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COVID-19 FAQs

The Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) has received a number of enquiries related to the status of grants that have been awarded and upcoming Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP) deadlines. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edmonton Heritage Council wishes to emphasize that our foremost concern is the health and safety of our community. Any EHC-supported events or initiatives compelled to cancel as a result of these concerns will not be negatively impacted in terms of access to current or future grant funding.

Please watch [this page](#) and the [HCIP section](#) of EHC's website for continued updates regarding program changes.

Q: I have received an HCIP Travel Grant. Should I still travel?

Please make any travel decisions by consulting the Government of Canada's Travel Health Notices:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

Our first priority is that you remain safe and healthy. If you are unable to travel at this time, please reach out to EHC Grants Staff to discuss an extension to your grant.

Q: I received an HCIP Travel Grant and now have extra expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Can the grant I received go towards these unexpected expenses? Is it possible to receive a supplement to my grant to help with these extra costs?

Your grant can go towards any unanticipated eligible expenses, including cancellation fees for flights or accommodations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Supplements to grants to help with these extra costs may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I have received an HCIP Project or Project Accelerator grant. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I may need to postpone, cancel, or significantly alter my project. Will I be required to give the grant back?

We will not ask any grant recipients to pay back non-refundable expenses that have already been incurred. If you are reimbursed for expenses or do not use the full amount of the grant, we may request that you return a portion of your grant.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you are experiencing challenges in executing your project. First and foremost, we want to see your work move forward, even if it is not precisely as described in your initial application. Please reach out to EHC Grants Staff to discuss extensions or a change of project scope.

Q: I represent an organization receiving HCIP Operational funding. The COVID-19 pandemic is requiring significant change in our activities and operations. Will this impact my funding?

EHC has made it a priority to reach out to all current Operational recipients to discuss challenges and concerns during this difficult time. EHC Grants Staff will also be examining the implications of temporary closures, layoffs, and other organizational shifts required due to COVID-19 on 2021 Operational grant eligibility criteria and allocation of funding, to ensure that Operational recipients receive a consistent level of support for the upcoming year.

The Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations has created an online portal with information for non-profits specific to the COVID-19 outbreak. Visit them [here](#) to share your concerns and get updates on their advocacy efforts with regards to the non-profit sector.

The [Alberta Museums Association](#) continues to compile resources to support museums in responding to the pandemic. We encourage you to check their website for updates as the situation progresses.

Q: I am an independent contractor or seasonal worker within the heritage sector. I am concerned that COVID-19 will affect my ability to work. Who should I reach out to for support?

Provincial and Federal levels of government have announced financial support for those encountering job loss as a result of COVID-19. These include initiatives to support those who are self-employed:

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

Q: I submitted a grant application to the Project Accelerator or Travel grant stream in March 2020. Should I anticipate any changes to the adjudication process for this grant intake?

Project Accelerator and Travel grants submitted to the March 6 deadline will be evaluated according to standard HCIP policy and procedures. There may be delays in notification of grant results as we work

on shifting our grant juries to virtual settings. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these new ways of working.

Q: Are there any changes to the upcoming grants schedule?

Changes to Project Accelerator and Travel grants for 2020 are being instituted as EHC Grants Staff assesses the emerging needs of Edmonton's heritage community in light of the current health crisis. Information is available at [this page](#) and will continue to be updated.

Q: How can I contact Edmonton Heritage Council grants staff at this time?

EHC offices are currently closed to the public. We encourage you to reach out to EHC Grants Staff by e-mail at grants@edmontonheritage.ca. We would be happy to arrange a time to discuss your questions or concerns in more detail by phone or video call.