

# Grant-in-Aid Application

## Cortes Island Community Foundation

**Date:** August 20, 2023

**Name of Organization/Program:** Cortes Island Social Profit Network Support, Community Grant Resourcing, and Data Collection

**Society #:** 781957113

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**Did your organization/program receive a Grant-in-Aid reward last year?** No

**If necessary, can you make available the preceding years financial statements/ annual report and this year's budget?** Yes.

**Total Grant-in-Aid amount requested from the Regional District:** \$5,000

**Do you have other funds to support this project? Please indicate how much and if they are anticipated or in-hand.**

Yes and No. This project will help fund the data collection (un-funded), leverage approximately \$25,000 towards Social Profit support (partially funded), and help support additional fundraising for local organizations.

**Please describe the project/program for which you are requesting funds?**

In 2019, the Community Foundation (not yet an established charity) organized the first ever Social Profit Gathering bringing together the many island nonprofits, community organizations, and cooperatives. It was a powerful event that resulted in a Social Profit Network being formed and since then there have been monthly to quarterly events including network meetings, ED/Manager trainings, a virtual Social Profit Gathering, two gatherings for small businesses—including those serving the social profit sector specifically, and in June 2023 the second ever in person all Social Profit Gathering.

The Community Foundation will be further fostering the network in 2023 through:

- network specific fundraising,
- dedicated staff time,
- another ED/Managers training series, and
- other social profit specific trainings such as in thriving nonprofits, board development, reconciliation, and more.

The CICF will also launch, in collaboration with the Community Foundations of Canada, more in-depth, Cortes-specific data on the state of the island community. This work, often referred to as Vital Signs, is an essential part of what Foundations can do in a community: helping measure need and impact.

The CICF will use their knowledge of the community organizations, community needs, and available resources to help run a diverse volunteer granting jury to make recommendations to Director Mark Vonesch and the Strathcona Regional District for the 2023 Grants-in-Aid distributions.

**What is the minimum amount necessary to complete the project?**

The minimum to deliver the basic network support and begin the data collection process is \$5,000.

**How will this Grant-in-Aid benefit your organization and/or the community?**

The primary barrier to sustainability according to most island social profits surveyed is adequate funding. And one specific area that the E.D.'s and Managers say stands in the way when it comes to accessing government funding especially is concrete evidence of the varied and often desperate need of the islanders. On Cortes Island, the safety net of islanders is almost entirely provided by the island social profit community. Better access to information and data around those needs helps to create a narrative that allows funders to understand why such a small island has such big needs. It also helps the social profit organizations of Cortes to track impact of programs and projects and allows funders and the community foundation to direct granting based on needs and impact data.

**Anticipated start date:** Immediately (September 1, 2023)

**Anticipated completion date:** By May 15, 2024 the foundation will have....

- convened at least 4 ED/Manager trainings,
- led 1-3 social profit trainings such as board development, reconciliation, and creating financial diversification for nonprofits;
- have launched a “Cortes Local Living Wage” index with data collection (with publication by fall of 2024)
- promote, manage, convene, and communicate the community granting jury for the 2023 Grants in Aid and pass on suggestions to Director Mark Vonesch and the SRD