



# National Anti-Racism Fund (NARF) Events and Youth Initiatives Grants

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## 1. What is the National Anti-Racism Fund?

Since 2022, The Canadian Race Relations Foundation's National Anti-Racism Fund has provided almost \$15 million in investment to support over 770 charities and non-profit organizations to combat racism, promote events and education, and support community groups to build a more anti-racist society. This contribution supports CRRF's mission: development, sharing, and applying knowledge and expertise to eliminate racism and all forms of racial discrimination in Canadian society.

All proposed Events and Youth Initiatives must include a detailed schedule, with the **latest date for completion no later than November 30, 2027**.

**Events applications:** Events are defined as community-based, planned public, social, and/or learning occasions and activities relating to the themes and objectives of the National Anti-Racism Fund. Formats include conferences, summits, workshops, galas, festivals, exhibits, and reconciliation or intercultural activities. The amount of funding for any proposed event can be up to a **maximum of \$10,000**.

**Youth Initiatives applications:** Youth initiatives are projects that are youth-led or focused on youth. Youth are defined as persons under the age of 30. Formats include conferences, summits, workshops, galas, festivals, exhibits, and reconciliation or intercultural activities. The amount of funding for any youth initiative can be up to a **maximum of \$10,000**.

## 2. What are the themes and objectives of the National Anti-Racism Fund?

All proposals must align with the following four themes and objectives and achieve one of the expected results below:

- **Systemic barriers:** reducing barriers to inclusion by addressing systemic racism in education, healthcare, the justice system, public services, employment, public life, etc.
- **Research and education:** promoting and increasing availability and accessibility of data, evidence, and community insights.
- **Public awareness:** highlighting systemic and institutional barriers through informing public policies that address these barriers.
- **Cultural and intercultural community building:** creating cross-cultural, race, religion, dialogue, discussions, awareness building, and collaborations.

**Events, and Youth Initiatives should be designed to achieve one or more of the following expected results:**

- Increase public awareness of public policy issues related to race relations, antiracism, or anti-hate in Canada, regionally, or local communities.
- Increase awareness of Canada’s cultural diversity.
- Increase awareness of factors such as race, culture, ethnicity, or religion that may be hindering full participation of the entire Canadian population in society and the economy.
- Increase knowledge within communities to address racism and discrimination.

### **3. Who is eligible to apply?**

Organizations are eligible depending on the type of funding they choose to apply for:

**Event applications:** In this case, funding is available to Canadian registered charities (as recognized by the Canadian Revenue Agency), First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, Canadian non-federal public institutions such as municipalities, boards of education, schools, colleges, and universities, Canadian non-profit organizations and associations, grassroots and recognized student groups, and labour organizations.

**Youth Initiatives applications:** This funding stream is available to Canadian registered charities (as recognized by the Canadian Revenue Agency), First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, and Canadian non-federal public institutions such as municipalities, boards of education, schools, colleges, and universities, and Canadian non-profit organizations and associations, grassroots and recognized student groups, and labour organizations.

**The CRRF will not fund the following entities under the National Anti-Racism Fund:**

- For-profit organizations
- Federal institutions
- Individuals
- Organizations whose purpose is solely related to political activity, as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency

### **4. Are grassroots organizations and student groups eligible for this funding?**

Yes, grassroots organizations and student groups are eligible to apply to the Events and Youth Initiatives stream. While charitable status is not required, applicants should demonstrate that they have meaningful connections to the community they plan to engage in their event or youth

initiative. They must also provide information about their financial capacity, either by submitting a Financial Statement or a Financial Letter of Explanation. For more details on demonstrating financial capacity, please refer to [Question 16](#) of this document.

## 5. What expenses does the Events and Youth Initiatives Grant cover?

### Eligible Expenses

Expenses for Events and Youth Initiatives can include:

- Personnel and staffing costs.
- Program costs such as speaker honoraria, venue related expenses, equipment, marketing and communications, catering, transportation, etc.
- Overhead and administrative costs directly associated with Events or Youth Initiatives can be requested for a maximum of 15% of the total budget. Overhead and administrative costs include supervision, bookkeeping/accounting, audit expenses, telephone/internet, insurance, etc.

### Ineligible Expenses

Expenses for Events and Youth Initiatives cannot include:

- Costs that are related to direct financial assistance in the form of payments to individuals or families (e.g., loans, grants, or scholarships).
- Partisan political activity that directly or indirectly promotes a political candidate or party,
- Ongoing occupancy costs and purchase of investment in real property (real estate, land, building, etc.)
- Services covered by provincial health authorities.
- Services provided by medical professionals or regulated health professionals other than social workers or social service workers.
- Support of operating deficit.
- Cost of alcoholic beverages.
- Basic shelter beds or transitional housing beds.
- Contingency
- GST, PST, HST as a separate budget line

## 6. Can we apply for more than one Event, and Youth Initiative?

- Applicants can only submit **one application** to be considered for funding.

- Applications for initiatives currently receiving funding through either the [Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program](#) (formerly known as Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives or CSMARI) or the [Anti-Racism Action Program](#) (ARAP) – administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage – will only be considered if the application is to extend or expand the existing initiative.

## 7. How does the CRRF evaluate applications?

The following criteria will be used to evaluate all eligible applications:

- The application demonstrates how the Event or Youth Initiative contributes to one or more of the program themes and achieves one or more of the expected results.
- The application demonstrates clear, achievable, and community-relevant outcomes
- The applicant has the required experience, resources, and capacity to successfully carry out the Event or Youth Initiative based on past experience, financial situation, human resource capacity, and governance structure.
- The applicant has demonstrated and addressed the need within the local, regional, and/or national context.
- The applicant has planned for the resources needed to successfully deliver the Event or Youth Initiative on time and on budget.
- The Event or Youth Initiative activities are clearly described and are linked to the goals of the Event or Youth Initiative.
- The Event or Youth Initiative is designed to effectively reach its target audience, beneficiaries, and participants.
- The proposed budget is detailed, reasonable, balanced and takes into consideration the efficient and prudent use of funds.

## 8. What are common reasons applications are deemed ineligible?

Applications may be deemed ineligible for the following reasons:

- Incomplete application submissions
- Missing required financial documentation
- Non-alignment with program themes and objectives
- Activities related to partisan political campaigns or promotion
- Requests exceeding the maximum funding amount
- Failure to meet eligibility requirements outlined in this guide

## 9. What is the grant application process, and who evaluates those applications?

- Applications submitted by **7:59 pm (EST) on July 13, 2026**, will have decisions made in **mid-October 2026**.
- Decisions will be made by the CRRF granting team and the Executive Director's office, with the support of CRRF staff.
- Please note that all decisions are final and there is no appeal process through this funding program.

**Please note that applications will only be accepted through the [online application portal](#).**

However, for reference, the [full application is available in PDF format](#) for download.

Organizations that are interested in applying to the National Anti-Racism Fund are encouraged to download the PDF file to review the application questions and prepare all required information and attachments before submitting their application through the online portal.

## 10. When will I learn if my application has been successful?

Applications submitted by **7:59 pm (EST) on July 13, 2026**, will have decisions made in **mid-October 2026**.

## 11. When is the deadline to apply?

The portal will remain open for Events and Youth Initiatives until **7:59 pm (EST) on July 13, 2026**.

## 12. Will there be an extension after the application deadline?

No, there will be no extensions to the application deadline for any reason. Once the deadline has passed, the application portal will close and access to submit applications will no longer be available. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## 13. Are public institutions eligible to apply?

To provide more clarity on eligibility, Canadian non-federal public institutions such as municipalities, boards of education, schools, colleges, and universities are eligible to apply.

#### **14. Does the CRRF require a trustee for grassroots organizations or associations?**

No, however, a trusteeship may be required at the contracting stage. Whether or not a trustee is needed is also dependent on the financial capacity of the organization. Grassroots organizations may apply independently or with a trustee organization.

#### **A trustee organization can be one of the following:**

- A registered charity (i.e. an organization with a registered charity business number).
- A provincially or federally incorporated non-profit (i.e. an organization with an incorporation number).

#### **15. Does the CRRF require a trustee for recognized student groups?**

Yes, the CRRF requires any recognized student group to identify a trustee to receive Event and Youth Initiative funding. A trustee can be a recognized Canadian College or University.

#### **16. We don't have financial statements can we still apply?**

Yes, you can still apply. We accept both audited and unaudited financial statements from applicants. Financial statements are described by the Government of Canada as follows:

- **Audited Financial Statements:** financial statements that have been audited by an independent external auditor. These include the financial statements and the accompanying auditor's report, which summarize the "auditor's opinion".
- **Financial Statements:** a set of reports prepared annually by an organization's management which present their financial position and results of operations at the end of their fiscal year. Financial statements help us assess the capacity and experience of applicants in managing financial resources because they give us an overview of an organization's income and expenses.

**Please note that we do not accept bank statements or bank account summaries.**

- **Financial Letter of Explanation:** If you cannot produce any financial statements, you must submit a written Financial Letter of Explanation (max 300 words) to explain how your group/organization has handled its finances to date and how they will handle finances should they be successful in their grant application. This will help the CRRF to assess the capacity and experience of the applicant in managing its financial resources.

**Important:** Please be sure to answer all the questions outlined in the [Financial Letter of Explanation template](#).

### **17. How do I contact CRRF about the National Anti-Racism Fund?**

For further information, please contact the CRRF team by email: [grants@crrf-fcrr.ca](mailto:grants@crrf-fcrr.ca).