

Before You Apply: RISE Fund

Quick Start Guide

About this Guide

This guide is intended to help you decide whether the RISE Fund may be a fit for your group or organization before you begin the application.

It provides a brief overview of:

- what to expect in the application
- what information to prepare
- key dates and submission information
- where to find support

Please Note: This guide does not replace the application form and does not guarantee funding.

RISE Fund Overview

The RISE Fund is the City of Kitchener's community grant for Black, Indigenous, and racialized community groups and organizations. It supports events and projects that address community needs, reduce barriers to participation, and enhance well-being.

Funding Snapshot

\$150,000: Total available funding

Events & Projects: Eligible funding categories

\$1,000: Minimum funding request

\$10,000: Maximum funding request

Important Dates

Applications open: August 17, 2026

Applications close: September 14, 2026

Paper applications due: September 14, 2026 (end of day)

Applicants notified: December 2026

Is This Fund a Fit?

This fund may be a fit if:

- Your group or organization is **led** by Black, Indigenous and/or racialized community members.
- Your group or organization supports Black, Indigenous and/or racialized communities in Kitchener.
- Your event or project will benefit Kitchener residents.
- Your event or project responds to a community need or priority.
- Your event or project contributes to decreasing inequities, increasing opportunities, and/or increasing well-being.
- You can provide a budget showing how the funds will be used.
- If funded, your group or organization can meet reporting and evaluation requirements.

Who can apply?

The RISE Fund is intended for community groups and not-for-profit organizations.

What counts as a group?

For the purposes of this fund, a group means two or more people working together toward a shared community purpose, event, or project. **Individuals applying on their own are not eligible.**

Some applicants, activities, or expenses may not be eligible for funding. Please review the full eligibility information and eligible/ineligible expense examples at kitchener.ca/RISE before applying.

Please Note: The City of Kitchener will not provide funding to any person, group, or organization that promotes **conversion practices**.

How Are Applications Reviewed?

All RISE Fund applications are reviewed by the Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (REDIAC). **They are the selection committee for this grant.**

City staff support the funding process but do not vote on funding decisions.

What is Considered?

Applications can only be evaluated based on the information that is submitted.

Reviewers consider how well the application demonstrates:

- alignment with RISE Fund eligibility and priorities
- community need and expected impact
- how the event or project will be planned and carried out
- sustainability or future benefit
- financial need
- a clear budget showing how the requested funds would be used

Preparing Your Application

The application is divided into five sections:

These sections help the selection committee understand who is applying, who to contact, what is being proposed, and how the funding will be used.

1. Your Group or Organization
2. Primary Contact Information
3. Your Event or Project
4. Your Funding Request
5. Application Confirmation

Before starting the application it may help to gather:

Group or Organization Information

- Group or organization name
- Address or primary location of operations
- A short description of your group or organization
- Communities supported, leadership, and how long your group or organization has been active

Event or Project Information

- Event or project description
- Proposed location and date/ timeline

Funding Information

- Amount of funding requested
- Budget breakdown
- Other funding or in-kind support, if applicable
- Optional supporting documents, such as quotes, invoices, or confirmation of support

Ready to Submit?

Submit completed applications through the online application system. Paper copies may be returned to a Kitchener community centre or City Hall Customer Service Centre by the deadline.

Applications submitted after September 14, 2026, will not be accepted.

Before You Submit

Before submitting your application, make sure you have:

- ☐ Completed all required sections
- ☐ Included your group or organization information
- ☐ Included your primary contact information
- ☐ Provided a clear event or project description
- ☐ Included the amount of funding requested
- ☐ Provided a complete budget breakdown
- ☐ Added optional supporting documents, if applicable
- ☐ Completed the application confirmation statements

Need Help?

Support is available if you have questions or need help completing the application.

A video walkthrough is available to help applicants understand how to move through the application system.

General questions about the RISE Fund: REDI@kitchener.ca.

Accessibility or translation support: Amanda.Drumond@kitchener.ca.

Full program details: kitchener.ca/RISE.