

NU-2-U Grant

This grant identifies a process to distribute proceeds from the NU-2-U Thrift Store operation back to the community.

What does NU-2-U support?

- Providing goods to people who cannot afford new things
- Recycling household goods to reduce what goes to the landfill.
- Keeping goods in the community
- Operating a vibrant successful thrift store.

Principles for a funding program

Historically, NU-2-U has generated a surplus of the cost of sales over operations. In its first year of operation with The Town of Olds this surplus occurred again, and these proceeds have been placed in a reserve with the understanding that these funds would be redirected back to the community. This reserve would continue from year to year with the proceeds from the Thrift Store operation being allocated into the reserve at year end to be distributed in the following year.

In 2011, NU-2-U volunteers and Town Staff held a brainstorming session to identify the ways in which these funds could be used to support the community. In addition, input was solicited from the community via newspaper advertising. From that work, the following principles emerged:

- Funds available will be distributed annually based on applications received from community organizations.
- Funds will be used to support active lifestyles, health and wellness initiatives for families in the community (Olds and area).
- Funds will be used, where possible to support programs and services that cannot to be funded by Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). FCSS regulations prescribe what may be funded. Often organizations are required to seek alternate sources of funding when the FCSS regulations identify ineligible elements of an application.
- Funds may be used to supplement initiatives of other organizations that are supporting active lifestyles, health and wellness for the community such as Canadian Tire Jumpstart, Kids Sport or the Olds Community Assistance Foundation.
- Funds will be used to support initiatives that augment major initiatives – bricks and mortar projects would not typically be eligible, but furnishings, services and program support for these initiatives would be considered.
- Funding would typically be considered for a defined project that can be completed within the calendar year in which the funds are granted.

- Funds will only be provided to not-for-profit organizations.

Funding parameters:

Two rounds of funding may be considered annually:

1. Round 1 would have an application deadline of February/March annually, once the amount of the preceding year's surplus is known. Through this first process, the amount of funds set aside for Round 2 would be determined by the Review Team. This decision would be based on number of applications, amount of the previous year's surplus and the Team's understanding of potential emerging need in the community.
2. Round 2 would have an application deadline of October/November annually.
3. Annually, \$ 3000-\$5,000 will be maintained in the NU-2-U reserve to provide funds to address emerging needs that might arise throughout the year. Funding recommendations by the committee out of these monies would require approval of Olds Town Council.
4. Applicants must be from a registered not-for-profit organization.
5. Applications must contain:
 - Description of the initiative.
 - Explanation of the need for this initiative in the community and how the funds being requested will help to meet that need.
 - Explanation of how the organization plans to continue the initiative after the funding is finished.
 - Budget (all revenues and expenditures including the NU-2-U Grant to present a balanced budget).
 - A copy of the organization's most recent financial statement, annual return to the registrar of companies and a list of the members of the Board of Directors.
6. Successful grant applicants must agree to provide an accounting for the funds provided prior to applying for another grant or within one year, whichever occurs first.

Types of projects that may be considered for funding:

- Furnishings, programs and services for capital initiatives such as a hospice or an emergency shelter.
- Programs and services that support children in need, such as food programs for children or support for children to participate in recreation and culture programs.
- Programs and services that require start up funding or a financial infusion to keep going.
- Programs and services that support building individual and organizational capacity.
- Programs and services for people who might be victims of family violence or family breakdown.
- Programs and services not eligible for FCSS funding.

Application Review

A Grant Review Team will be established annually that consists of:

- Director of Community Services (or designate) of The Town of Olds
- NU-2-U Store Supervisor
- NU-2-U volunteer representative

Administrative support to this process will be provided by the Town of Olds Community Services Department, while the store remains a part of municipal operations.

Applications will be evaluated based on need for the initiative in the community and the ability of the organization to complete the initiative as it is proposed.

In an effort to maximize funds supporting community initiatives, applications will be vetted against the allocations of the Olds Community Assistance Foundation and Olds FCSS to strive to eliminate duplication and to aim for wide distribution of funds in the community.

Level of funding will be dependent, annually, on the amount of surplus generated by NU-2-U Store operations.

The recommendations of the Grant Review Team will be forwarded to Olds Town Council by the Director of Community Services for approval no later than April and December annually.

Organizations may be asked to sign an agreement for any funding allocated under this program and provide accounting for the funds allocated under this grant program.

Nu2U Grant Application Form

Name of Organization applying for funding:
Address of Organization:
Contact for Organization (Name and Phone number):
Name of the Initiative for which funding is being requested:
Description of the initiative:
What community needs will be addressed by this initiative?
How will your organization support this initiative after the NU-2-U grant funds are expended?

Budget: Identify the revenue and expenditures that are anticipated for this initiative. (Add your own categories. Remember, your budget should be balanced.)			
Anticipated Revenue by source		Anticipated Expenditure by category	
Membership fees		Wages and Salary	
Fundraising		Contracted Services	
		Supplies	
NU2U Grant request			
Total		Total	

Application Check List:

Please check to make sure your application contains the required information:

- Initiative description
- Explanation of need
- Plans for the future
- Balanced budget
- Amount of NU-2-U Grant request

Financial information

- Most recent financial statement of the applicant organization
- Most recent annual return to the registrar of companies for the applicant organization
- List of Board of Directors of the applicant organization