

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, oral health procedures not covered by healthcare, for social and wellbeing-promoting activities or programming, including transportation to these activities, and for emergency relief support.

Through the generous support of the Founding Program Partner, HelpAge Canada offers three grant programs. Partner organizations may apply for individual seniors or for programming that serves a population of seniors. Local Community Partners (LCPs) may receive grants of up to \$10,000 for each of the grant streams.

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

We operate on an annual granting cycle with an application deadline of March 31st. We accept applications at any time, with grants awarded within 60 days of the application close.

INTENDED IMPACTS

As a result of HelpAge Canada and the Seniors Can! Program:

- Aging adults experience dignity and joy as they age
- Aging adults exercise their voice and choice in wellbeing
- Aging adults are active, resilient, and healthy
- Aging adults experience belonging and meaningful social connection
- Communities know, appreciate, and serve the needs of aging adults

SPECIFICS

There are three Grants available.

The **Senior Well-Being Grant** offers a holistic approach to support seniors. LCPs may apply for up to \$10,000 to directly support one or more low-income seniors with mobility and communication equipment or devices, dental care, and/or for services such as transportation, delivered meals or senior center memberships, etc.

Innovative Programming Grant offers up to \$10,000 to a charitable organization to deliver innovative social programming for seniors.

The **Emergency Relief Grant** of up to \$10,000 is intended for extraordinary emergencies such as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Well-Being Grant

A grant of up to \$10,000 to assist low-income seniors with the purchase and installation of mobility and communication-enhancing equipment or devices, dental health needs or for other social supports such as transportation, meal programs, digital literacy etc.

Equipment and devices may include:

- Adjustable height or raised toilet seats
- Bed pull-up Ts
- Bicycles or tricycles customized for disabled persons
- Canes, crutches, walkers
- Car seats that provide restraint and support for disabled persons
- Chair, bed or bathtub lifts, Handrails and grab bars
- Scooters and transporters for disabled persons
- Shower chairs and stools
- Swivel seats that enable a disabled person to rotate in order to rise from a chair
- Wheelchairs, including batteries, cushions, safety belts, ramps
- Dentures or oral surgery not covered by Provincial or Federal Healthcare

Social support services may include such activities as:

- 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 delivery
- Visits for elderly persons living alone
- Meals on Wheels or similar program

Innovative Programming Grant

A grant of up to \$10,000 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
- Artistic, musical, spiritual, or athletic activity
- Social outings programs

Emergency Relief Grant

A gift to the recipient of up to \$10,000 for emergency support for seniors to access medications, food, hygiene products, personal care, social support 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 Seniors Can! 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 Seniors Can! 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 or an eligible program and apply for a grant through a secure website provided.
- b. Partner organization will provide an attestation that the seniors benefiting from the applied-for grant are considered low-income and that 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 with a closure date of March 31st. Grants are awarded according to funding available, fit and assessed need. 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 reports 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 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.