



Kenora and Rainy River Community Investment Program Application Guidelines

Community Stream

Greo reserves the right to edit or amend these Application Guidelines up to and including September 25, 2026. Any updates will be published publicly, with the most current version available [on our website](#). EOI applicants will be contacted directly in the event of any changes to the Application Guidelines.

Last Updated: June 2026

Call for Applications

to the Community Stream is now open

Details about this funding opportunity are outlined herein. See below for important deadlines related to this call.



Funding Call Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| • June 11, 2026 | Call for applications open |
| • June 11, 2026 – January 22, 2027 | Question Period |
| • October 2, 2026 | Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline (23:59 CST) |
| • January 29, 2027 | Application submission deadline (23:59 CST) |
| • February 1, 2027 – February 26, 2027 | Review period |
| • March 1, 2027 | Funding notifications |
| • March 2, 2027 – March 31, 2027 | Contracting period |
| • April 1, 2027 | Project start date |
| • March 30, 2029 | Project completion date |



For more information, contact submissions@greo.ca.

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Application Guidelines Overview

What is this program?

This Community Investment Program (CIP) supports communities in Kenora and Rainy River to strengthen resilience and reduce gambling-related harms.

These Application Guidelines are for the Community Stream, which funds the development or enhancement of new or existing gambling support services within the focus communities.



Community Stream funding at-a-glance

- **Funding:** Up to \$100,000 per project
- **Project term:** 24 months
- **Timeline:** April 1, 2027 – March 30, 2029
- **Total funding envelope:** \$600,000 (across two streams)



Who can apply?

To be eligible, the lead or co-lead applicant(s) must:

- Be based in Kenora or Rainy River
- Be a registered organization operating for at least 12 months
- Have an organizational bank account

Eligible organizations include:

- Non-profit organizations
- Public health or community-based organizations
- Researchers co-leading with a community organization

Projects must be community-led. Academic partners must collaborate with—and flow funds through—a community organization.



What kinds of projects are eligible?

Projects must:

- Be based in Kenora and / or Rainy River
- Focus on gambling harm prevention, education, treatment, and / or support
- Be evidence-informed (including lived / living experience)
- Prioritize underserved and / or equity-deserving communities



How to apply

Step 1: Expression of Interest (EOI; required)

- Expression of Interest Form
- Deadline: October 2, 2026 (23:59 CST)

Step 2: Full Application (required)

- Application Form
- Appendix A (CVs / bios)
- Deadline: January 29, 2027 (23:59 CST)



Accessibility

We are committed to making the application process accessible and can provide case-by-case support and accommodations. If you encounter barriers or need support at any stage, please contact submissions@greo.ca.



Timeline

- June 11, 2026 – Call for applications opens
- October 2, 2026 (23:59 CST) – Expression of Interest deadline
- June 11 – January 22, 2027 – Question period
- January 29, 2027 (23:59 pm CST) – Full application deadline
- February 1–26, 2027 – Application review period
- March 1, 2027 – Funding decisions announced
- March 2–31, 2027 – Contracting period
- April 1, 2027 – Projects begin
- March 30, 2029 – Projects completed



Need support? Contact submissions@greo.ca

1. Kenora and Rainy River CIP

1.1 Program Purpose

The Kenora and Rainy River CIP will strengthen community resilience and reduce gambling-related harms in the Kenora and Rainy River region. It provides funding to local interest holders to support:

- Expansion of community-based treatment and prevention programming.
- Generation of locally driven research.
- Evaluation of evidence-based policies, programs, and practices.

1.2 Program Administration by Greo Evidence Insights

Greo Evidence Insights (Greo) manages the Kenora and Rainy River CIP. Greo has funded gambling-related research and community-based programs for the prevention, education, and mitigation of gambling-related harm since 2000 (formerly as the *Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC)* and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario). Today, Greo administers the Kenora and Rainy River CIP, by:

- Developing and managing the funding call for proposals (process and documentation), with support from a Community Advisory Committee.
- Reviewing Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to determine eligibility.
- Recruiting and facilitating program inputs including independent reviewers, Application Review Committee, and Program Advisory Committee.
- Facilitating the funding call adjudication.
- Communicating directly with program applicants and funded project teams.
- Supporting meaningful project implementation and reporting.
- Communicating the impacts of the Kenora and Rainy River CIP to the organization that invested the funds.

Funding is awarded through a transparent review process outlined in Section 7. Review and Adjudication Process. Greo's policies and processes for granting research and community funds are based on those used by the [Canadian Tri-Council](#) (three national government bodies that fund research in Canada). Community funding calls go through an additional step prior to formally launching to meaningfully engage with the priority populations for the call and align as best as possible with the needs and preferences of communities.

1.3 Accessibility Support

Greo is committed to making the application process as accessible as possible. Recognizing that submitting a project application can be challenging, we are prepared to work on a case-by-case basis to support applicants in developing their applications, and to provide accommodations where necessary and feasible. Applicants who require additional support to develop their applications, such as discussion of alternate submission formats, should contact Greo to discuss their needs at submissions@greo.ca. Where applicable, questions and answers about accessibility support may be anonymized and posted to the funding call webpage.

If applicants encounter any barriers during the application process, they are encouraged to reach out to submissions@greo.ca.

2. Funding Call

2.1 Overview

The 2026 call for applications to the Kenora and Rainy River CIP is now open.

Greo will fund projects that build upon and expand local gambling harms research, prevention, and support in the Kenora and Rainy River region. The funding program consists of a \$600,000 funding envelope divided into two funding streams. We will fund at least one project in each stream. The funding streams include:

- **The Community Stream** to fund the development or enhancement of new or existing gambling support services within the communities.
- **The Research Stream** to generate local evidence and strengthen and expand local research, continuing to support the development of locally driven and locally owned knowledge base.

These Application Guidelines are for the Community Stream. If you are interested in the Research Stream, the [Application Guidelines can be found here](#).

Please note that projects must be completed within a two-year period.

Funding for this Kenora and Rainy River CIP call has been made available by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), a Canadian crown (state owned) corporation responsible for conducting and managing gambling in the province of Ontario, Canada. OLG is committed to preventing and addressing gambling harms in communities, as part of their commitment to social responsibility. OLG has no influence over the Kenora and Rainy River CIP management, grant recipients, project implementation, or project outcomes.

Please note that this funding is currently available for a two-year period (from April 1, 2027 to March 30, 2029).

2.2 Funding for the Community Stream

These Application Guidelines are for the Community Stream. Funding for this stream aims to provide support for the development or enhancement of new or existing gambling harm reduction initiatives within the Kenora and Rainy River Region, including gambling harm prevention, education, and treatment.

Community Stream Grants should include the following:

- ✓ Representation of diverse perspectives in the design, implementation, and evaluation

of the projects (may include but is not limited to perspectives from people with lived and/or living experience, community-based organisations, public health, academic, health and support services, criminal justice, etc.).

- ✓ Methods to capture and share project outcomes and learnings with community members.

Projects should focus on support for communities that are underserved, systematically disadvantaged, and / or experiencing health inequalities.

2.2.1 Grant Amount

Community Stream projects can be funded up to \$100,000. Proposed project budgets are to be inclusive of all expenses, direct and indirect, and all applicable taxes. Applicant funding requests should be proportionate to the requirements of the proposed project.

Organizations that have project funding from another source are eligible to apply for supplementary funding to support the same project.

2.2.2 Funding Term

For projects funded within this stream, the project term is 24 months. It is important that proposed projects can be completed within this timeframe. Unless otherwise indicated, projects will start on April 1, 2027, and must be completed no later than March 30, 2029.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grants in the Community Stream, the lead applicant or co-lead applicant must:

- ✓ Be based in the Kenora or Rainy River region.
- ✓ Be registered and have been in operation for 12 months by the Kenora and Rainy River CIP application submission deadline (January 29, 2027).
- ✓ Have an organizational bank account for funds depositing project funds.

Applications submitted in English may be accepted from:

1. Registered non-profit organizations.
2. Publicly funded entities focused on health and wellbeing (e.g. public health, community health, etc.).
3. Researchers¹ co-leading a project with organizations that meet the criteria described in 1 and 2.

In addition to above, project team members can also include:

- ✓ Other types of organizations based inside or outside of Kenora or Rainy River region.
- ✓ Individuals not associated with a registered organization (e.g. lived experience and / or affected others).

An individual may be listed as a project team member on no more than two applications in total across the Research and Community Streams; however, they may act as the primary applicant for only one of those applications.

Applicant teams may not include organizations or members from the commercial gambling industry. The commercial gambling industry is defined as: for-profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from gambling proceeds.

Application teams may not include organizations or members with ineligible interests. See Section 5.4 for more information

¹ Researchers (e.g., PhD candidate, Post Doctoral Fellow / Scholar, University Professor, etc.). must be affiliated with an institution or organization in Ontario.

3.1.1 Considerations for researchers and academics

The purpose of this call is to fund community-led projects. Academics who choose to apply in this funding stream are required to collaboratively and ethically partner and co-lead a project with a community-based organization. Project funds must flow through the community-based organization.

3.2 Eligible Applications

The proposed projects must be:

- ✓ Based in Kenora or the Rainy River region.
- ✓ Related to gambling harm prevention, education, treatment, and / or support.
- ✓ Informed by evidence, which can include community-engaged research with those who have lived and living experience and / or professional experience.
- ✓ Suitable for the funding stream, as described in Section 2.2.

If you have any questions about whether your application meets these criteria, please contact submission@greo.ca with the subject line: “Eligibility: Kenora and Rainy River CIP” by January 22, 2027. For the benefit of all applicants, questions about eligibility will be anonymized and posted with answers to the funding call webpage on our website.

4. Conditions

4.1 Project Deliverables

Over the course of their funding term, each funded project team will submit:

1. Interim Report at the end of month 12
2. Final Report at the end of month 24

1. The Interim Report (month 12) will allow the funded project team to provide an update on the project implementation and/or outcomes to date. The Interim Report will include:

- Project background, with a discussion of project purpose and objectives
- Project methods and/or project implementation approach
- Progress on project deliverables
- Early findings (if available)

2. The Final Report (month 24) should be organized as follows:

- Executive summary, containing a condensed version of the full report
- Project background, with a discussion of project purpose and objectives
- Project methods and/or project implementation approach
- Project findings (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Project assets appended, including things like discussion guides, surveys, interview guides, presentations, education toolkits, etc.

Greo will manage questions or requests for support from funded projects throughout the project term. Reports and relevant project assets will be published by Greo following project completion. Copyright for this report remains with the author(s). A Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND will be applied.

4.2 Resulting Data

In the spirit of open science, project teams are welcome to contribute data collected during their funded projects to a publicly available data repository such as the [Open Science Forum](#) or the [Greo Data Repository](#). The data and metadata would then be made available for review and secondary analysis.

However, there is no requirement for funded project teams to make available the data collected as part of their project. This funding will honour Indigenous Data Sovereignty—the ability for Indigenous Peoples to participate, steward, and control data that are created with or about themselves.

4.3 Additional Considerations for Applicants

Applicants are required to plan for appropriate health and safety measures in relation to proposed projects, such as though not limited to, Vulnerable Sector Checks and First Aid certification, and any other considerations that mitigate for potential harms. Culturally sensitive data collection practices should also be planned for and outlined within applicant submissions.

During the contracting period, the project team may be asked to identify how they will be attending to the health and safety needs as well as cultural considerations in alignment with their projects and interactions in communities.

5. How to Apply

5.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

Only teams who submit an EOI by the deadline above will be included in this funding call.

To express your interest in this funding call, please:

- ✓ Complete the online [Expression of Interest form](#).

Please note that we use EOIs to assemble appropriate Application Review Committees. Once EOIs have been received, Greo will review each to ensure applicants meet the eligibility criteria (see Section 3). All applicant teams who submitted EOIs and meet the eligibility criteria will advance to the next stage in the application process.

EOI's submitted up to and including October 2, 2026, will be reviewed by the Greo team for eligibility and completeness, and applicants will have the opportunity to make any necessary changes ahead of the deadline.

5.2 Question Period

Greo will receive questions from applicants about the application process on an ongoing basis from June 11, 2026 – January 22, 2027. Questions can be submitted via email to submissions@greo.ca.

If applicants prefer to discuss their questions via phone or video conference, they may reach out via email to schedule a meeting with Greo.

All questions and answers will be anonymized, consolidated, and posted to the funding call webpage weekly on Tuesdays, until the close of the question period.

5.3 Full Application

To apply, please:

- ✓ Complete the online [Community Stream Application form](#).
- ✓ Compile the project team's resumés, curricula vitae, or detailed biographies (1-2 page) in one document (titled Appendix A).
- ✓ Submit all documents via the online submission form by 23:59 (CST) on January 29, 2027.

5.3.1 Community Stream Application Form

- Access the online [Community Stream Application form](#).
- For details related to eligible and ineligible expenses, see the [Kenora and Rainy River CIP Eligible Expense Guidelines](#).

5.3.2 Appendix A: CV, Resume, or Detailed Biography for Each Project Team Member

Prepare an Appendix A document including the most current version of each project team members' resumé, curricula vitae, or detailed biography (1-2 pages).

5.3.3 Application Submission

Submit your completed application documents via the online Community Stream Application form by 23:59 CST on January 29, 2027.

5.4 Declaration of Interests

In both the Expression of Interest (EOI) and the Full Application, applicants will be asked to complete a Declaration of Interest.

The following interests make a **person or organization ineligible** to receive a Community Stream Grant:

- A person holds or has held a Board or Executive-level position in the commercial gambling industry^{1,2} in the past 3 years. *Note: This does not preclude individuals who have previously held front-line roles in the gambling industry from receiving a grant.*
- An organization has investments (valued at more than \$10,000 overall) in, or commercial business interests associated with, the commercial gambling industry.^{1,2,3} This includes, but is not limited to, stocks, bonds, commercial business interests such as partnerships, board memberships, etc.
- An organization has provided expert opinion as part of a regulatory, legislative, or judicial process on behalf of the commercial gambling industry^{2,3}

¹ For the purpose of this Declaration of Interests, the commercial gambling industry is defined as: for-profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from gambling proceeds. It also does not preclude people who have worked as frontline staff for a gambling operator from applying.

Other interests in the Declaration of Interest form do not make individuals or organizations ineligible to receive a grant; however, these interests must be declared across project application and reporting documents. If you have any questions about Declaration of Interest process, please reach out to submissions@greo.ca.

² Applicants with special circumstances who are deemed ineligible based on their response to this question may submit a written request for reconsideration. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Greo team.

³ This excludes mutual funds, pension funds, or similar investments that are broadly diversified and on which you exercise no control.

6. Application Assessment Rubric

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
Project purpose and objectives (15%) Clearly state the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. <i>The problem or need the project addresses</i> <i>How project contributes to reducing gambling-related harms</i> <i>How approach aligns with the Kenora and Rainy River Community Stream aims</i>	- Degree to which the project purpose and objectives are clearly defined. - Degree to which the problem or need is clearly defined - Rationale for how the project contributes to reducing gambling related harms - Degree to which the project purpose and objectives are aligned with the aim of the Community Stream of the Kenora and Rainy River CIP.
Project design (35%) Clearly describe all components of the proposed project, including supporting evidence, including: <i>Who the project will support (target population/s) and why.</i> <i>Key project activities.</i> <i>How project activities will meaningfully support gambling harm prevention, education, and/or treatment access within your target population (including any culturally-sensitive practices).</i>	- Degree to which the target population(s) is clearly defined. - Rationale for the specific population(s) is justifiable and clearly explained. - Degree to which key activities are clearly described and align with the project objectives. - Degree to which the key activities are evidence-based. - Degree to which activities are likely to support gambling harm prevention, education, and/or treatment access among target population(s).
Team and organizational qualifications (15%) Clearly state the relevant expertise and qualifications of the team members involved, including prior work on similar projects/through similar partnerships, if applicable.	Degree to which the team's expertise is relevant and sufficient to conduct the project.

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
Clearly describe the expertise, infrastructure, existing relationships, etc. of the organizations involved in the project. For teams that include academic partners, please clearly describe your process for collaborative and ethical decision-making, including though not limited to plans and processes for: • <i>Co-design of the project</i> • <i>Two-way resource sharing</i>	• Degree to which the involved organizations have the infrastructure to perform the proposed project. • Degree to which the project team will have sufficient access to their target population(s) to carry out the project. • Degree to which community/academic partnerships demonstrate a collaborative and ethical approach (if applicable).
Timeline and Budget (15%) Provide a breakdown of project deliverables and timeline in the Application Form. See the Eligible Expense Guidelines for information on eligible and ineligible expenses when completing the budget.	• Degree to which timeline of activities and deliverables are defined. • Degree to which the project appears feasible within the timeline. • Degree to which budget breakdown logically reflects the proposed project activities.
Knowledge Sharing (10%) Please clearly describe how you will share your project insights and results with key interest holders: • <i>Identify and describe the key audiences who might benefit from project's learnings (e.g., community members, practitioners, etc.)</i> • <i>Describe the formats that will be used to share the project results (e.g., reports, workshops, presentations, community meetings, digital content)</i>	• Degree to which the project team has demonstrated sufficient consideration regarding knowledge sharing.

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
<i>Any other knowledge sharing considerations your project or organization will use</i>	
Evaluation (10%) Please clearly describe how you will evaluate your initiative / project. Your description should include: <i>How you will assess progress towards your project goals, including what you will measure and when and how you will measure it.</i> <i>How you will analyze and interpret the data you collect.</i> <i>How you will use your evaluation findings to make projects improvements, support decision making, or share lessons learned with partners or your community.</i>	Degree to which the project team has demonstrated sufficient consideration regarding project evaluation.

7. Review and Adjudication Process

7.1 Application Review

Each application will be reviewed by an Application Review Committee comprised of up to three external reviewers. Once application reviews are complete, an Adjudication Committee will identify which applications will be funded, based on reviewer scores and qualitative feedback. For an overview of this process, see the visual in Section 7.5.

7.2 Review Committee

Every effort is made to ensure the Application Review Committee includes reviewers whose expertise aligns with the proposal, with prioritized inclusion of representatives from the focal population. Additional effort is made to ensure a diversity of relevant perspectives (i.e., one person with lived and/or living experience, one person with subject-matter expertise, and one person with practice).

7.3 Adjudication Committee

The Adjudication Committee will be chaired by Greo and will be comprised of a up to three external members. This Committee is responsible for looking at the feedback and comments of the review committee and executing the decisions of the Application Review Committee. Text-based comments from the reviewers will be shared with all applicants (both successful and unsuccessful), but not numeric scores.

7.4 Declaration of Interest

Prior to involvement in the Application Review Committee or Adjudication Committee, individuals are required to complete a Declaration of Interest (DOI) form. DOI's will be screened by Greo for eligibility, in alignment with the criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines (see section 5.4). Additionally, a reviewer cannot participate in the review of, or funding decisions related to applications submitted by:

- A person with whom they have co-authored or shared a grant in the past three years.
- A person with whom they have a close personal/professional relationship.
- An organization they have worked for in the past.
- A student they are supervising or have supervised.
- A person who has supervised them.

7.5 Kenora and Rainy River Community Investment Program: Review and Adjudication Process

