



## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA)

Resource: Community Grant Application Guidelines

**RDA's mission is to strategically fund initiatives that create a vibrant, inclusive, and growing community.**

RDA's Community Grants are available to support a wide range of community development efforts including those listed below. We aspire to address both immediate needs and long-term challenges. As a *development authority*, RDA strives to become more specific in our community impact, facilitate more leverage for our community, and help to align efforts more effectively. We appreciate working with local organizations to achieve great things for the region. For qualified applicants, eligible purposes include:

- **Economic Development:** proposals that strengthen our region's business climate, build capacity for business start-ups/expansion, support an environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, support workforce development, human capital, and leadership initiatives, attend to generational transfer of businesses/assets, and develops tourism, our riverfront, and neighborhoods
- **Arts, Culture, and Heritage:** proposals that enrich our region's artistic, creative, and cultural amenities, advance the inclusiveness of diverse ideas and populations, create a sense of place that attracts people to our region, presents a welcoming environment, and highlights our regional history
- **Education:** proposals that expand access to educational opportunities, increase educational attainment, foster parent engagement, and create high-quality educational capabilities
- **Human Services:** proposals that address human need among vulnerable populations, engage people in solving community problems, and strengthen organizations in our region's safety net

**Priority Focus Areas:** While RDA continues to fund a broad range of community projects, we have also identified focus areas to support more specific impact:

- Access to affordable/stable **housing:** Preference to use QC Housing Council's six strategic pillars.
- Access to evidence-based **mental health** care services, use of best practices, and alignment of resources.
- Access to **child care**, child care workforce capacity, and emphasis on quality.
- **Economic development:** Process of improving economic and social wellbeing of a community through programs, policies, and activities.
- Access to **safety net** resources: A backstop to safeguard against hardships or adversity. Assuming we all run into challenges along the way (e.g., food bank, rent relief, utility relief).
- **Violence prevention:** Practice of reducing the occurrence or perpetration of violence by addressing the underlying causes, including changing behaviors, environments, organizations, and norms
- **Life skills** development: Community systems that help individuals navigate basic life tasks, overcome normal challenges, develop financial literacy, seek employment, learn about nutrition, etc.

We want to emphasize that, while we will continue to fund a wide range of requests, we will also begin to focus more on specific impact.

**For questions, email [ceo@rdauthority.org](mailto:ceo@rdauthority.org) or [pc@rdauthority.org](mailto:pc@rdauthority.org), or call (563) 323-5177**