

What is it?

Announced as part of Budget 2023, the Growing Communities Fund (GFC) provides a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants distributed among all 188 B.C. municipalities to help with the delivery of infrastructure or amenity projects necessary to enable community growth.

What are some examples of eligible projects municipalities and districts can use grants towards?

- Infrastructure and amenity projects such as treatment facilities, childcare facilities, development finance portions of infrastructure costs that support affordable/attainable housing, road improvements, park additions/maintenance/upgrades, or recreation related amenities.
- One-off costs outside of capital such as feasibility studies, costs of designing, acquiring land (where it is wholly required for eligible infrastructure projects), and in limited situations, non-capital administrative costs that are necessary (ie. staff).
- The province encourages projects that align with provincial priorities such as CleanBC and childcare; as well with the province's Environmental, Social and Governance framework for capital projects.

How was the \$1 billion allocated?

An initial, flat \$500,000 per municipality or regional district with additional amounts calculated from population size and per-capita growth between 2016 and 2021.

The largest receivers were Surrey (\$89.9M), Metro Vancouver (\$50.7M), Vancouver (\$49.1M), Burnaby (\$28.7M), and Kelowna (\$26.2M).

What should local HBA's do as next steps:

Contact your municipality and/or district to find out how they may be planning to use their grant.

Seek member feedback on how the money is best used to support housing objectives and advocate to municipal council and staff.

Closely monitor council discussion and reporting on grants.

Other key components of the GFC to be aware of...

On March 31, 2023, local governments will directly receive the grants, with the expectation that they be expended within **five years** of receipt.

Local governments are required to annually report on how this grant was used. This includes providing a schedule to the audited financial statements with the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds. **Templates for reporting will be posted online at a later date.**

As applicable, an annual report is also required that identifies work related to Housing Needs Reports and pre-zoning requirements.

More detailed information to reference:

[Local government allocations](#)

[Municipal Fund Information - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Regional District Fund Information – Frequently Asked Questions](#)