



COMMUNITY GRANTS 2024 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

RTOERO is a bilingual trusted voice for healthy, active living in retirement. With members in Districts across Canada, we are the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education community retirees. We believe in the power of our community to secure a better future, and are committed to helping secure better futures for each other, and for the communities we serve.

1. Purpose of the RTOERO Community Grants

RTOERO Community Grants are designed to encourage all RTOERO Districts to support and partner with local organizations to promote projects that will help our organization to meet our strategic goals of:

- to improve the lives of members and seniors;
- be the trusted voice for the broader education communities;
- and broaden our membership base.

Successful applications will exhibit many of the exemplary traits articulated in the RTOERO values of:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Community Connection
- Commitment to healthy, active living
- Environmental Sustainability
- Service
- Wellbeing
- Accountability

2. Who may apply for Community Grants?

All Districts are eligible to receive a Community Grant. Those interested will serve as the project sponsor and will submit the application for a Community Grant either in partnership with a community organization that has a demonstrated successful record of service or on behalf of the district.

The project applications may include wide ranging topics that have a direct and positive impact on the community, including our members and seniors, and/or demonstrate environmental stewardship.

3. Important Information

- RTOERO Community Grants are intended to support local, community-based projects that will help RTOERO meet its strategic goals by:
 - Improving the lives of members and seniors
 - Raising awareness and recognition of RTOERO within the community
 - If a grant is to be put towards a larger project or fundraising initiative, your application must make clear (a) how the project aligns with the RTOERO goals and values (see question 3 in application) and (b) how RTOERO will receive recognition for the donation (see question 7 in application)

- Successful Community Grant applicants will receive a grant of up to \$4,000
- Multiple Districts may submit a joint application for a shared project, making them eligible for funding up to \$4,000 per District involved
 - In other words, if three Districts are involved in a project, they are eligible for funding up to a total of \$12,000
- RTOERO Community Grants may only be awarded to a specific project once within a District
 - Similar projects submitted by different Districts would still be eligible
- RTOERO members cannot monetarily benefit from the project
- All funded projects require a Final Report submitted to the RTOERO Office
 - Final reports for 2023 projects must be received by May 10, 2024 in order for a District to be eligible for funding in 2024
 - Final reports for 2024 projects are due May 9, 2025
 - If the 2023 project is not complete and all funds have not been utilized, the District cannot apply for a new grant in 2024
- A detailed breakdown of the project evaluation criteria can be found in the accompanying rubric (downloadable via <https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/grants/>). Please use the rubric as a guide when developing your grant application

4. Application Process

Districts, in partnership with a community organization (if applicable), will complete an application, which may only be entered in point form in the spaces provided, and that includes the following information:

- Name, address and contact information of the sponsoring District member and the representative of the community partner organization
- Title of the project
- Brief description of the project and expected outcomes
- Clear description of how the project will positively impact members and seniors in the community
- A detailed implementation plan and timeline
- A communication plan – outlining how the project will be positively highlighted for members of the community and the District
- An outline of a post-implementation evaluation of the project

Applications must be completed via the RTOERO website (<https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/grants/>) by midnight of May 31, 2024.

Applications will then be reviewed by the Community Grants and Scholarships Committee (CGSC) to ensure they meet all criteria (see accompanying rubric, downloadable via <https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/grants/>, for more details). The CGSC will recommend all applications that meet the criteria outlined within the rubric be approved for grants by the Board of Directors. Any applications that do not meet the criteria outlined in the accompanying rubric will not be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. In this circumstance, the CGSC will provide the District with detailed feedback indicating how the application could be strengthened for the next granting cycle.

Appendix A

Examples for consideration when completing Questions 7 and 8 of the Community Grants Application

7. Please indicate how your District and your community partner will publicize this project.

Examples/ideas:

Community relations

- Cheque presentation at District or partner organization event
- Guest speaker from your District at recipient organization event
- Unveiling of funded initiative

Donor recognition

- Co-branded materials
- Recognition of the donation in recipient newsletter
- Recognition in recipient organization annual report

Media relations

- Recipient organization issues news release to local media highlighting RTOERO donation
- Marketing & Communications Team will provide a template/sample news release for Districts to send to local media
- Send pictures and follow-up stories about the project to local media

Digital and social media

- Video (1-2 minutes) for use at events and on social media
- Recipient organization posts information on its website and/or social media accounts, recognizing the donation

Member communication

- Marketing & Communications Team will provide a sample newsletter article you can adapt for your District newsletter
- Feature the donation on your District social media accounts
- Guest speaker from recipient organization at District event
- Write a story for the District newsletter about the results/impact of the funded project

For other communication support, contact Danielle Norris, Director, Marketing & Communications and Member Services - dnorris@rtoero.ca

8. How will you evaluate the impact and success of this project? Your answer should outline a plan to assess measurable outcomes and the project's impact on members and seniors in the community.

In this section we are looking for (a) your process for evaluating/measuring the outcomes of your projects and (b) your plan to assess your project's impact. In other words, identify indicators of the success of your project and develop a plan for how you will measure them.

Examples/ideas:

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Testimonials
- Focus groups
- Summary of Media Coverage
- Collection of Social Media Output
- Measuring implementation and utilization rates
- Assess final project costs
- Exit interview with partner organization
- Analysis of whether project goals were met