

## **Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: What funding opportunities are there through SCIF?**

**A: There are three SCIF funding streams:**

A. Community-Police Partnership Projects

Pilot projects which involve police working directly with communities and strategic partners to implement proven and promising approaches that reduce or prevent crime and social disorder.

B. Community-Based Projects

Pilot projects which involve community-based strategic partners working together to implement proven and promising approaches that reduce or prevent crime and social disorder.

C. Municipal, Regional and Aboriginal Community Crime Prevention Strategies

Crime reduction and prevention plans for municipalities, regions or Aboriginal communities.

**Q: What is the funding term for SCIF grants?**

**A:** For funding streams A and B, the maximum term is three years. For funding stream C, the term is one year, on a one-time basis.

**Q: Does SCIF fund existing and core programs?**

**A:** Though SCIF is not meant to fund core programs, established programs may partner with other organizations to add innovative crime prevention or reduction pilot projects to complement and improve their existing program and services. SCIF funds must be applied to the new activities associated with the pilot project.

Assigning or seconding current staff to work on a pilot project may be included as part of your agency's in-kind contribution or salaries may be included in the pilot project's budget.

**Q: Does SCIF fund new organizations?**

**A:** No. Agencies with a history of demonstrated outcomes and financial accountability may apply for multi-year funding, to a maximum of three years.

In order to determine which organizations will receive funding, Alberta Justice may conduct site visits to review operations and controls, and review annual reports and audited financial statements for the three previous years. The same review will be done when one organization is acting as the financial agent on behalf of multi-agency partnerships applying for funding.

New multi-agency partnerships should designate the organization with the most project and financial management experience as the fiscal agent/applicant for their pilot project.

**Q: What about sustainable funding?**

**A:** All pilot projects are limited to a maximum of three years. All successful recipients must have capacity to complete an evidence-based evaluation and develop a business case for ongoing funding that includes social return on investment (SROI). These will assist organizations in securing ongoing funding from relevant funders, including strategic partners.

**Q: How long do funding application approvals take?**

**A:** Applicants can expect the results of their application within twelve weeks of the application deadline. Following ministerial approval, all applicants will be notified by mail.

**Q: When will approved applicants receive funds?**

**A:** Before payment is issued, approved applicants need to sign a funding agreement contract. This contract will outline the terms and conditions that must be met regarding the grant to ensure that the funds are used for the purposes described in the application.

Successful applications can take up to three months to process, and applicants must consent to participation in a public announcement when appropriate.

**Q: Is there a minimum percentage/expectation for in-kind or other financial contributions?**

**A:** No, as the ability to provide in-kind or other financial contribution varies by project and capacity of the partners. However, it is expected that organizations and community partners will contribute to the cost of the project either financially or through in-kind donations of space, materials, supplies or through the provision of services.

Applications for pilot projects will be evaluated based on the applicants' contribution to pilot projects and their ability to secure other sources of funding. A significant level of in-kind and/or other funding secured is considered to be in the 15-30 % range.

**Q: What type of financial tracking and reporting are required for pilot projects?**

**A:** Successful applicants shall use project-based accounting practices and may be asked to use a separate bank account. Financial reports and implementation summaries, as agreed upon in the contract, must be submitted every six months.

Applicants are required to indicate in their initial project budget, as well as in subsequent reports, all other sources of revenue directed to the project, including in-kind contributions.

Any funds supplied by SCIF that are not spent by the end of the funding term must be returned to the Ministry of Finance, unless otherwise authorized. Extensions to the funding agreement require that the recipient outline, in writing, the reasons for the extension. If any overpayments are identified or money from SCIF was used for matters not agreed upon in the contract, Alberta Justice will take steps to recover the funds.

**Q: When are funds distributed?**

**A:** Once applications are approved and the funding agreement contracts are signed, the funds, or the first contribution, will be disbursed. Additional contributions will be disbursed annually, subject to satisfactory project implementation and interim financial and progress reports. Organizations must arrange for electronic bank deposits.

**Q: Can an organization re-apply for ongoing funding after the pilot phase?**

**A:** No. SCIF only funds pilot projects for a maximum of three years. Applicants and their strategic partners must have a viable sustainability plan for their proposed pilot projects. Consider partnering with a future funder or developing a business case for doing business differently, redeploying existing resources. Please refer to the sustainability plan section on the SCIF Reviewer Scoring Sheet for more information on how this section of your application will be evaluated.

**Q: Where can I find additional details and information regarding the SCIF program?**

**A:** Details about SCIF can be found on the SCIF website, at <http://www.safecommunities.gov.ab.ca> or contact us at:

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