



United Way

Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo

UWFMWB Funding Guidelines

On September 1, 2026, any eligible organization that addresses the following priorities will be able to apply for funding. Based on individual applications, agencies may be approved for conditional multi-year funding.

Application link: [UWFMWB 2027-28 grant application](#)

Agencies can apply for UP TO \$80,000.

2027-28 FUNDING PRIORITIES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Safe spaces for learning and growth.
- Early childhood development and parental support.
- Homelessness prevention and life skills.
- Crisis intervention for mental health and substance use.

POVERTY REDUCTION

- Inclusive employment and job readiness, and financial literacy.
- Crisis navigation.
- Access to basic needs (food, shelter, outreach).
- Education and outreach access for underserved populations.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Mental health and addiction services.
- Crisis response.
- Senior well-being and independence.
- Equity, inclusion, and civic engagement.



United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo

Advancing equity is integrated into everything we do. In working to ensure no one in our community is left behind, we recognize that discrimination due to race, religion, gender identity, sexuality, and disabilities creates inequity and systemic barriers.

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations working in the social service sector within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and that meet the eligibility criteria below can apply for funding. Applicants must meet all criteria.

1. **Must be a registered charity in good standing with Canada Revenue Agency.**
2. **Must align with UWFMWB vision and mission (see Appendix A).**
3. **Be able to demonstrate that the program or service meets a vital community need and does not duplicate existing services.**
4. **Be able to show outcomes of how lives are changed because of the services received.**
5. **Be governed by a local volunteer Board of Directors and demonstrates effective management of the organization.**
6. **Demonstrate financial sustainability (see Appendix A) through financial statements as specified by United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo in the application document.**
7. **Agree to sign a Memorandum of Agreement and abide by the terms and conditions.**



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Conditional Multi-year Funding Approval

In addition to the above criteria, agencies must:

- Have a minimum of 3 years' history of operations in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- Demonstrate organizational readiness (strong leadership, financial management, strategic clarity).



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APPENDIX A

UWFMWB Vision and Mission

Vision:

A connected and thriving region where everyone has the opportunity to live well and belong.

Mission:

To improve lives and strengthen community by mobilizing people, knowledge, and resources for lasting impact.

DEFINITIONS

Sustainability:

Sustainability is an organization's long-term ability to maintain its operations and continue fulfilling its mission through financial planning, diversified revenue streams, responsible resource use, and strong leadership and governance.

Collaboration:

Collaboration is a mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered by two or more organizations to achieve results they are more likely to achieve together than alone. By focusing on creating interdependence among organizations, it changes the way organizations work together, bringing together knowledge and experience to improve the process and outcomes of complex systems.