



Multicultural Initiatives Fund (MIF) – Project

Application deadline: April 1, 2024

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. Applicants should consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application to discuss the eligibility of their proposal and to determine if this grant program is the best fit.

Purpose

MIF aims to advance cross-cultural engagement by supporting projects that encourage people to share, learn and engage in meaningful efforts that address the following Purposes:

- **Anti-Racism** work which engages in issues of power and privilege, and addresses individual and systemic discrimination. Anti-Racism includes active dialogue and action towards building equity and justice within cultural organizations and communities.
- **Intercultural Connections** work which entails sustained cross-cultural engagement through activities like cultural exchanges, cooperative work between communities, creating safe spaces, community dialogues, creative projects and integration work for welcoming and inclusive communities.
- **Truth and Reconciliation (TRC)** projects that seek to implement a process of healing relationships that require public truth sharing, apology and commemoration to acknowledge and redress past harms towards implementing the TRC Calls to Action and Truth and Reconciliation efforts. Applicants are encouraged to identify who they are reconciling with and which Calls to Action they are seeking to address. [For more information, visit SaskCulture's Indigenous Awareness Hub.](#)
- **Cultural Retention** work which supports the development and advancement of cultural practices and traditions internal to a particular cultural community. ***Indigenous communities are encouraged to apply to the Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership grant program for activity in this area.***
- **Celebration of Diversity** work which supports the performances, displays, and expressions of ethno-cultural and Indigenous groups for the purposes of education and engagement with the broader community. Celebration of Diversity includes events such as festivals, cultural showcases, and performances that introduce cultural worldviews, expressions, creativity and innovation.

***NOTE: Some projects may have overlapping Purposes; please choose one that most accurately reflects your desired outcomes.**

Activities like celebratory events and festivals are typically a lower priority for funding (i.e. Celebration of Diversity Stream). Priority is given to ethno-cultural, multicultural, First Nations or Métis organizations.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- provide significant opportunities to meet the Purposes of the MIF-P grant program, with an emphasis on Anti-Racism, Intercultural Connections, Truth and Reconciliation, and Cultural Retention projects;
- deliver relevant cultural activities that demonstrate significant opportunities for cultural impact, accessibility and service to communities;
- address a community-identified need and demonstrate community involvement;
- provide strong evidence of partnerships and community engagement from cultural communities that are being focused on (it is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that there is evidence of agreement, understanding, permission, consent and commitment from cultural groups who are identified within a project);
- benefit cultural development in Saskatchewan, for residents in Saskatchewan;
- take place in the province's northern and/or rural or otherwise underserved communities;
- are led by equity-deserving communities and cultural organizations, or by organizations who demonstrate commitment to equity within their organizational structures with attention to diverse staff, board, experience and programming; and,
- support cultural communities and groups who have had limited access to SaskCulture funding.

If you are unsure whether your project fits the Purpose of this grant, please contact the MIF-P Consultant, or see a [list of successful applicants](#) and project descriptions.

***NOTE:** Previously funded organizations that receive MIF-Project grants yearly will be prioritized based on the evidence of past impact provided in the application. Organizations already significantly funded by other Sask Lotteries-supported grant programs may be a lower priority.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are:

- **Registered Non-Profit** organizations in Saskatchewan. These organizations must:
 - have a primarily cultural mandate in Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism or Cultural Industries as defined by [SaskCulture's Cultural Policy](#), or otherwise demonstrate significant engagement in cultural activity;
 - be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year prior to the deadline date;
 - be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC);
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and,
 - provide a signed copy of the organization's annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the ISC to show evidence of good standing as a non-profit organization in Saskatchewan.

OR

- **be a First Nation, Tribal Council, Métis Local or Municipality.** The applicant must:
 - be in good standing with the Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program; and
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture.

Ineligible Applicants:

If your organization does not meet the eligibility requirements you may consider the following options:

- Unincorporated community groups may consider forming a partnership with an eligible organization to meet the eligibility requirements for this grant program. Please consult with SaskCulture to discuss options.
- Schools and post-secondary institutions are ineligible for this grant program. Interested schools should inquire about:
 - [Artists in Schools program](#) at SK Arts as an alternative to this grant program;
 - [Multicultural Education Initiatives](#) through the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.
- Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECOs) are ineligible to apply. ECOs should include project ideas in their next Annual Global Funding application.
- Contact the SaskCulture Outreach Consultant to discuss your project and your eligibility to be advised on what alternate project funds might be available to you; or
- Use SaskCulture’s [“Find a Grant”](#) tool to explore other options.

Submitted applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be reviewed.

Project Eligibility

- Projects must directly address one of the MIF Project Purposes and the Priorities of this funding program.
- Activities that use or present Indigenous cultural material, traditional knowledge or stories without evidence of permission (supporting letters) from the community are not eligible.
- Applicants can access only one **MIF-Project** grant at a time
 - If the applicant already has an outstanding/overdue SaskCulture grant, a second proposal will not be considered until the current one is reconciled.
 - If the applicant’s current MIF-P grant is wrapping up during the time of application for another deadline, contact SaskCulture for options.
- Applicants may not apply to multiple SaskCulture funding programs to support the same activity for the same time frame:
 - *Priority will be given to projects and organizations not already funded by other Lotteries-supported grant programs*
 - *Priority will be given to projects that have not received a MIF Project grant in the previous year.*
- **START DATE:** Eligible start dates for this round must be eight (8) weeks after the grant deadline.
- **END DATE:** All projects must be completed within one year of the start date; however please contact the Consultant as soon as possible if your plans need to change.
- Projects that commence sooner than 8 weeks after the deadline will not be considered.

Eligible Expenses

The MIF-Project grant can cover direct costs to the development and delivery of a cultural project. Please ensure that only Eligible Expenses are included and that they are clearly explained. All project income and expenses should be included in budget form and the budget should balance (revenue = expenses). Upon approval, funds may only be used for the eligible activities outlined in your application. Significant changes to the use of funds must be approved by SaskCulture. Funds may not be transferred to other activities or organizations and unused funds must be returned to SaskCulture.

Eligible project expenses include:

- Wages, honorarium and contract agreements for cultural resource people who are offering their skills and expertise for the term of the project. This does not replace wages for the core job responsibilities of existing staff;
- Honorarium for program participants who are directly contributing their knowledge and/or lived experience to community engagement projects (excludes the Celebration of Diversity stream);
- Travel expenses for program participants. This includes gas, rental of vehicles, bus transit and airfare. While the primary cultural activities must take place in Saskatchewan, travel outside of the province is eligible if it is to bring resource peoples in locally to conduct work that cannot otherwise be conducted by someone in Saskatchewan;
- Material expenses related to the cultural activity, including gifts related to First Nations cultural protocols;
- Facility costs would only be considered eligible in situations where additional space is required for the project to move ahead. The existing space/facility of an applicant organization is not eligible and would be considered as an in-kind contribution - i.e. rent, utilities and office overhead;
- A recommended maximum of 20% of the total grant award can support food expenses that are a part of the cultural experience that is being offered for participants. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount;
- A recommended maximum of 10% of the total grant request can be utilized for advertising and promotion cost for the project. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount; and
- Organizations that are not ethno-cultural, multicultural, First Nations or Métis may apply for events and festivals but are limited to artistic fees, honoraria and travel costs for multicultural, First Nations or Métis performers, Knowledge Keepers, presenters or resource people. **General event expenses are not eligible.**

All claimed expenses must fall within the indicated start and end date of the grant. All expenses **must be verifiable by receipts or transaction records, upon request**. Expenses incurred before or after the grant period will not be eligible.

Ineligible Expenses

The following items are ineligible for MIF-P funds:

- Capital expenses such as construction, renovations or repairs;

- Cash prizes, gifts, medals, trophies, charitable donations, or the purchase of alcohol;
- Generally, food costs are ineligible. See above Eligible Expenses for exceptions.
- Activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints;
- Allowances, wages or personal expenses for program registrants and participants;
- Salaries and expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization;
- Office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization's own facilities; and
- In-kind contributions (such as volunteer hours, donations for food, goods, services, equipment, waiving rental fee, etc.) do not replace eligible expenses and should not be included in the budget.

Funding Levels ---

Funding levels for all five **Purposes** have a maximum request amount of \$15,000. However, it is recommended that **Celebration of Diversity** projects apply for a maximum of \$5,000.

The budget should include all revenue and expenses related to your project including grant requests to other funding programs or agencies and the budget should balance (revenue = expenses). Expenses claimed must be to support eligible activity proposed in the application.

The budget tool is for project costs only. Regular organizational operating expenses, staff wages and contributions of volunteer time should not be identified as revenue or expenses in the budget. These costs are ineligible for the program. In-kind contributions (donations for food, goods, services, equipment, waiving rental fee, etc.) do not substitute for eligible expenses and should not be included in the budget. Contributions and non-monetary support for a project can be described in the proposal as evidence of community support and partnerships.

Application and Adjudication Process ---

Applications are due April 1, 2024. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

Applications must be submitted via the [Online Grant Platform](#) (OGP).

- Applicants are encouraged to consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application. There are opportunities for early submissions to get feedback to help improve aspects of an application that are unclear or ineligible in advance of a deadline, but this is not a guarantee of either feedback or funding.
- SaskCulture will review applications to confirm basic eligibility requirements have been met prior to submitting all grants to the funding assessors. **If a submission is ineligible, the applicant will be notified.**
- Only complete, signed and submitted applications will be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is successfully submitted. Two different people must sign the application.
- Eligible applications are evaluated by volunteer community members with knowledge and experience that relates to the purposes and priority of this grant program.
- Applicants can expect to be informed of funding results within eight (8) weeks of the application deadline. Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.

- Successful applicants receive 75% of their total grant allocation upon grant approval and the remaining 25% upon SaskCulture’s acceptance of a properly filed **Follow-up Report (FUR)**.

Application Assessment

The funding assessors will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- The quality and merit of proposed activity;
- Evidence of the ability of the applicant organization to carry out the project and deliver quality programs and services;
- The extent of participation and accessibility for target populations (First Nations, Métis, youth, rural and northern communities, newcomers and people of African, Asian and Latin American heritage);
- The extent of resourcefulness, collaboration, partnerships and community engagement;
- The extent and evidence of support and involvement from community partners involved in the development and delivery of the project, including Indigenous leadership, where relevant;
- The extent of potential for ongoing impact and legacy;
- Realistic and responsible use of resources (funds, volunteers, etc.); and
- How well the proposed activity provides significant opportunities to meet the indicated Purpose and Priorities of the MIF-P grant program.

***Note: Returning or yearly funded MIF-P projects may have their most recent project Follow-up Report provided to assessors as part of the assessment process.**

The quality of writing and attention to detail in a grant application will benefit an applicant’s chances of success. However, we understand not everyone who is applying for funding is a professional grant writer or that English may not be the primary language of the person applying. If an applicant is struggling with the application, please remember, SaskCulture staff are here to assist you.

Funding Obligations

Please review the [Funding Obligations for Grant Recipients Guidelines](#) on SaskCulture’s website for details about what to expect as an approved grant recipient.