

What does this policy change mean for my Organization?

These questions and answers are designed to help answer organizations' questions and concerns about the redesign of the city's granting process. This document is not designed to be exhaustive so please feel free to reach out to the City with your individual questions. A City contact is found at the end of this document or contact your current grant support person.

The City provides close to one million dollars in grants annually. The existing grants programs have developed independently over the years. During the 2018 granting period, Council expressed its desire to have an overarching policy for the City's granting process that was more modern and aspirational. The goal was to refresh all the programs, and address concerns that have been raised about the process.

1. Where does my organization's project or program fit into the new portfolios?

The following table shows how the former grants areas mesh into the new portfolios:

New Portfolio	Former Grant Area
Community Livability and Social Equity (grants for living)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Care• Environment• Partnership• Community
Social and Cultural Vibrancy (Grants for Involvement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amateur Sport• Arts and Culture• Festivals• Heritage• Partnership• Community
Community Economic Activators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnership• Festival

However, as your organization moves forward you may see your activity in a different portfolio. For instance, an environmental topic may fit better under social and cultural vibrancy because of its particular aims. City staff will help guide you and ensure the project has the best possible chance of success.

2. Previously there were defined grant amounts for each grant area. In the amalgamation is my grant area losing money?

The intent of the reorganization is not to remove/decrease the level of funding from any one group or granting area. The City will continue to fund each area at the similar level. These funding levels will be communicated to organizations in a Council report seeking approval for the annual grant budget. Each application will be assigned to a budget area during evaluation so that each grant area can be confident that no area will lose out. Staff who manage each grant area are concerned about ensuring the individual areas are not lose funding.

3. In the new groupings will my grant have to compete against all grants or only the grants in my funding group?

No. You will still only compete against other applications of the same type. Your evaluation will still be based on the strength of the proposal that you submit and its alignment with the City's goals. Irrelevant or insufficient applications will not be funded.

4. My organization has been given multi-year funding that is still active, does anything change?

Nothing changes. Funds already provided to your grant program will remain. You will only now report under the new grant portfolios.

5. There is now a requirement that applicants show other sources of funding and / or support for the program. What does this mean?

The City is asking this question to understand if your project has community support. Are other organizations providing you money, free or reduced rent space, free services? Are volunteers coming out to support the project? Projects should have support to make the project viable.

6. What New?

- *Funding areas have been made more flexible*
In the past grant type had fixed criteria that may not have been consistent between the grants areas. This policy strives to increase flexibility.
- *Multi-year funding is available for more organizations*
Previously multi-year funding was available only in the partnership and festival grant areas. In the new policy it would be available for grants. This change was made in recognition of the value that all types of organizations have in the city and that grant writing can take a lot of resources for small organizations. The City wants organizations to spend more time working on their projects rather than grants writing.
- *Smaller, one-time grants have a wider scope and are open all year round.*
In the previous process, granting occurred once a year, with the exception of athlete travel grants. Now a portion of the money will be set aside for small emergent needs that an organization may have. This portion of funding will only be for a new project and not a project already funded.
- *Reporting back*
There is a new reporting structure that will require a one page report of your project (including images) that the City can include in an annual grants report to Council to celebrate the work you have achieved with the City's help our help.

7. Contact information?

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