

United Way Healthy Aging
2021-2022 Men's Sheds Grants

FAQ

Table of Contents

Start-Up Grants

1. My community organization is interested in starting a Men's Shed. How do we proceed?
2. I heard about Men's Sheds recently and I think my community should have one. I'm not involved in any community organization, but would I be eligible for a start-up grant?
3. Who is funding these start-up grants?

Project Grants

1. My community organization has engaged with local men who are interested in starting a Men's Sheds. We have covered the initial costs of meeting and do not require a start-up grant. Can we apply for a Project Grant?
2. My Men's Shed does not have charitable status. How can we partner with a charity?
3. Can project grants be used for operational costs?
4. Is ongoing funding available?
5. Can Men's Shed project grants be used to cover salaries, stipends, or honorariums?
6. Who is funding these project grants?

Start-Up Grants

(Launched July 6th, 2021)

1. My community organization is interested in starting a Men's Shed. How do we proceed?

Men's Sheds are grass-roots initiatives that start at the community level. Organizations looking to start a Shed should start by looking for interested individuals in the community to partner with. Make sure to contact MSABC (Men's Sheds Association of BC) to learn more about Men's Sheds and see if there are individuals in your community who have already shown interest in starting a Shed in your area. Contact Mike Jennings, President, MSABC at mrchips104@gmail.com.

If an organization is interested in starting a Men's Shed but does not require a Start-up Grant, they can apply directly for a project grant once available, given they meet the criteria listed below in question #1. To be considered a Shed, a group must have at least seven active members, i.e., individuals from the community, and a connection initiated with the nearest Men's Shed, as suggested by MSABC. This includes a commitment to receive mentorship and assist one another.

Shed's receiving a Start-up Grant will not be eligible for a Project Grant until at least six months following approval of their Start-up Grant.

2. I heard about Men's Sheds recently and I think my community should have one. I'm not involved in any community organization, but would I be eligible for a start-up grant?

Yes, if you find at least one other person interested in getting a Men's Shed started in your community.

3. Who is funding these start-up grants?

Start-Up grants are made possible through funding by a national trust, set up by an anonymous donor.

Note: We will add more questions here as they arise. Contact Barbara McMillan, United Way Healthy Aging, at barbaram@uwbc.ca if you have any other questions.

Project Grants

(Launched August 3rd, 2021)

1. My community organization has engaged with local men who are interested in starting a Men's Sheds. We have covered the initial costs of meeting and do not require a start-up grant. Can we apply for a Project Grant?

Possibly. To apply for a Men's Shed Project Grant, applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered an established Shed:

- 1. Incorporated as a non-profit/society or affiliated with one*
- 2. Involved with MSABC – formal membership is not required but highly encouraged. This includes joining Healthy Aging CORE BC and the [Men's Sheds' Discussion Forum](#) on CORE.*
- 3. Connection initiated with local Men's Shed, as suggested by MSABC. This includes a commitment to receive mentorship and assist one another.*
- 4. Minimum of seven active Shed members*

2. My Men's Shed does not have charitable status. How can we partner with a charity?

Most Men's Sheds are likely to have connections with charitable organizations or qualified donees in their community that understand the purpose and benefits of a Men's Shed, such as local government, a community service organization, community centre, church, or health agency. Many such organizations are familiar with the Canada Revenue Agency requirements for working with groups that are not registered charities, and are willing to partner with them to support important activities in their community.

These requirements include a meaningful partnership where the charity/qualified one receiving the grant is involved in the administration and management of the project for which funding is granted. The actual project work may be completed by the non-charity. The collaboration arrangement between the non-charity/non-qualified donee and the charity/qualified donee should be written in the form of a contract to clarify the responsibilities of each party. More information is available from the Canada Revenue Agency guidance on [Using an Intermediary to Carry Out a Charity's Activities](#).

If you need help in identifying a supportive organization, please contact us.

3. Can project grants be used for operational costs?

*No. Project grants are for time-limited activities and not on-going programs or operating costs of Sheds. It can be helpful to think of the difference between projects and programs. A **project** is a single focused initiative or activity that has a clear start and end, and is designed to generate a deliverable, such as an event, an equipment purchase, a renovation, a workshop or training, a video production, etc. A **program**, on the other hand, is an organized series or system of activities that is offered or provided on a regular, on-going basis.*

Sometimes a project becomes a program, for example, when an activity is introduced as a pilot, demonstration, or "proof of concept". In such cases, project evaluations determine effectiveness and whether the project should be continued longer term, in which case resources must be secured for on-going program implementation.

4. Is ongoing funding available?

No. Men's Shed Project Grants are for time-limited projects, as described above.

5. Can Men's Shed project grants be used to cover salaries, stipends, or honorariums?

Yes. If required to implement a project, Project Grant expenses can include payment to an individual or business for work undertaken or services rendered. However, in such cases, payments to Men's Shed members are not eligible expenses.

6. Who is funding these project grants?

Project grants are made possible through funding by the Province of BC's Ministry of Health.

Note: We will add more questions here as they come up. Please contact Barbara McMillan at United Way Healthy Aging, barbaram@uwbc.ca, if you have any other questions.