

FUNTASTIC SPORTS SOCIETY

COMMUNITY GRANT Evaluation Criteria

Since 1985, Funtastic has been awarding grants through its "Building a Better Community" initiative in an effort to make sport and recreation accessible throughout the Greater Vernon region. Through this effort, Funtastic supports organizations that use sport and recreation and its values as a vehicle to improve the quality of life for individuals and for the community in general.

Since 2009, 18 local organizations were awarded funds from the Grant Program. The fundamental goal of the Funtastic Community Grant Program focuses on positively impacting and supporting a significant number of local non-profit organizations and the public. A higher priority preference will be extended to organizations who did not receive funding through the inaugural Grant Program and best meet the criteria and goals of the program.

Funding Philosophies

The funding philosophies and guidelines are currently utilized by the Funtastic Sports Society Grants Committee in reviewing applications are set forth below. These philosophies and guidelines were formed in part because the Funtastic Sports Society receives requests for a greater number of dollars than it can award. While some flexibility in applying these philosophies and guidelines may be appropriate in certain circumstances, **any applicant whose request is inconsistent with the contents of this document is required to provide an explanation outlining the special circumstance when submitting a grant application for consideration specifically, why the Funtastic Sports Society Grants Committee should consider the application despite these inconsistencies.**

Basic funding philosophies/guidelines include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

1. All grant recipients must be duly registered non-profit organizations as defined under the BC Societies Act. Applications will be accepted from organizations that have applied for such status but grant monies (should an organization receive a grant) will not be released until your BC Societies number has been received.
2. Funtastic will typically not fund the entire budget of a program. The Funtastic Sports Society expects the applicant organization to contribute a percentage of the project's expenses with funds secured from other sources. Further, Funtastic expects applicants to have a feasible plan for fiscal sustainability and an exit strategy that outlines how the program will continue. These plans typically include support from individuals, local organizations, other foundations, fundraisers and the donation of in-kind services, as well as many other creative ideas.
3. Funtastic will not fund a multi-year request. Either during or after the first cycle of successful programming, the applicant may submit a request for subsequent funding through the regular application process.
4. Funtastic strongly recommends that successive grant requests comprise a decreasing percentage of the overall budget.
5. Funtastic also expects that the applicant has attempted to find the best possible prices for requested line items through comparative shopping and negotiations.

The Funtastic Sports Society places great emphasis on providing sports and recreation opportunities for all members of our community. If your program or project does not include a significant experience for the participant and does not provide accessibility for members of the community to participate, your request will be viewed much less favourably.

Funding Guidelines

The Vernon Funtastic Sports Society **will consider funding requests** from areas including Vernon, Coldstream, Lavington, and Areas B & C, for the following items provided the applicant is committed to the goals (as represented in the General Introduction) of the Community Grants Program :

- Playground access and field access
- Sports and Recreation equipment, including equipment for individuals with disabilities
- Certain construction costs for facilities in areas where there are obstacles to affordable access to sports and recreation.

Typically, the Funtastic Sports Society **will not fund requests** for the following items:

- Clothing
- Tournament entry fees; awards and trophies
- Travel expenses and other costs associated with events
- Academic scholarships (we have a separate scholarship program)
- Research studies
- Vehicle purchase
- Construction of buildings
- Construction costs for projects that are primarily cosmetic in nature
- Computer and video equipment
- Food and beverage
- Donations for fundraising tournaments
- Administrative costs, including salaries
- Indirect costs (overhead expenses such as postage, fax and phone charges, insurance, etc.)
- Expenses incurred to complete a grant request

Application Evaluation Criteria

All eligible project requests will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Impact

Degree to which the project reflects an understanding of Funtastic's "Building a Better Community" Grants Initiative to make sport and recreation more affordable and accessible. Evidence that the project is likely to have a lasting and significant impact and outcome that will benefit the community is looked upon favourably in the grants review process.

Population Served

Degree to which the project uses sport and recreation and its values as a vehicle to improve the quality of life for outdoor sport and recreation user groups. Collaborations with other organizations serving and expanding the reach of the target population are looked upon favourably in the grants review process.

Project Design

Evidence that the organization applying for grant funds has identified an audience, knows their needs, and has designed this project to fit those needs. Specifically, the grants committee favours applications that have a detailed plan in place. Further, the extent to which the project's plan has clearly stated goals and objectives, and where required, has an effective program structure and a reasonable timeline for accomplishments, and has the potential for success, strengthens the application.

Outcomes Measurement

Degree to which the applicant can identify and track positive outcomes that result from participation in this project. These outcomes may be directly related to the improvement in academics, self-esteem, life skills, or other social benefits, or may pertain to sport and recreation participation.

Leadership

Degree to which the organization's mission and history demonstrates a commitment to the Funtastic's "Building a Better Community" and has the leadership; i.e., a local champion, in place to be successful in this project. Degree to which the project has a strong program director, one who is capable of establishing, implementing, and evaluating the goals and objectives of the project. Extent to which there is a governing board of directors or other entity, ensuring the accountability of the project and any grant funds awarded. The application is strengthened when there is evidence that the leadership is capable of carrying out the project's activities to a successful conclusion, and further, when the leadership can demonstrate successes in similar projects, specifically in terms of the management of resources (money, facilities, and personnel). In some cases, the inclusion of references who can speak directly to these issues is helpful in this part of the grants review process.

Exit Strategy/Sustainability

Degree to which the project can outline a feasible plan for outside fundraising in order to be self-sufficient in the future. The extent to which the organization itself demonstrates financial stability and to which the project is financially sound is preferred in the consideration of all grant applications.

Budget

*Degree to which the project demonstrates an accurate and complete budget. **This criterion specifically applies to the budget forms, budget narrative, and the itemization indicating how Funtastic funds would be spent; please read and follow the instructions provided.** Further, the project should clearly demonstrate the appropriateness and efficiency of budget revenues and expenses to complete the activities as outlined in the application. The Grants Committee would like to see commitment to the project by contributions from the applicant organization, collaborating organizations, and other public or private sources.*



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