



# Greater Montreal's **Collective Fund** for Social Equity

## **Collective Fund for Social Equity – Objectives and Intentions**

The Collective Fund for Social Equity aims to support activities and initiatives that enable organizations to unlock their visions for a more just and transformative recovery. Support will focus on three key issues: food security, mental health, and homelessness.

The Fund will actively promote **justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI)**. Funding will prioritize organizations and initiatives led by and/or for **Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC)** individuals and communities. Initiatives that take **an intersectoral approach** to respond to the needs of other historically marginalized populations, such as women and girls, LGBTQ2S+ communities, and people living with a disability will also be prioritized.

The Fund will provide each organization with up to \$30,000 in funding to be allocated within a maximum period of 2 years.

Today, thanks to contributions from the Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM) and other partners, the Fund has a total value of \$900,000. The opportunity remains open for other contributors who wish to join this collective effort.

## **Key Objectives**

The Fund aims to help unlock the transformative potential of a community-driven vision that has been limited by operational barriers or gaps in organizational capacity in three main areas: support, strengthening, and innovation.

- **Support:** the initiative or activity contributes to service continuity in response to urgent needs, with a focus on restoring dignity and promoting empowerment;
- **Strengthening:** the initiative reinforces or expands organizational or community capacity;
- **Innovation:** the initiative contributes to the development of a foundational, long-term vision from a social research and development or social innovation perspective.

## **Eligibility**

The Fund is open to registered charities whose mission and/or initiatives align with one or more of the three key issues, who adhere to JEDI principles, and who are located in the Greater Montreal area, the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk) people.

The Fund's objectives, together with a commitment to promoting the self-determined vision of organizations led by and serving BIPOC and other marginalized communities, prompted the Foundation's reflection around a strategic approach to the Fund's allocation.

## Trust-Based Approach

FGM recognizes the unequal power dynamics that permeate traditional philanthropy and the importance of proposing a new approach, one that has the potential to change the enduring inequities in fund allocation processes. The Foundation has therefore chosen to promote an approach based on active listening and one focused on the organization's needs and priorities.

The Collective Fund for Social Equity will serve as a pilot fund, the learnings from which will help FGM to develop future programs. This approach is underpinned by:

- An alignment with the strategic and operational priorities identified in a first listening consultation phase, carried out with communities and organizations in Spring 2021;
- A proactive search for by-and-for BIPOC organizations, previously unknown to FGMtl, through conversations and references;
- A streamlined application and simplified reporting process;
- A peer-led pre-evaluation process undertaken by an advisory committee made up of representatives from community organizations;
- A trust-based collaboration, formed by developing lasting relationships built on listening, openness, and transparency.

## Granting Framework

The Foundation of Greater Montreal has thus adopted the following distribution framework to align with the objectives of the Collective Fund for Social Equity:

- 50% of the fund will support BIPOC-led and/or BIPOC-serving organizations and initiatives;
- 25% of the fund will focus on organizations and initiatives led by and/or for other groups that have historically been marginalized, including women and girls, LGBTQ2S+ communities, and people living with a disability;
- 25% of the funding will target organizations working in neighborhoods that have been historically underfunded and/or where poverty is more concentrated.

**Across all three funding levels, the Fund will prioritize initiatives taking an intersectional approach to address the needs and conditions affecting historically marginalized populations.**

The selection process will be completed by late December 2021, with a plan to distribute funding to recipient organizations throughout January 2022.

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