

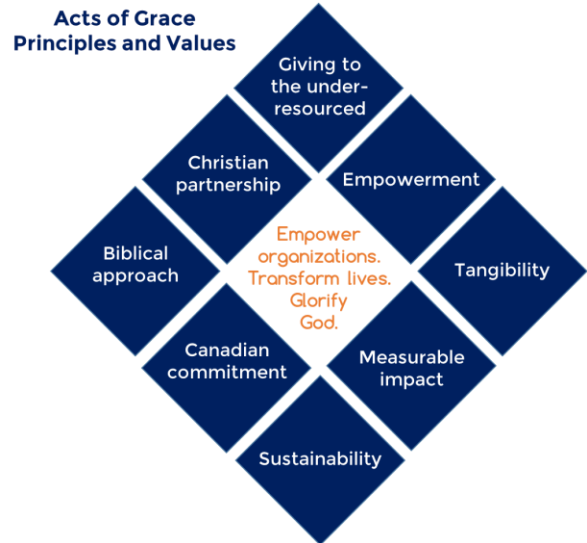
Granting Guidelines

Mission, Vision, Values

The Acts of Grace Foundation envisions a world in which people are reconciled to God and restored towards the wholeness He originally intended for humanity. The Acts of Grace Foundation brings glory to God through grants that empower Canadian charities and the individuals they serve to eradicate underlying systems and conditions that entrench physical, material and spiritual poverty. In everything we do, the Acts of Grace Foundation seeks to empower organizations, transform lives and glorify God.

The Acts of Grace Foundation is characterized by its core values:

1. **Giving to the under-resourced:** We value granting to organizations that may be less likely to receive funding from larger or public sources. We prioritize projects that serve marginalized people in all corners of the globe.
2. **Empowerment:** We strive to make grants that will directly increase the capacity of charities to serve marginalized individuals. We prefer to make grants that will propel organizations' projects (or significant portions of) forward with a reduced burden of fundraising. We focus on funding projects that enable individuals and communities to achieve, for themselves, long-lasting economic self-sufficiency, physical well-being and spiritual growth.
3. **Tangibility:** We give preference to projects that are tangible in nature, with observable activities, outputs and outcomes. We only fund specific, time-limited initiatives in which the Foundation's funds will be applied towards direct project costs.
4. **Measurable impact:** We prioritize funding projects that will result in measurable improvement in the factors that gave rise to the need for the project. To measure this change, we place emphasis on charities meeting the proposed specific measurable outcomes that demonstrate the intended end result and impact of the project.
5. **Sustainability:** We prioritize funding initiatives that will result in long-term tangible and measurable change. We give preference to projects that increase the long-term capacity of individuals to affect and sustain change for themselves rather than rely on continuous support from others. We also value initiatives that directly increase the long-term efficiency, effectiveness and impact of charities in serving marginalized people.
6. **Canadian commitment:** We are committed to funding projects that focus on providing ongoing care and concern for needs within the Canadian community.
7. **Biblical approach:** We will conduct ourselves in a God honouring manner with practices and approaches that are characterized by a Biblically-based management style. We prefer that all grant recipients manage their organizations and projects similarly.
8. **Christian partnership:** We prefer granting to Christian organizations. We believe that true transformation comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many non-Christian organizations are doing good work, meeting real needs. However, we place value on supporting our fellow believers who will have the opportunity to share the Gospel with the individuals they serve.



For more information about the Mission, Vision and Values of the Acts of Grace Foundation, visit our website: www.actsofgrace.ca.

Eligibility Criteria

All applications to the Acts of Grace Foundation will be evaluated in three areas: organization, project and opportunity.

Organization

To be considered for a grant from the Acts of Grace Foundation, an organization must:

1. **Be a registered Canadian charity**
2. **Be an outwardly-focused charity, serving the broader community beyond its own constituents**
3. **Have an independent Board of Directors or similar committee**
4. **Demonstrate sustained organizational health**
5. **Provide 3rd party prepared and reviewed financial statements for the two prior years**
6. **Demonstrate a proven record of successfully delivering impactful, culturally and geographically relevant projects**

We prefer granting to Christian organizations. We believe that true transformation comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and place value on supporting our fellow believers who will have the opportunity to share the Gospel with the individuals they serve.

The Acts of Grace Foundation accepts one application per granting cycle per charity. Charities are not eligible to apply for new grants until all requirements for active grants have been met, including all follow-up and final reports.

Project

To be considered for a grant from the Acts of Grace Foundation, a project should:

1. Address at least one of the following areas:

A. Seek to eradicate systems and conditions that facilitate the continued existence or proliferation of physical, material and/or spiritual poverty by directly addressing one or more basic needs of:

- Agriculture, Food & Water;
- Economic Security;
- Education & Training;
- Health & Hygiene;
- Society & Community;
- Biblical Resources; or,
- Evangelism & Discipleship.

B. Directly increase the long-term capacity (efficiency, effectiveness or impact) of charities in delivering front line programs and services to marginalized individuals in one of the areas listed above through new or enhanced:

- Capital resources (such as equipment, tools, computers, etc.),
- Infrastructure (such as buildings, technology, etc.); or,
- Skills.

C. Directly increase the capacity and capability of individuals or communities to affect change and sustain, for themselves, long-lasting economic self-sufficiency, physical well-being and spiritual growth.

2. Focus on serving marginalized people such as:

- Those in crisis;
- The disadvantaged;
- The oppressed;
- Those living in conflict zones;
- Those facing addiction;
- The homeless or street-involved;
- The sick or disabled;
- Widows;

Acts of Grace Granting Priorities



- Orphans;
 - Unreached peoples with limited or no access to the Gospel, a church or the Bible in their native language;
 - Those who face significant opposition or persecution in accessing the Gospel, a church or the Bible;
 - Those who have not yet made a salvation commitment to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour; or,
 - Those with limited or no access to spiritual discipleship, Bible training or biblical resources in their native language.
- 3. Be developed and delivered in a culturally and geographically relevant manner**
 - 4. Be a specific and time-limited initiative**
 - 5. Result in a measurable improvement in the factors that gave rise to the need for the project including direct increases or improvements in:**
 - The capacity of a charity to deliver its programs and services;
 - The impact of a charity's programs and services;
 - The capacity or capability of individuals to increase their quality of life or spiritual growth; or,
 - The quality of life or spiritual life for those who benefit from the project.
 - 6. Enable individuals or their communities to achieve, for themselves, sustained physical well-being, long-lasting economic self-sufficiency or spiritual growth**
 - 7. Include clearly defined plans for managing ongoing costs and considerations for sustainability**

We give preference to projects that are tangible in nature, with observable activities, outputs and outcomes. We prioritize funding initiatives that will result in long-term tangible and measurable change. To that end, Acts of Grace prioritizes funding projects that enable long-term development or foster system-wide transformation. In rare cases, Acts of Grace may consider funding projects that provide relief of suffering (aid) or re-establish previously existing conditions (rehabilitation). Where a charity meets the organizational criteria outlined above, applications to fund innovative, unproven ideas or projects in their infancy will be considered.

Opportunity

To be considered for a grant from the Acts of Grace Foundation, a grant request should:

- 1. Be of a sufficient proportion to propel the project (or significant portions of) forward**
- 2. Apply the Foundation's funds directly to project costs**
- 3. Clearly identify measurable outcomes by which the organization will demonstrate the intended end result and impact of the project**
- 4. Project timelines in which the majority of the work takes place after the granting decision**

The Foundation requires all grant recipients to submit Grant Follow-up Reports to communicate project progress and outcomes every 6 months for the duration of the grant in addition to a Final Grant Report at the end of the grant.

Exclusions

Given the breadth of applications presented to the Foundation, Acts of Grace has made the necessary decision to direct its funding to specific areas. To that end, the Acts of Grace Foundation does not fund:

- Individuals;
- Government departments or agencies;
- Membership-based organizations (including political parties, lobbyist organizations, service clubs or special interest groups);
- Start-up organizations;
- Places of worship, churches, denominations or dioceses or agencies thereof (especially where the purpose of these organizations is inwardly-focused at serving their own members or constituents);
- Operational or administrative expenses such as rent, utilities and salaries;
- Projects related to:
 - Culture and the arts;
 - Environmental and resource protection and conservation, climate action or clean energy;
 - Industry and infrastructure development;

- Legislation and policy reform;
- Scholarships and bursaries;
- Community recreation such as community halls and recreation facilities, libraries, zoos, parks and public spaces; and,
- Inwardly-focused projects aimed at serving an organization's own constituents;
- Requests to:
 - Contribute to a charity's unrestricted funds or general/annual fundraising campaigns;
 - Underwrite fundraising/promotional events;
 - Support lobbying efforts;
 - Pay for advertising and publicity costs; or
 - Contribute retroactively to a project in which all or significant portions of the work take place prior to the granting decision (the Foundation does not make grants to retroactively fund a project).

Grant Application Process

The Acts of Grace Foundation has one primary granting cycle each year. **A second granting cycle is held at the discretion of the Granting Committee.** Each granting cycle lasts six (6) months and granting decisions are made in June (and, in the case of a second granting cycle, in December).

Within each granting cycle, Acts of Grace has a two-stage application process. At each stage, our Granting Committee determines which projects will move forward and, ultimately, receive funding.

- **Stage 1: Letter of Inquiry (LOI)**
- **Stage 2: Application & Site Visit**

In Stage 1, the LOI is simple and focused, providing a brief overview of your organization and the project to be considered for funding as well as how you intend to use those funds. **LOIs are only accepted during the following periods:**

- **Cycle 1: LOIs accepted January 2 – 31**
- **Cycle 2: LOIs accepted July 2 – 31** *(at the discretion of the Granting Committee)*

Only LOIs that move to Stage 2 will be required to submit a detailed Application with project plan, budget and third party prepared and reviewed financial statements for the 2 most recent years. Acts of Grace will also conduct Site Visits in Stage 2 to learn more about the charity and the project being considered. We prefer to conduct these Site Visits in person whenever possible but may also use a web-based platform to facilitate remote participation if necessary. The charity's Executive Director, the individual who completed the Application as well as on-site project leaders must participate in the Site Visit.

Acts of Grace uses a web-based software to manage our application process and reporting. **All LOIs must be submitted through this online tool. The Acts of Grace Foundation does not accept LOIs submitted in hardcopy by mail or in soft copy by email. Registration with the online software is required in order to apply for a grant.** We recommend that you take a few moments to familiarize yourself with our online Grant Lifecycle Manager tool by visiting our website (<http://www.actsofgrace.ca/process/grant-management-system>).

To apply for a grant, visit our website: <http://www.actsofgrace.ca>