



MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY

Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations

On May 8, 2020, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, shared further details regarding the Government of Canada's **Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations**, temporary relief measures to support these sectors as they manage the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for the future. Please [click here](#) to read the full press release from Canadian Heritage.

Available Funding

A total of up to \$500 million has been set aside to help alleviate the financial pressures of affected organizations. The distribution of funding will include up to \$326.8 million to be administered by Canadian Heritage and divided among select departmental programs and Portfolio agencies as well as key delivery organizations. Specifically:

- \$198.3 million will be provided to the beneficiaries of arts and culture funding via existing programs as well as other organizations with demonstrated needs;
- \$72 million will be provided to the sport sector; and
- \$53 million will be provided to the heritage sector via the emergency component of the [Museums Assistance Program](#).

In addition, \$55 million will be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts; \$3.5 million will be provided for COVID-related projects under the Digital Citizen Initiative; and \$115.8 million will support the Canadian audiovisual sector. The use of the remaining funds will be assessed based on needs.

Funding Distribution

Starting May 8, 2020, partner organizations will be contacted so that funds can begin to flow to cultural and sport organizations. A two-phased approach will be followed:

- Phase 1 is for funding recipients of arts, culture, and sports programs that are projecting a significant financial impact as a result of the pandemic.
- Phase 2 will provide temporary relief to eligible organizations that have heritage collections through the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program, and other arts and culture organizations that do not currently receive funding from Canadian Heritage or another participating federal agency (Canada Council for the Arts, Canada Media Fund, Telefilm Canada). Further details on Phase 2 will be announced in the coming weeks.

Eligibility Requirements

At a minimum, eligible organizations will be required to attest to the following in order to receive support:

- they are in need of funding to ensure a continuity of operations and to safeguard jobs;
- they remain in operation at the time of application and plan to continue contributing to their sector in the future;
- they are not receiving funding from multiple sources to cover the same costs (e.g., the complementary Government of Canada measures listed below); and,

- where relevant, funds will be used to support workers such as self-employed and freelance workers, artists, and creators.

In addition, heritage organizations that are provincial or territorial Crown corporations will not be eligible, but cultural institutions associated with educational institutions or universities will be eligible. Entities whose level of annual expenses in 2019 exceeded \$3 million would not be eligible.

More information about this fund, eligibility criteria, distribution, and implementation is [available here](#).

The Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations is intended to help organizations maintain operations, support workers (including self-employed and freelance workers, artists, athletes, and creators), retain jobs, and reduce barriers to accessing the already announced Government of Canada measures that many organizations in the culture, heritage, and sport sectors face.

The Emergency Support Fund is designed to complement other Government of Canada measures to help Canadian workers and employers impacted by COVID-19, including:

- [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#),
- [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#) (which will be extended past June),
- [Business Credit Availability Program \(BCAP\)](#),
- [Canada Emergency Business Account \(CEBA\)](#), and
- [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\) for Small Businesses](#).

For further information about the Emergency Support Fund, please consult the Government of Canada's [information](#) page and [questions and answers](#) page. For more information about the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, please visit their [website](#).