

Overview

Through our Annual Grants program, Libro funds initiatives helping address local priorities aligned with our pillars in each of our service areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the economic and social challenges in our communities and that's why during 2021 we will focus our annual grants program to support those working on long term solutions for the recovery and rebuilding of our communities.

What do we fund?

Programs or projects helping address the goals identified within our pillars:

- **Employment:** Increase productive employment and decent work for all, reduce talent shortages and support agri-business and small business including social enterprises and co-operatives
- **Financial resilience:** Improve financial capacity and resilience of people, businesses and organizations
- **Local food accessibility:** Improve food systems to increase access to local food for all
- **Housing:** Enhance access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing

Minimum grant amount: \$5,000

Maximum grant amount: \$20,000

We will have a clear preference for programs or projects that showcases an openness to new, inclusive and disruptive approaches and could meet the needs of any communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

What types of organizations can apply?

The following organizations that are providing a benefit to southwestern Ontario can apply:

- An organization registered as having charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- A provincially registered not-for-profit organization
- A municipality or a public institution
- An unregistered community organization

What types of applications are not eligible?

- Requests for emergency relief
- Initiatives not aligned with Libro's pillars
- Individual or private business applicants
- Projects and programs that take place outside of southwestern Ontario
- Partisan or religious event or purpose that are not open to all members of the community

What types of expenses are ineligible?

- Deficit or debt reduction
- Retroactive expenses
- Ongoing business operating expenses such as utilities, rent and insurance. Operating expenses **related to a specific project** such as equipment, marketing and salaries may be eligible.
- Endowment matching grant

Mandatory criteria

- The organization demonstrates fiscal responsibility, effective management, skills and expertise
- The organization demonstrates a commitment to the project through a meaningful contribution of their own human and/or financial resources
- Have a clear evaluation and measurement process to track impact

Review Process

- Intake for 2021 applications is May 3 – June 11.
- Requests will be assessed based on alignment to our pillars, how it intends to address the impacts of the pandemic, as well as the stability and governance of the organization.
- Applications are reviewed by locally elected [Owner Representatives](#).
- Applicants will be notified if the application is declined or approved.

What happens after the grant is approved?

- Grant recipients must sign a funding agreement by a specific date.
- Funds will be disbursed within four weeks of signing the agreement.
- The grant recipient agrees to provide a report six months after receiving funding and a final report at the end of the project that summarizes the results achieved.

Please e-mail communityinvestment@libro.ca if you have any questions about this program.