Community Futures Cedar Lake Region

Growing communities one idea at a time.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURES GRANT PROGRAM – 2026-2027

Dear IIOF Grant Applicant,

Community Futures Cedar Lake Region (CF Cedar Lake) is excited to announce the opening of applications for the 2026-2027 Investing in Our Futures (IIOF) Grant Program.

Since its launch, the IIOF Grant Program has served as a powerful catalyst for grassroots development across our region, proudly awarding over $157,000 to support 40 community-driven projects. Beyond direct project outcomes, this program fosters long-term advantages for participating communities, including increased community engagement, strengthened community capacity, and enhanced regional relationships. It provides a vital opportunity for CF Cedar Lake to partner with local groups to turn great ideas into community realities.

Past Impact & Inspiration

Eligible projects in the past have included training and education sessions, tourism initiatives, structural improvements, and safety/accessibility renovations. Recent grant dollars have helped fund critical repairs to the storm-damaged Opasquia Trails floating boardwalk at Grace Lake and allowed the Sam Waller Museum to acquire versatile new display cases.

To see the full impact of past initiatives, we invite you to browse through our digital IIOF Grant Recipient Projects flipbook here: https://heyzine.com/flip-book/f6c1bfa669.html

Grant Details & Matching Funds

- **Maximum Funding:** Selected projects will be funded on a matching basis, up to a maximum of **$2,500**.
- **Matching Basis:** Projects are funded on a matching basis, meaning your organization must secure matching funds from other sources to cover a portion of the project costs, or provide the matching funds yourselves (cash or in-kind contributions).

- **Disbursement:** 100% of the grant funds will be disbursed upon project completion and the receipt of the IIOF Final Report, project photographs, invoices, and receipts.

Applicant Eligibility

The IIOF grant is available to eligible organizations located within the CF Cedar Lake service region. Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profit groups and grassroots non-profit organizations
- Charitable organizations
- Community organizations and Community Councils
- First Nations / Métis councils and organizations
- Schools

Please note: For-profit businesses and non-profit business organizations (such as Chambers of Commerce) are not eligible to apply.

Crucial Funding Policies to Note

To ensure fairness, an equitable distribution of limited funds, and to maximize regional impact, CF Cedar Lake utilizes the following guidelines:

1. **Applicant Preference:** Preference will be given to first-time applicants and grassroots non-profit organizations.
2. **Application Priority:** Priority will be given to an organization's *first* application. Any additional submissions from the same organization will be held and reviewed at the final intake deadline (December 31, 2026), subject to available funding.
3. **The "One-and-Done" Project Rule:** CF Cedar Lake strictly provides one-time funding for new initiatives. We will only fund a specific project once.
4. **No Multi-Phase Splitting:** Subdivisions of a larger project (for example: applying for separate phases, individual rooms, or multi-year upgrades to the same recreational project, building, or complex) will not be considered separate initiatives. Once an overall project has received funding, it is ineligible for future IIOF grants. Returning organizations may only apply if the application is for an entirely unrelated, brand-new community project.

APPLYING IS EASY! HERE IS YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE:

PART ONE. Check Eligibility:

- Review the following Eligibility Checklist to determine if your organization and proposed project qualify:

SECTION 1A: INELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

Please note that the following project categories are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for the IIOF Grant. If your project falls under any of these, it cannot be funded:

Digital marketing activities, including website design	Preliminary research studies, engineering assessments, and pre-construction planning phases
Travel (for sports teams, students, or organizations)	Awards or Prizes
Operating costs / Ongoing operational support	Wages for staff
Pay-to-play supplies	Honorariums
Multi-phase project components or subdivisions of previously funded projects (The "One-and-Done" Rule)	Signage

SECTION 1B: ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions to determine whether you are eligible to proceed with the application:

1 **Is your organization one of the following?** (Yes / No)
   - Non-profit group or grassroots non-profit organization
   - Charitable organization
   - School
   - Community organization
   - Community Council
   - First Nation Council / Métis Organization

2 **Is the organization and the project physically located within the Cedar Lake service region??** (Yes / No)

Communities in the Cedar Lake Service Region:

Baden	Barrows	Bellsite
Big Eddy	Birch River	Carrot Valley
Chemawawin Cree Nation	Cormorant	Dawson Bay
Easterville	Grand Rapids	Lenswood
Mafeking	Misipawistik Cree Nation	Moose Lake
Mosakahiken Cree Nation	National Mills	Novra
Opaskwayak Cree Nation	Overflowing River	Pelican Rapids
Powell	Ralls Island	Red Deer Lake
RM of Mountain	Sapotaweyak Cree Nation	Town of The Pas
Umpherville	Wanless	Westgate
Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation	Youngs Point	RM of Kelsey (Excluding Cranberry Portage).

3 **Will the expenses for the project be incurred exclusively between April 1, 2026, and March 1, 2027?** (Yes / No)

4 **Will the project be completely finished by March 1, 2027?** (Yes / No)

5 **Will your organization be able to fully match the grant funds being requested?** (Yes / No)

6 **Is this application for a brand-new initiative that has never received IIOF funding?** (Yes / No)

7 **Is this project a new phase or subdivision of an ongoing or previously funded project?** (Yes / No)

Next Steps:

- **If you answered YES to questions 1 to 6, and NO to question 7:** Please proceed to fill out the application pages. Remember to include all details, anticipated expenses, quotes/receipts, cash and in-kind contribution breakdowns, and your community council support letter.
- **If you answered NO to question 1 to 6, and YES to question 7:** Your project may does not qualify for the IIOF Grant under the current guidelines. If you require assistance or want to discuss alternative project ideas, please contact the Community Futures Cedar Lake office at 204-627-5450 or email: admin@cedarlakecfdc.com

PART TWO: Complete and Submit the Application: Your application package must be fully complete to be considered. Ensure you include:

- The completed application form detailing all anticipated expenses, cash, and in-kind contributions.
- A letter of support for your project from your local government or community council.
- Official quotes detailing project costs (or receipts if costs are already paid).
- Confirmation of any other funding sources involved (if applicable).
- Submit the complete package to the CF Cedar Lake office.

PART THREE: Review and Approval (Application Readiness):

- A CF Cedar Lake staff member will review your application to ensure all necessary documentation is present.
- **Application Readiness Rule:** Applications will *not* be presented to the Grant Committee for consideration until all required supporting documentation has been fully received. If something is missing, staff will contact you, but the application will be held until complete.
- After the monthly intake window closes, the Grant Committee will review your application. Once a decision has been reached, a CF Cedar Lake staff member will contact you to inform you of your project status and, if approved, the next steps.

PART FOUR: Project Completion and Reporting:

- Upon project completion, please submit your IIOF Final Report, along with project photographs, official invoices, and receipts.
- Once all supporting documentation has been received and reviewed, CF Cedar Lake will issue a cheque for the approved amount and contact you to arrange presentation and photographs.

PART FIVE: 2026-2027 IIOF Grant - Important Dates:

Application Intake Windows: Applications are reviewed monthly. The intake deadline is the last day of each calendar month up to **December 31, 2026**. *Please note that intake dates are strictly subject to available funding.*

- **Eligible Project Dates:** Expenses must be incurred and projects must take place between **April 1, 2026, and March 1, 2027**. All projects must be fully completed by **March 1, 2027**.
- **Final Report Deadline:** The Final Project Report, including photographs, invoices, and receipts, must be submitted by **March 15, 2027**.

If you have any questions or are ready to submit, please contact:

Community Futures Cedar Lake Region

Phone: 204-627-5450

Email: admin@cedarlakecfdc.com

Applications and guidelines are also available on our website and Facebook page.