

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES GRANT

2024 - 2025



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DESCRIPTION

Demonstrating the love of Christ, Union Gospel Mission is determined to transform communities by overcoming poverty, homelessness, and addiction one life at a time. This is a lofty goal far beyond the capability of any individual or group, and so we must work together.

UGM's Church Relations department exists to help congregations live into this high calling in collaboration with each other and with others of good will. One way we do this is through the **Transforming Communities Grants (TCG)**. Congregations are acutely aware of needs in their community. As they seek to answer God's call to care for their neighbours, this grant can help **start, expand, or stabilize** supportive programs.

Building on the success of the previous three years, UGM is, again, delighted to provide **financial and technical support** to additional congregations that partner with us to grow and replicate their good work.

GRANTING STRATEGY

For the 2024 grant cycle, we anticipate partnering with up to 15 congregations who care for underserved neighbourhoods. We will also prioritize denominational and ethnic diversity.

Recognizing that congregations are at different stages of missional preparedness and capacity, applicants can choose one of the following grant categories:

Small Grants Up to \$2,500	For one-time expenditures such as activities for the regional Homeless Action Week, guest speakers, professional development courses, or equipment purchases.
Capacity Grants Up to \$10,000	To stabilize and augment existing programs, such as community meals, learning groups for at-risk youth, support services for newcomers, or extreme weather shelters.
Growth Grants Up to \$20,000	To start a new program or add significant new elements in existing supports. If seeking more than \$10,000, please contact UGM's Church Relations team for a discussion prior to applying.

These grants are not intended to be the sole funding mechanism for the programs receiving support; applicants will need to show how their church and/or other funders are contributing (template provided as part of application).



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ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

All successful applicants will be required to submit **2 brief written reports** on outputs and outcomes (defined in the application) as well as lessons learned (templates provided).

- **Interim report**, due halfway through the grant cycle
- **Final report**, due at the end of the project

Beyond financial support, UGM is keen to help grant recipients with program development and organizational capacity issues such as policies and processes, safety protocols, meal planning, volunteer management, fundraising and stewardship, networking, and coordinating with nearby service providers.

To build on connections with one another and with UGM, we strongly encourage applicants to join our [Communities of Care workshops](#), which cover key ideas for supporting vulnerable communities. We will also host other workshops, roundtable discussions, a launch event, and a wrap-up celebration.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For the 2024 granting round, eligible programs must:

Who	Be run by a Christian church that is a registered Canadian charity, or by a closely affiliated daughter charity of a local church
Where	Be operating in Metro Vancouver or the Fraser Valley
What	Be serving one or more vulnerable populations who do not have enough access to needed services such as, but not limited to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals (takeout or sit down) or Food Hampers • Shelter or Housing • Outreach and Advocacy • Support Services (laundry, clothing, hygiene, etc.) and Life Skills • Other Practices that Address Social Isolation or Capacity Building
How	Be willing to work with UGM's Church Relations team to produce a Case for Support and a basic stewardship plan for sustaining the program.



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Eligible expenditures include but are not limited to:

- Administration costs
- Costs of program space: lease/rent, utilities, janitorial and sanitation
- Disability support for staff
- Equipment purchase/rental/lease/maintenance
- Food, materials, and supplies
- Guest speakers
- Printing and communication
- Professional fees
- Renovations to create or improve program space
- Training and professional development
- Wages and benefits

PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Churches that received a grant through UGM in 2023 are not eligible for the 2024 cycle. Those that received a grant in previous years may be eligible if funding is for a new program or service. Contact us before applying.



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TIMELINE

The timeline for the 2024 grant cycle is:

2024	January 24	Call for Proposals announced
	April 15	All application materials due by 5 pm
	Mid April	Grant applicant orientation
	May 1	Successful applicants are notified
	May 8	Initial grant installment (80%) are sent
	May 22	Celebration and story-telling event for 2023 recipients and 2024 applicants
	June - December	Workshops and consult with UGM re: program/organizational development
2025	January - April	Continued workshops and consultations
	January 15	One-page interim report due
	May 15	Final report due
	May 21	Celebration and story-telling event for 2024 recipients and 2025 applicants
	May 22	Cheques for last grant instalment (20%) are sent.

UGM's Church Relations team (churchrelations@ugm.ca) is available to advise and assist your application. We look forward to working with you!

DEADLINE

All application materials must be received by **April 15, 2024** (5:00 pm).

Email: churchrelations@ugm.ca

Mail: Transforming Communities Grant 2024
c/o Church Relations
Union Gospel Mission
601 East Hastings St, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1J7