steps**

We will thoroughly evaluate all the applications in June.

All project representatives will receive an email about the funding decision in July.

## **What happens if your group gets Neighbourhood Funding?**

- Project representative is required to sign a letter of commitment and agree to be responsible for the project
- Project team will complete activities within 1 year of approval
- Submit a final report about your project – report details will be provided to project representatives
- Submit copies of receipts for materials or services purchased

Thank you for your interest in United Way Peterborough and District's Neighbourhood Fund.

We look forward to reading your application!