

# COVID-19

## Support for the non-profit/voluntary sector

Alberta's non-profits have experienced significant impacts and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alberta government introduced a number of supports to assist legally incorporated non-profits and registered charities. This includes faith-based groups as well as organizations related to sports and recreation, arts and culture, the environment, newcomer settlement, housing, social services, community development, education and research, volunteerism, unions, and professional associations.

### Stabilize Program (\*Updated)

Announced on January 28, 2021, the first phase of the Stabilize Program invested \$17 million in non-profits that host rodeos, professional and elite amateur sports organizations, and non-profits that own and/or operate dedicated presenting and performing arts venues. This funding will help these organizations offset financial losses due to cancelled games and events.

\*On May 14, 2021, Alberta's government announced \$2 million for the Stabilize Live Music Grant program to help rebuild and reopen live experiences. The funding comes from \$15 million allocated to the Stabilize Program in Budget 2021. Apply at: [www.albertamusic.org/grants/](http://www.albertamusic.org/grants/)

### Pivot Online: A Tool Kit for Artists and Non-profit Organizations

This toolkit captures and shares the insights learned from artists and non-profit organizations who have pivoted their work online. It also provides information, resources and inspiration to help artists and non-profits pivot some – or all – of their operations online.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/pivot-online-toolkit-for-artists-and-nonprofit-organizations>

### Community Initiatives Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant

On November 9, 2020, the Alberta government announced the Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant. This

one-time funding provided support to faith-based and cultural organizations that:

- have a mandate which includes a religious, spiritual and ceremonial component
- operate facilities which are used for cultural, religious, spiritual and ceremonial gatherings

One-time reimbursement funding to a maximum of \$5,000 helped to offset additional costs incurred by these organizations to meet the appropriate public health directives for Albertans during the COVID-19 crisis.

The program assisted organizations to:

- ensure these public spaces are available to the community
- ensure the safety of participants in the organization's activities meet the appropriate public health directives.

### CIP Overnight Camps (for Children and Youth) Facility Overhead Funding

On June 18, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced the Overnight Camps for Children and Youth Facility Overhead Funding Program.

The program provided one-time, non-matching funding of up to \$50,000 to support qualifying non-profit organizations that host overnight children and youth camps that closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[www.alberta.ca/cip-overnight-camps-for-children-and-youth-facility-overhead-funding.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/cip-overnight-camps-for-children-and-youth-facility-overhead-funding.aspx)

### Community Initiatives Program Project-Based Grant reallocation

In May 2020, the Ministry announced that funds would be reallocated from the Community Initiatives Program Project-Based grant to the Community Initiatives Program Operating grant stream to assist front-line charities and non-profits maintain core operations and provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Alberta Northern Lights Volunteer Recognition Program

Launched on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, as part of a broader Volunteer recruitment campaign, the initial focus of the program is on recognizing and profiling volunteer stories related to COVID-19 response efforts. The program has grown to include all volunteer activities beyond COVID-related response.

To date, in excess of 800 nominations have been received and more than 90 recipients have been profiled on the website.

[www.alberta.ca/alberta-northern-lights-volunteer-recognition-program.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/alberta-northern-lights-volunteer-recognition-program.aspx)

## Alberta Cares Connector

Launched on April 22, 2020 the Alberta Cares Connector is a province-wide online volunteer matching platform, resulting from a collaboration between the Government of Alberta and Propellus, the Volunteer Center of Calgary.

Albertans have visited the site more than a 2 million times with more than 65,000 volunteers signed up to serve their favourite organizations and causes.

<https://www.volunteerconnector.org/>

## Charitable Donation Matching Program

Between April 15 and May 31, 2020, the Government of Alberta matched, up to a maximum of \$2 million, funds raised by the designated organizations. Albertans' donations, combined with government's matching dollars raised about \$7 million for the eight designated organizations.

The eight designated organizations were:

- The Central Alberta United Way
- United Way of the Capital Region
- United Way Calgary and Area
- Calgary Foundation
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta
- Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta
- Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta

[www.alberta.ca/charitable-donation-matching-program](http://www.alberta.ca/charitable-donation-matching-program)

## Additional government measures (\*Updated)

- **\*The Alberta Jobs Now Program**, a joint federal/provincial program announced May 19, 2021 will provide up to \$370 million to help non-profit and private businesses create jobs for unemployed and underemployed Albertans and support Alberta's economic recovery.

Employers will be able to apply for a grant that covers 25 per cent of an employee's salary for a 52-week period up to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee. The grant can be used to cover salary or training costs. Employers who hire persons with disabilities will receive a grant 1.5 times higher than the amount they receive for other new employees.

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-jobs-now-program.aspx>

- **\*With the new Civil Society Fund**, Alberta's government is providing \$20 million over three years to expand civil society's capacity to address social problems. This year, \$7 million will support vulnerable Albertans during the pandemic and help build lasting solutions to pressing social challenges, some of which have been aggravated by the pandemic.
- **\*The Government of Alberta passed [Bill 53: Service Alberta Statutes \(Virtual Meetings\) Amendment Act](#)**, to allow non-profit organizations and societies to conduct meetings (i.e. annual general meetings) and votes online unless specifically prohibited by the organization's bylaws.
- Changes to allow for greater flexibility in the use of [charitable gaming proceeds](#) to maintain key programs while addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
- **\*The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant (SMERG)** offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees that have faced restrictions or closures due to COVID-related public health orders, and have experienced revenue losses of at least 30 per cent. The program's budget remains at \$350 million.

Businesses, cooperatives, and non-profits can use these funds as they see fit to help offset a portion of the impact of new public health measures on their relaunch costs such as implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission.

<https://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx>

- The Alberta government provided \$30 million to municipalities, charitable and non-profit organizations to support individuals, seniors, families and other vulnerable Albertans isolated or impacted by initial measures to contain COVID-19. Grants were distributed with assistance from local Family and Community Support Services (FCSS).

Applications for this program have been closed. For more information, visit [emergency funding for charities and non-for-profit organizations](#).

- The Alberta government has also provided additional support of [\\$5 million for food banks and community organizations](#) to support secure access to food for vulnerable Albertans.