



Métis Cultural Development Fund

(MCDF)

Application deadline: April 30, 2026

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. Applicants should contact the MCDF Consultant Carson McCaffrey at carson.mccaffrey@gdins.org before submitting an application to check if their project idea is eligible and to see if this grant program is the best fit.

If you face any barriers (language, technology, accessibility challenges, etc.) in navigating the criteria, application questions, and the application process, please reach out to the Consultant for details about the [Accessibility Fund](#).

The MCDF grant program is delivered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

Applicants can apply to a maximum request amount of \$10,000 towards their eligible project expenses.

Purpose

The Métis Cultural Development Fund (MCDF) supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve, strengthen and transmit Métis culture and traditions.

The MCDF program objectives are to:

- support and strengthen Métis culture and communities through arts and heritage activity in Saskatchewan;
- mentor and build cultural leadership skills in Métis Communities;
- increase employment opportunities for Saskatchewan-based Métis arts and heritage resource peoples;
- support engagement in Métis cultural activity at the individual, group, and community level;
- support the development of Métis identity through research, documentation and/or sharing;
- benefit children through skills development, mentorship, and having fun; and
- encourage gathering, sharing, learning, celebrating and developing Métis culture in Métis communities aimed at building long-term cultural awareness, retention, and pride.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- provide significant opportunities to meet the purpose of the MCDF grant;
- deliver relevant cultural activities based on cultural impact, accessibility and service to communities;
- have significant youth involvement and/or contribute significantly to participation in intergenerational cultural activity;
- demonstrate strong partnerships and community support;
- take place in the province's northern and/or rural or otherwise underserved communities; and
- are supported by clear project plans and budget detail.

If you are unsure whether your project fits the objectives of this grant program, please contact the consultant, or see a list of successful applicants and project descriptions on the [MCDF webpage](#), under '[Related Content - Previous Grant Recipients](#)'.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are:

- **Registered Non-Profit** organizations in Saskatchewan, with priority to Métis-led organizations. **Organizations that are not Métis-led may still apply, but evidence must be provided to clearly outline the extent of Métis access and leadership in the delivery of the proposed activities.** All non-profit organizations must:
 - have a primarily cultural mandate in Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism or Cultural Industries as defined by [SaskCulture's Cultural Policy](#), or otherwise demonstrate significant engagement in cultural activity;
 - be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year. If your organization has been incorporated for less than a year, please contact the SaskCulture consultant to discuss options;
 - be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC) and have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and
 - provide a signed copy of the organization's annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the ISC .

OR

- **A Métis Local or Municipality** that must:
 - be in good standing with the Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program; and
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture.
 - ***While not required, providing a financial statement can help strengthen your application.***

Ineligible Applicants are:

- Organizations or departments that are part of a federal or provincial government operation and/or Crown Corporation.
- Arts, Heritage, and Multicultural organizations that receive operational funding directed by the Government of Saskatchewan.
- Organizations that exclusively promote definable religious or political viewpoints.
- Districts for Sport, Culture and Recreation.
- Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECOs) and other organizations that receive operational funding directly from the Culture Section of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.
- Schools and Post-Secondary Institutions.
- Libraries.
- Businesses.
- Unincorporated groups.
- Individuals.

If your organization does not meet the eligibility requirements, contact the Consultant to discuss your project, eligibility and what other options or funds might be available to you. Options may include:

- Forming a partnership (for unincorporated groups) with an eligible organization to meet the eligibility requirements for this grant program
- Searching SaskCulture’s “[Find a Grant](#)” tool to find other funding opportunities, such as:
 - [Artists in Schools program](#) through SK Arts
 - [Share and Connect program](#) through SK Arts

Project Eligibility ---

Project Eligibility Criteria

- Projects must directly address the purpose and priorities of this funding program.
- Projects must include trauma-informed approaches that will be taken to ensure no further harm is done.
- All funds are to be used for the benefit of Métis cultural development in Saskatchewan and for residents in Saskatchewan.
- Applicants can access only one MCDF grant at a time.
 - If the applicant already has a current open MCDF grant wrapping up during the time of application or an incomplete/overdue Follow-up Report (FUR) for any SaskCulture grant, a new application will be accepted for consideration, but if approved, payment will not be made until the open grants are completed. Contact SaskCulture for options.
- Applicants **may not** apply to multiple SaskCulture funding programs to support the same activity for the same time frame.
- **START DATE:** Eligible start dates for this round must be eight (8) weeks after the grant deadline, which means they cannot start earlier than June 25, 2026.
- **END DATE:** All projects must be completed within one (1) year of the start date; however, if your plans need to change, please contact the Consultant as soon as possible.

Eligible Expenses ---

The MCDF grant can cover direct costs to the development and delivery of a cultural project. ***This grant is possible through the support of Sask Lotteries. Whenever it is possible (and reasonable), in-province purchases should be prioritized to ensure Sask Lotteries support remains in the community. If you are unsure, please check with the program consultant.*** When submitting a proposal, please ensure that only Eligible Expenses are included.

The **maximum request amount is \$10,000** towards eligible project expenses.

In-kind contributions are not eligible expenses. Contact the Consultant if there is any uncertainty on what is eligible and ineligible.

Eligible expenses for the MCDF grant include:

- wages, honorarium and contract agreements for Métis cultural resource people who are offering their skills and expertise for the term of the project. This does not replace wages for the core job responsibilities of existing staff;

- travel expenses for program participants within Saskatchewan. This includes gas, rental of vehicles, bus transit and airfare.
- material expenses, including cultural protocol, related to the cultural activity;
- facility costs would only be considered eligible in situations where additional space is required for the project to move ahead. The existing space/facility of an applicant organization is not eligible and would be considered as an in-kind contribution - i.e. rent, utilities and office overhead;
- a recommended maximum of 20% of the total grant award can support food expenses that are a part of the cultural experience that is being offered for participants. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount; and
- a recommended maximum of 10% of the total grant request can be utilized for advertising and promotion cost for the project. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount.

All expenses must fall within the indicated start and end date of the project. Expenses incurred before or after the project period will not be eligible.

Ineligible Expenses ---

The following items are ineligible for MCDF funds:

- Capital expenses such as construction, renovations or repairs;
- Cash prizes, gifts, or the purchase of alcohol;
- Sponsorships, fundraisers, or award ceremonies;
- Activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints;
- Contributions of volunteer hours;
- Allowances, wages or personal expenses for program registrants and participants;
- Salaries and expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization – except when they are hired to perform the duties of a cultural worker;
- Travel and accommodation expenses to bring in out-of-province cultural workers;
 - Discuss any exceptions with the Consultant
- Travel and any program expenses for out-of-province participants;
- Expenses related to activities outside of Saskatchewan;
- Office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization facilities; and
- In-kind contributions.

Application Process ---

Applications are due April 30, 2026. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

Generally, applications are expected to be submitted via the Online Grant Platform (OGP) unless accessibility arrangements have been made.

Once an application is submitted:

- Depending on the number of applications received, there may be opportunities for early submissions to get feedback to help improve aspects of an application that are unclear or ineligible in advance of a deadline, but this is not a guarantee of either feedback or funding.

- SaskCulture will review applications to confirm basic eligibility requirements have been met prior to submitting all grants to the funding assessors. **If a submission is ineligible, the applicant will be notified.**
- Eligible applications are evaluated by assessors who are Métis and have credible knowledge and experience that relates to the purpose and priority of this funding program.
- Applicants can expect to be informed of funding results within eight (8) weeks of the application deadline. Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.
- Successful applicants receive 100% of their grant award upon grant approval and the recipient is required to submit a completed follow-up report at the end of their project.
- Successful applicants will be notified of the funding obligations required for the project in their funding award letter.

Application Assessment

The funding adjudicators will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- The extent the project addresses the objectives and priorities of the MCDF grant program;
- The quality and clarity of the application;
- The extent of accessibility for Métis populations;
- The resourcefulness of the applicant, including strong partnerships (when applicable) and leveraging other resources; and
- The quality of the budget and a realistic and responsible use of resources.
- Returning or otherwise annual projects funded by SaskCulture may have their most recent project follow-up report provided to assessors as part of the assessment process.

The quality of writing and attention to detail in a grant application may benefit an applicant's chances of success. However, we understand not everyone who is applying for funding is a professional grant writer or that English may not be the primary language of the person applying. Please contact the Consultant to discuss options to help you with your proposal.