

# Guelph 200 Grant Application Guide 2026

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The Guelph 200 Grant program offers one-time funds to not-for-profit and charitable organizations, unincorporated community-led groups, and individuals to support and enhance the City's bicentennial commemorations. The grant program will empower community-driven commemoration, deepen historical understanding, and be a catalyst for positive, future-focused change in Guelph. The purpose of this guide is to support applicants in understanding the program from end-to-end. In this guide, you will learn more about:

- Guelph 200 Grant Program overview
- Eligibility requirements
- Application process
- Assessment criteria and process
- Timeline
- Reporting and evaluation
- Contact information

## Guelph 200 Grant – Overview

The year 2027 marks the City's bicentennial — 200 years since the establishment of the town of Guelph by John Galt and the Canada Company on land acquired from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation through the Between the Lakes Treaty, No. 3 (1792).

Today, Guelph is home to generations of Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island and settlers from around the world. The bicentennial provides an opportunity to reflect on and commemorate the past two hundred years of history at this place we now know as Guelph; to gather to contemplate and celebrate our community as we presently experience it; and to use this milestone to initiate action that contributes to the ongoing evolution of the city we aspire Guelph to be.

Guelph 200 is aligned with the City's [Culture Plan 2030](#), [Community Plan](#) and [Strategic Plan](#).

The Guelph 200 Grant Program supports initiatives that:

Commemorate Guelph's history: Reflecting on 200 years of the City's story while recognizing Indigenous presence on this land since time immemorial.

Celebrate present-day Guelph: Contributing to a vibrant celebration of the City's identity, showcasing its diversity, creativity, and strengths.

Build legacy and inspire future action: Encouraging initiatives that leave a lasting impact, foster community advancement, and support long-term commitments to an inclusive, healthy, and thriving Guelph.

The Guelph 200 grant program will award to the community \$75,000 in 2026 and \$75,000 in 2027 for events, programs and legacy projects.

Not-for-profit, charitable organizations can apply for grants up to \$8,000. Unincorporated community-led groups and individuals can apply for grants up to \$2,000.

## Eligibility Requirements

**Not-for-profit, charitable organizations** must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- benefit Guelph residents
- be incorporated as not-for-profit or charitable organization
- in operation for at least one year
- located in Guelph, or more than half of the participants be from Guelph and surrounding communities
- be in good standing with the City and, if applicable, its own governing bodies

**Unincorporated, community-led groups and individuals** must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- located or reside in Guelph
- initiative is not for personal gain
- initiative benefits Guelph residents
- be in good standing with the City

The Grant Program will not fund the following:

- For-profit organizations and initiatives
- Other levels of government or political organizations
- Religious initiatives or promotion
- Organizations or activities that breach the Ontario Human Rights Code or the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Debt retirement, deficit reduction, depreciation or financing charges
- Retroactive payments (or costs that have been incurred before grants are approved)
- Secondary allocations or flow-through funding
- Initiatives that are, in the sole opinion of the City, unreasonable

Grants will be considered one-time funding. Multi-year grants may be available in exceptional circumstances.

All programs, projects, or events will be completed before December 31, 2027.

Applicants may submit one application per granting cycle.

Recipients of grants from other City of Guelph funding programs are eligible to apply to the Guelph 200 Grant program, as long as the Guelph 200 initiative is distinct from activities funded by other City of Guelph funding streams.

## **Application Process**

Applications will be accepted through the City's online portal, Decision Hub by the posted deadline.

Applicants are encouraged to respond to all questions on the application completely and concisely, providing enough information for reviewers to understand the proposed initiative and how it aligns with the goals of the program.

## **Assessment Process and Criteria**

Once applications are submitted and confirmed eligible, they will be reviewed and assessed by a sub-committee of the Guelph 200 Community Working Group.

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Applicant capacity: ability to deliver the proposed initiative, based on experience with similar initiatives.
- Initiative description and alignment with Guelph 200 objectives: a compelling initiative with a well-detailed plan that considers adequate resourcing, a realistic workplan, and clear connections with Guelph 200 objectives.
- Community impact: who and how many will be engaged; how will they be reached; how accessibility and inclusivity is addressed; and what legacy will be created.
- Community support: evidence of support from others, including volunteers, partners, existing and engaged audiences, and additional funders.
- Funding availability: The total amount of funding requested is considered alongside the overall budget available for the program.

Members of the subcommittee will make recommendations for funding to the Guelph 200 Community Working Group, which will approve recommendations and forward to the Deputy CAO of Public Services. Guided by recommendations submitted by the Community Working Group, the Deputy CAO will allocate appropriate funds to successful applicants.

# Guelph 200 Grant Timeline

Grant timeline for 2026 funding:

- February 20, 2026 – 2026 funding announced and application opens
- March 20, 2026 – Applications close
- April 30, 2026 – Notification and announcement of 2026 grant funding

Grant timeline for 2027 funding:

- November 16, 2026 – 2027 funding announced and application opens
- December 14, 2026 – Applications close
- February 5, 2027 – Notifications and announcement of 2027 grant funding (pending approval of the City budget)

Based on timing of funding announcements, grants awarded in 2026 will favour initiatives taking place before June 30, 2027. Grants awarded in 2027 will favour initiatives taking place April 1 to December 31, 2027.

**Note: all public facing programs, projects, and events must take place in the 2027 calendar year.** Funding needed to prepare for events can be used in the 2026 calendar year.

## Reporting and Evaluation Process

Successful applicants who receive funding must report on how the funding was spent and the impact the funding achieved. Final reports must be submitted two months following the initiative. Delays in submitting reports may affect eligibility for future City funding applications.

## Contact Information

For further questions regarding your Guelph 200 Grant Application:

Nicole Neufeld  
Supervisor, Guelph 200  
[nicole.neufeld@guelph.ca](mailto:nicole.neufeld@guelph.ca)

# **Applicant and Initiative Information**

## **1. Provide a brief overview of your organization or yourself. (Use 300 words or less)**

Complete the general information for your organization, group or as an individual. The contact information is important should the City of Guelph need to contact you with questions about your application and to notify you of the funding decision.

Tell us about the activities and contributions you make in the Guelph community and how this relates to your initiative's scope and intended impact. It helps us understand how your project plan relates to overall activities and the impact you seek to have on Guelph residents.

- **Main Programs and Services:** Describe at a high-level the primary activities as an organization, group or individual.
- **Mission statement:** The organization's mission statement helps us better understand your overall purpose. For community groups and individuals, include a mission statement if applicable, or organizing principles, artist statement, or professional statement.
- **Online presence:** Include a website if you have one.
- **Sector:** Select which sector best represents the work that you do.

## **2. Describe your proposed initiative (e.g., project, program, event, etc.) (Use 800 words or less)**

- **Initiative Overview:** describe the project and how you will use the funds. Think about answering the 5 Ws: Who is the project for? What is it about? Where and when will it take place? Why is it important?
- **Workplan:** What steps will be taken to ensure the success of your initiative? Provide a brief overview of the timeline for your project. Please note: all public facing activities should take place in 2027 but planning and preparation work can start in 2026.
- **Resources:** What will you need to support your initiative (e.g., financial, volunteers or staffing, supplies, space, etc.)? How do you plan to ensure you have what you need in place to deliver your initiative?

## **3. Select the Guelph 200 Grant Objective(s) that best reflect(s) your initiative:**

- **Commemorate Guelph's history:** Recognizing and reflecting on 200 years of the City's story—its founding, evolution, and heritage, and Indigenous presence since time immemorial.
- **Celebrate present-day Guelph:** Contributing to a vibrant celebration of the City's identity, showcasing its diversity, creativity, and strengths.

- Build legacy and inspire future action: Encouraging initiatives that leave a lasting impact, foster community advancement, and support long-term commitments to an inclusive, healthy, and thriving Guelph.

#### **4. How will your initiative meet the Guelph 200 Grant objective(s)? (Use 300 words or less)**

- Share how your project aligns with and advances one or more of the Guelph 200 Grant objectives. How does meeting the objective(s) benefit Guelph residents?

#### **5. Who is your audience and how will they benefit? How will you reach your audience? (Use 300 words or less)**

- Who is your intended audience and how many people do you expect to participate?
- How will you reach your intended audience?
- How will you ensure your initiative is accessible and inclusive?
- Will your initiative create a legacy impact?

#### **6. Who and how will you collaborate or partner with others in delivering your initiative? (Optional; use 200 words or less)**

Are there other organizations, groups, or individuals that you are collaborating with to deliver your initiative? Please name the groups and briefly describe your relationship with them, and how you are working together.

## **Financials**

This section covers financial information related specifically to your initiative and is intended to demonstrate the financial viability of your initiative.

#### **7. How much funding are you requesting?**

Note: Maximum of \$8,000 for incorporated not-for-profits and charitable organizations, and \$2,000 for unincorporated community-led groups and individuals.

**Budget Template:** Download the budget template to forecast expenses and revenues for your initiative. Where the budget includes a row for “description,” this is your opportunity to further explain what the expense or revenue source is. Note that there are limited character counts for these sections.