

Foundation of Greater Montréal's Granting

Granting Strategy

2023-2026



Foundation of Greater Montréal

Context

In recent years, populations around the world have been affected by multiple health, social, and environmental issues. Existing pre-pandemic inequalities have been highlighted and unfortunately, in many cases, exacerbated by this crisis. The voices denouncing these inequalities have grown in strength and number, leading to a rise in social movements.

The Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM) is aware of the systemic inequalities affecting the populations living within its territory and has chosen to focus on these challenges, as they are likely to be further compounded by climate change. FGM thus strives to understand the different, intersecting issues with the goal of mitigating their impacts, notably by committing to a socio-ecological transition, in addition to addressing the numerous factors that contribute to ongoing cycles of inequalities.

FGM has had to adapt, reinvent some of its practices, strengthen its collaborations, and respond with flexibility to the immediate and future needs of its community. This social and environmental context has guided the development of FGM's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and will guide our granting strategy in the coming years as well.

Vision

FGM has a vision of a community that is free of poverty and discrimination, where all can realize their potential and live in a healthy environment, now and in the future.

Focal issues and populations

As indicated in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, FGM will focus on six main areas of action: social equity, ecological transition, diversity and inclusion, culture, education, and health. FGM will favour a systemic approach to addressing these areas and will particularly focus on the following equity-deserving populations: Black people, Indigenous people, racialized people, people living with physical or intellectual disabilities and neurodivergent people, women and girls, and people identifying as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community. An intersectional approach will be favoured whenever possible.

1. Objectives

- To establish a framework and respond as equitably as possible, with transparency, flexibility, and innovation, to the needs expressed by the community;
- To increase the scope and impact of FGM grants;
- To bring together philanthropic, institutional, and community actors to implement concerted solutions.

2. Financial Framework

- FGM has approximately \$1.6 million available annually through its unrestricted funds, which may vary from year to year. A maximum of 20% of this amount will be used each year to produce Vital Signs of Greater Montréal reports and the balance will be awarded in grants. A total of more than \$5 million will be given in grants over the next 4 years.

3. Approaches and Guiding Principles

The following approaches and principles guide FGM's actions and decision-making regarding the distribution of its unrestricted funds and its actions.

3.1 Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI)

The values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are at the heart of FGM's mission and will inform all its initiatives. FGM wishes to adopt an intersectional approach to fight against all forms of discrimination and prioritizes funding initiatives directed towards the equity-deserving populations mentioned above. To this end, the FGM commits to allocating a minimum of 50% of its program grants to organizations that serve people from equity-deserving communities, giving priority to organizations led by these same populations.

3.2 Systemic change and transformative vision

FGM recognizes that it cannot bring about systemic change on its own, but it seeks to align its efforts and programs to contribute to broad social and environmental transformations. FGM will support, to the extent of its capacity, community-driven initiatives and solutions that can lead to social transformation or systemic change by addressing the root causes of injustice, inequity, and exclusion, including environmental inequities..

3.3 Trust-based philanthropy

FGM is committed to embracing the guiding principles of trust-based philanthropy, both in our organizational culture and in our granting processes. FGM will take an approach of listening and humility and will work to mitigate or eliminate the traditional power dynamics between philanthropy and the community. The organization will work to amplify community voices and promote citizen engagement, streamline administrative processes and, where possible, provide multi-year, mission-based funding.

3.4 Collaboration with the philanthropic and community sectors

Collaboration is at the heart of FGM's work and an essential element in multiplying its impact through partnerships with other philanthropic, community, and institutional stakeholders. FGM will act as a catalyst or will join existing collaborative initiatives that aim to address certain issues in a systemic way or that strengthen community ecosystems.

3.5 Capacity building: from agency to empowerment

To encourage individuals, groups, organizations, and communities to develop and implement changes adapted to their own realities and aspirations, FGM will support initiatives that promote community empowerment, self-determination and efficacy in the face of social and environmental challenges. In doing so, FGM hopes to help reinforce key competencies and promote the emergence of the transformative behaviours and practices that are necessary to achieve social and environmental justice.

3.6 Knowledge sharing and advocacy

Through the production of the Vital Signs of Greater Montreal reports, FGM promotes the dissemination and shared ownership of community knowledge and data. It actively contributes to research and data collection on social and environmental issues in Greater Montreal and acts as a conduit for knowledge exchange among various actors within the philanthropic ecosystem. FGM uses the Vital Signs and its various other forms of influence to support local actors in their advocacy work and support their mobilization initiatives.

3.7 Territorial equity

FGM seeks to serve the entire territory it represents in an equitable manner, namely the Greater Montreal metropolitan area (corresponding to the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal), including the First Nations territories and communities of Kahnawake and Kanésatake.

4. Structure

FGM will be adaptive and flexible in its grant-making while maintaining a rigorous framework that allows for multi-year allocations when necessary. FGM also wishes to support innovation and experimentation that will lead to learnings that can benefit the whole community.

4.1 Collective Fund for Social Equity

The purpose of the Collective Fund for Social Equity is to address social inequalities, as well as increase justice, equity, diversity and inclusion by supporting nonprofit organizations in unlocking their potential and realizing their transformative vision.

4.2 Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition

This Fund aims to accelerate the fight against climate change, promote adaptation and resilience, protect biodiversity, promote healthy living environments, and reduce environmental inequalities in the Greater Montreal area.

4.3 Women's Impact Montreal Collective Fund

FGM will annually support organizations that directly help women and girls to improve their living conditions, as a response to the many issues that specifically impact women and girls in the Greater Montreal area.

4.4 Indigenous Peoples Fund

With awareness of the systemic inequalities experienced by Indigenous peoples for generations, FGM has begun reconciliation work, notably by dedicating an annual amount in support of organizations working specifically with Indigenous populations in Greater Montreal, whether in urban areas or in the First Nations communities.

4.5 Ad hoc and discretionary projects

FGM is a community foundation and aims to respond to all the issues and communities on its territory. For this reason, funds may be allocated on an annual basis in response to needs not targeted by the above-mentioned funds, making it possible to give with greater flexibility.

5. Annual implementation

The following approaches and guiding principles will guide the actions and decision-making of the FGM with respect to the distribution of its unrestricted funds and its shares.

5.1 Major orientations – (Collective Fund for Social Equity, Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition, and Women's Impact Montréal Collective Fund)

- The granting orientations or themes will be confirmed by the subcommittees established for each of these funds. The criteria for selecting organizations or initiatives, the range of grant amounts, and other elements such as multi-year contributions will also be validated by these subcommittees. The information will then be presented to FGM's Community Engagement Committee.
- Proposals for the elements mentioned above will be made to the subcommittees by FGM's Community Engagement staff based on data from publications such as Vital Signs and other publications relevant to these funds, as well as on discussions with representatives from the communities served.
- To ensure a fair and equitable evaluation process, as well as establish a common understanding of the issues, FGM will provide the subcommittees with an evaluation guide aimed at reducing conscious and unconscious bias when reviewing projects.

5.2 Subcommittees – Composition

In order to better represent the communities we serve and draw on to the expertise of FGM's staff, a subcommittee for each of the above Funds will be composed as follows:

- Community Engagement Committee members: 2 representatives
- Community members: 2 representatives
- FGM Staff: 2 representatives

- The sub-committee for the Women's Impact Montreal Collective Fund will be constituted in the same way as the other subcommittees, with the addition of two representatives designated by the Women's Impact Fund advisory community. However, there will also be two specific representatives designated for this Fund by the members of the advisory committee.
- Ad hoc and discretionary projects
 - Available monies will be used to respond to requests made to FGM that fall outside of the scope of the above Funds but where it is deemed important to contribute.
 - Initiatives will be evaluated by the FGM staff and then presented to the Community Engagement Committee, in accordance with the current grantmaking and delegation of authority policies.

5.3. Application process

The review process will be similar for all the funds, although the evaluation tools and criteria will be tailored to each fund. Initiatives will always be evaluated in two stages.

- First step

As a first step, organizations will be asked to complete a brief pre-qualification form that will allow the FGM team to make an initial selection. The pre-qualification will serve as a first filter to target those organizations and initiatives that most closely align with the respective framework and fund criteria. This form will be kept simple and concise to limit the administrative work for the organizations filling it out.

- Second step

Next, the initiatives will be evaluated by the evaluation subcommittee formed for each fund. The sub-committee will have access to several evaluation tools. The organizations and initiatives selected by the sub-committees will be then presented to the Community Engagement Committee.

5.4 Evaluation tools

Tools for grant application assessment will be designed and adapted for each specific Fund and will also be available on FGM's website.

- Major orientations and areas of support for each Fund (description)
- Prequalification form
- Evaluation grid
- Equity evaluation guide

5.5 Grant decision making criteria

The following criteria will guide assessment tool creation, reflection, analysis, and decision-making on the initiatives to be supported with a grant. Initiatives submitted will not need to meet all of these criteria.

- The organization is a registered charity.
- The proposed initiative or the organization's mission fits within the targeted themes of an FGM Fund.
- The proposed initiative or the organization's mission meets one or more of the framework's guiding principles.
 - 3.1 Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)
 - 3.2 Systemic Change and Transformative Vision
 - 3.5 Capacity Building: From Agency to Empowerment
- The funds will be used to address a documented issue or challenge or the initiative will be used to identify a need or challenge.
- FGM's contribution has the potential to leverage other grants OR forms part of a collaboration.

This framework is evolving. The Foundation of Greater Montreal remains in a state of learning and will continue to evolve and readjust its practices to better respond to the communities it serves. Write to us: subventions@fgmtl.org



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