

# Consumer Initiative Fund

## Project Proposal - Application Instructions

### What is a Consumer Initiative Fund (CIF) Project?

The Consumer Initiative Fund (CIF) is a unique and progressive program that funds and supports projects that are **proposed, managed, and led** by people with lived/living experience of mental illness and/or substance use challenges.

CIF embodies the Philosophy of Recovery with the belief that:

- Recovery is possible
- People can have purpose in their lives
- People can improve the quality of their life through self determination

CIF projects allow peers to take the expertise they have acquired through lived experience, identify activities that could benefit peers in the community of Vancouver, and then bring their vision into reality.

Participation in this initiative fosters inclusion and community integration while decreasing isolation. Participants can take part in project activities for free and can gain inspiration from seeing peers in action.

### Criteria and Application Instructions

#### Projects:

- Support recovery of peers in the city of Vancouver
- Promote development of accessible and diverse peer group projects on a term basis
- Encourage physical activity, creativity, learning and/or social interaction
- Build skills, capacity and opportunities for personal, professional and/or community growth
- Empower individuals rather than organizations
- Address an identified need in Vancouver but do not duplicate an existing CIF project

*The **Consumer Initiative Fund** strives to **empower** those with mental health and/or substance use challenges **through meaningful involvement***

**Project Leaders and Assistants:**

- To be a project leader or assistant you must have a Criminal Record Check completed (we cover the cost)
- You will receive a T4A slip for taxes for the tax years affected. Your SIN number will be required for this purpose
- Project leaders and assistants are required to complete some surveys for program statistical purposes
- The project starts once the CIF program receives the results of the record check and contracts have been signed

**Project Participants:**

- Projects are open to participants in recovery who have self-identified as having a mental health and/or substance use issue
- No referral is required participate in CIF project activities
- There are no fees to participate in CIF project activities

**More Details:**

- Websites are not eligible for this call
- Projects cannot offer therapy
- Project Leaders and assistants may receive “fees for service”, but projects must not be profit making endeavours in nature either directly or indirectly
- Receipts for expenses must be the original cash register receipt showing the GST #
- Applicants must declare any organizational affiliation (i.e. in kind support)
- Proposals requiring paid staff to run the project will not be considered
- VCH retains the copyright to use material developed as a part of CIF projects (i.e. art, course materials) in perpetuity or similar or other identified purposes (i.e. a group could be run again in another area)
- The project leader who develops the material is free to re-use, and or repurpose the material as well with the stipulation that the CIF and VCH are cited as a funding source for the development
- Should your project be accepted, a copy of your poster and promotional materials must be sent in to the CIF office by the end of the first month of operation
- Within that first month Project Leaders must be in contact with CIF’s Coordinator
- At some point during the project, the CIF Coordinator will attend a project activity

**Application Form and Budget Form are available on our website:**

**[SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/projects](http://SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/projects)**

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