



Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life APPLICATION GUIDELINES

About the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life

Established through a bequest from Bill Long and named for his uncle Henry S. Varley, the objective of the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life is to enhance and sustain a quality of life in the rural communities of southwestern Alberta.

Charities that are seeking funding for activities within the City of Lethbridge, as the urban centre of this region, are not eligible for funding.

From Application to Grant

The Community Foundation's Rural Life Grants Committee, comprised of Community Foundation directors and volunteers from across rural Southwestern Alberta, reviews and considers each application before making funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval. Please note that all applicants are notified, regardless of whether or not they receive funding. Funding is awarded approximately two months after the deadline date.

Granting Areas

Grants are considered for organizations with activities and programs that fits best within one of the six [Vital Signs](#) Impact Areas:

- Community Connections
- Environment
- Lifelong Learning
- Living Standards
- Healthy Communities
- Cultural Life

Grant Application Deadlines

We accept applications to the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life twice a year:

- March 15 at 4:00 p.m.
- October 15 at 4:00 p.m

NOTE: If dates fall on a weekend, applications are due on the following Monday.

Applying to the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life

Before spending your valuable time completing a grant application please read the following information and answer the questions to determine whether your organization and your project meet our eligibility requirements.

Step 1: Is your organization eligible for funding?

Are you located within our region? Our region stretches from the U.S. border north to Arrowwood, and from the B.C. border west to Grassy Lake. You must be located within this region, or carry out programming within this region to be eligible for funding.

Are you a registered charity with **Canada Revenue Agency**?

- The Community Foundation can only grant to **federally registered charities or qualified donees** with a business number (BN). You can check your organization's charitable status by visiting the [Canada Revenue Agency Website](#). Please note that this number is different from an Alberta Societies Number. The Community Foundation cannot fund societies unless they are also federally registered.

Are you applying in partnership?

If you do not have a CRA BN, you may still apply for funding through a partnership with another registered charity, municipality or school district. If you would like more information on charity/non-charity partnerships, please call the office at 403-328-5297.



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Step 2: Is Your Project Eligible?

The Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life is coordinated with the Foundation's Community Priorities Grants Program. Therefore, proposals that focus mainly on capital expenses such as new construction, renovations, large equipment items, playgrounds, parks, and vehicles are NOT eligible for funding from the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life. Applications of this nature should be directed to the Community Priorities Grant Program for consideration.

Step 3: Does Your Project Display the Following Strengths?

If project proposals meet the criteria of the fund, eligible organizations will be invited to complete a full application. Charities or Qualified Donees will choose one or more categories to submit an application:

- **Innovation** – Project initiatives proposed by one or more qualified donees that encourage innovation through new approaches, new models, and new ways of making change for individuals in our communities.
- **Community Collaboration** – Project initiatives funded by the Henry S. Varley Fund that will encourage collaboration and work together to build inclusive responses to local issues.
- **Education and training initiatives** - The quality of life in rural communities thrives through employment opportunities. Education and training initiatives that support organizations that will develop and enhance the skills to strengthen organizations that support the rural community.
- **Information and research initiatives** – Projects that arise as the result of research and information initiatives that impact the rural community and quality of life of its citizens.

Step 4: Completing Your Grant Application

Grant applications can be accessed through the online [grant management system](#). The application process has two parts:

1. Complete a brief summary of your project for the Letter of Intent (LOI)/ Project Proposal. Our Grants Coordinator will contact you to discuss the project.
2. Once the project's eligibility has been approved and the project proposal is ready for submission, you will be invited to complete the full application. The following documents are required to be completed prior to the March 15 or October 15 deadline.
 - Application Form
 - Audited Financial Statements
 - Operating Budget
 - List of Board and key staff members
 - Letter of Support (if applying in partnership)
 - Project Quote

In order for your application to be eligible, you must submit any outstanding final reports for previous Community Foundation grants prior to the grant deadline.

Contact Us

Grant applicants are encouraged to contact the Community Foundation grants coordinator to discuss their project at any point during the application process—we are here to help!

Caitlin Gajdostik, Grants Coordinator

Phone: 403-328-5297 **Email:** grants@cflsa.ca