

**Seniors Can! (Aînés Debout!)** is an initiative of HelpAge Canada designed to help low-income seniors across Canada avoid isolation and loneliness and to engage more fully with their communities. The grant program provides financial assistance through partnering charitable agencies for mobility and communication enhancing equipment as well as funding for social and wellbeing-promoting activities, or programming, including transportation to these activities as well as emergency relief support.

Through the generous support of the Founding Program Partner, HelpAge Canada offers four grant programs. Partner organizations may apply for individual seniors or for programming that serves a population of seniors. Individual seniors may receive up to \$2000 in a given year in support of a wholistic approach in providing the senior with equipment and services. Likewise, agencies may receive grants of up to \$5000 to operate accessible programming for seniors in their community. Finally, an Emergency Relief Grant is available of up to \$2,000 (or more) that may be applied for repeatedly in extraordinary circumstances.

Integral to the grant program is our ability to capture and tell these good news stories.

**We operate on a bi-annual granting cycle with application deadlines at October 1st and April 1st.** We accept applications at any time, with grants awarded within 30 days of the application close.

## SPECIFICS

There are four Grants available.

The agency may apply for the same Senior for both Grants A and B within the same year not to exceed a total of \$2000. A holistic approach combining equipment and social support and well-being activities is the intention of the grants.

The Fourth Grant, Grant D, is intended for Emergency Relief and be applied for without limit once the reporting has been completed for a previous Emergency Relief Grant and the emergency is prevalent.

### **GRANT A - Accessibility Grant**

An annual grant of up to \$2,000 to assist a low-income senior with the purchase and installation of mobility and communication-enhancing equipment such as:

- Adjustable height or raised toilet seats
- Bed pull-up Ts
- Bicycles or tricycles customized for disabled persons
- Canes

- Car seats that provide restraint and support for disabled persons
- Chair lifts
- Crutches
- Handrails and grab bars
- Lift chairs
- Lifts for bed, bathtub, etc.
- Scooters and transporters for disabled persons
- Slings to lift patients
- Shower chairs and stools
- Swivel seats that enable a disabled person to rotate in order to rise from a chair
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs, including all terrain and pool
- Wheelchair batteries, cushions, safety belts
- Wheelchair ramps (portable)

### **GRANT B - Well-Being Grant**

An annual grant of up to \$2,000 to assist a low-income senior with the cost of social or wellbeing-promoting activities, meals or meal programs, and/or transportation to activities or meal programs, including:

- Annual memberships with organizations that offer social, recreational, or educational programs for seniors
- Social meals for seniors through food banks or social service providers
- Food hamper visits for elderly persons living alone or a hamper visit subsidy
- Meals on Wheels or similar program

### **GRANT C - Innovative Programming Grant**

A Grant of up to \$5,000 to cover the partner organization's programming costs for social or wellbeing-promoting activities and/or transportation for seniors to these activities. Programs must demonstrate participation of at least 5 regular participants. Innovative and creative programs are encouraged. Programming may include programs such as:

- Exercise classes
- Meal programs
- Social, artistic, musical, spiritual, or athletic activity

## **GRANT D - Emergency Relief Grant**

A Gift to the Recipient of up to \$5,000 for emergency support for seniors to access medications, food, hygiene products, personal care or other needs and for support for healthcare workers or volunteers serving seniors. This Emergency Support is granted in cases of emergency and may be applied for, without limit in a given year consecutively once the Recipient has completed its reporting requirements of a previous Emergency Relief Program Grant.

## **PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES**

By submitting an application to the SeniorsCan! Program, partner organization agrees to work with HelpAge Canada to achieve the following partnership objectives:

- Promoting both the equipment and social support branches of the SeniorsCan! Program, with a view to providing wholistic support and individual-centric solutions to isolation and loneliness;
- Ongoing transparent information sharing through responsive, open, and honest communications.

Telling the story. To build the program to a national and ongoing scope, we share the narrative of how together we can enhance the lives of seniors.

## **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

- a. Partner organizations identify eligible low-income seniors (Grants A and B) or an eligible program and apply for a grant through a secure website provided.
- b. In the case of applications on behalf of a low-income senior, partner organization will provide an attestation that the senior requires assistance after taking into account:
  - The senior's income (proof of income has been reviewed);
  - Funding received from other sources, including governments (documentation has been reviewed).
  - The grant from the SeniorsCan! Program will complete the purchase of the required equipment or social support.
- c. Seniors' personal information remains with the partner organization.
- d. In the case of programming by a partner organization, a description and budget of the product, service or program and a brief case for support outlining how it helps low-income seniors to better engage with their families and communities, and the number of seniors who will be assisted.
- e. HelpAge Canada accepts applications through their website on an on-going basis with bi-annual application closure dates of October 1st and April 1st. Grants are awarded according to funding available, fit and assessed need within 30 days of approval. HelpAge Canada reserves the right to limit grants to ensure its national reach with available funds in a given year.

- f. Partner, upon receiving the grant, facilitates the procurement of the equipment, service or program providing HelpAge Canada with the receipt of third-party vendors or service providers.
- g. Partner organization report back to HelpAge Canada on use of grants, accurately, completely, and in a timely manner. At HelpAge Canada's request, Partner will share participant impact stories, provide impact infographics (photos, videos or other). HelpAge Canada may ask to collect some information on impacts itself, and Partner's consent to such direct collection of stories shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- h. HelpAge Canada will monitor the partnership relationship on an ongoing basis and encourages feedback and open communication.
- i. There will be some discretion allowed in allocating grants, taking into account the equipment or services requested, need, availability, support and local context. The goal being to best support low-income seniors.
- j. The purpose of the Emergency Relief Grant (D) is to assist an organization in extraordinary circumstances and is intended to be flexible in its application to respond to the unique needs the organization has in serving seniors, including support of staff and volunteers for the safe delivery of products or services.