



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (CIF) Grant Programs



Purpose of the CIF

The Community Initiatives Fund is a Special Purpose Fund created through the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and governed by the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. CIF is funded with a portion of the Regina and Moose Jaw casino profits. More information about the Community Initiatives Fund is available on its website at: www.cifsask.org. The Fund is managed by an arms-length government-appointed Board. Board members all have extensive experience as community volunteers.

The CIF provides grants to community initiatives that enhance human development and community vitality, focusing on:

1. development opportunities for children, youth and families;
2. increased positive activities for young people at the local level;
3. increased community leadership capacity, particularly leadership opportunities for youth; and
4. inclusion of First Nations and Métis people as leaders in delivery of community activities.

Who can Apply for CIF Grants?

The CIF provides grants to Saskatchewan community organizations. Municipalities may apply for community-led, community-based projects. Community organizations, including First Nations and Métis organizations, may apply directly to the CIF or form partnerships to deliver off-reserve projects. Many projects supported by the CIF benefit First Nations and Métis people living off-reserve.

How Are Grant Decisions Made?

All grant decisions are made by the CIF Board, which consists of community volunteers, based on advice from regional and local committees. This approach helps ensure CIF funds are responsive to community priorities. CIF grant decisions are made using transparent grant review criteria and processes.

Community Grant Program (CIF-CGP)

Annual grants are for projects that will be delivered throughout the year. Summer grants assist community organizations in providing summer projects between May and September. Funding is available to an incorporated Saskatchewan non-profit corporation and/or a community-based or voluntary Saskatchewan group that is endorsed by a recognized partner organization such as a municipality, school, school division or health region. The program supports about 350 projects annually in areas of education, health, justice, social services, sport, culture and recreation. Grant applications are reviewed by the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs). These committees provide funding recommendations to the CIF Board. The CIF Board makes all final grant decisions.

Application deadlines – February 1, March 1 (summer grant), May 1, November 1

For further information regarding CIF-CGP: go to www.cifsask.org.

Community Vitality Program (CVP)

Early in 2010 the Community Initiatives Fund board and officials introduced its newest program, the Community Vitality Program. This program is designed to help sustain communities and enhance quality of life by investing in community projects and events. The Community Vitality Program is intended to enhance the quality, accessibility and use of facilities in communities across the province and to encourage community pride, volunteerism and community involvement; to engage Aboriginal and young people as leaders in community activities; and to improve access and inclusion for those who experience barriers to community involvement.

The new program will support **small capital projects** that improve the quality, accessibility and use of facilities in communities across the province. The program will also support projects and events that **build community pride**, encourage volunteerism and community involvement and engage Aboriginal and young people as leaders in community activities. Grants are available to Saskatchewan charitable and non-profit organizations, and to municipalities, health regions, schools or school divisions applying on behalf of community-led projects and initiatives. In particular, youth groups, Aboriginal groups, smaller, rural and northern communities are encouraged to apply.

Application deadlines - October 1 and April 1 each year.

For further information regarding CIF-CVP: go to www.cifsask.org.

Summer Student Works (SSW)

Student Summer Works (SSW) is a program designed to connect students to quality part-time and full-time employment. SSW strives to:

- improve students' ability to pay for continued education;
- provide students with work experience to develop practical work skills;
- link future graduates to potential long-term employers in Saskatchewan; and
- create employment opportunities that strengthen organizational capacity and support succession planning.

Ensuring students with employment barriers can gain work experience to build their employment capacity is a key priority for AEEI. As a result, the SSW program will continue to be focused on students with disabilities and Aboriginal students who continue to be under-represented in our growing workforce. The application deadline for 2011 is March 23, with a final deadline of July 31st provided that funds are still available. Employers in the following sectors were eligible to apply for the SSW program in 2010:

1. **Sport and Recreation Sector** – Community-based organizations, including Health Regions, Aboriginal organizations, RMs and Post-Secondary Training Institutes may apply under this component.
2. **Cultural Sector** – Community-based organizations.
3. **Environmental Sector** - Employers providing environment-related job opportunities.

For further information regarding SSW: go to www.aeel.gov.sk.ca/ssw

The Northwest Regional Intersectoral Committee (Northwest RIC) is the mechanism for adjudicating the CIF-CGP and the SSW from the Northwest Region. The Northwest RIC contact information is:

Karen Weran, Coordinator
Northwest Regional Intersectoral Committee
1146 – 102 Street, North Battleford SK S9A 1E9
Tel: (306) 446-7624
Fax: (306) 446-7586
E-mail: Karen.weran@gov.sk.ca