

ARAS Community Investment Program

FUNDING GUIDELINES

ARAS exists to to encourage improvement in agriculture and in the quality of life of persons living in an agricultural community by developing programs, services and facilities based on needs in the agricultural community. RSA 1980 cA-12 s2;1996 c2 s4, Agricultural Society Act.

ARAS also supports a sense of community by channelling resources to local not-for-profit organizations for programs that are relevant to the objective of an agricultural society and to have a positive impact on our community. Our grantmaking serves the Ardrossan and local area residents.

ARAS practices and encourages diversity, equity, and inclusiveness as fundamental values of community life. A percentage of an annual fund's value will be awarded as grants to local not-for-profit organizations. Applicants are encouraged to review the grant criteria and may contact ARAS if they have questions.

ELIGIBILITY:

The following organizations are eligible to apply for grants:

Not-for-profit organization or community organizations in Ardrossan and area that provide services to youth. Grants are not given to support specific individuals but may be used by organizations to defray the costs that a group of individuals may be required to contribute towards a program.

FUNDING FOCUS:

The focus of the ARAS Community Investment Program is to promote and/or help provide learning experiences for youth in Ardrossan and area, and meet the objective of an agricultural society.

AWARDS:

The annual program will not exceed \$5000, and is solely based on proceeds from specific fundraising activities for this program. Funds allocated to this program that are not awarded will not carry over to the following year. Awards range from \$500 to \$2000. Reporting for funds awarded must be submitted on or before October 1 of the same year awarded. Any remaining funds not accounted for as per the application must be returned to ARAS. Failure to complete and submit the ARAS Community Investment Program report will prohibit your group from consideration for further program funds.

APPLICATIONS:

Grant information and application will be available upon request and may be posted online. All applications must be signed by two authorized Officers of the organization.

DEADLINE:

Applications for the grant must be submitted by November 15. Presentations to the ARAS Board scheduled for December and January. Awards announced in March.

QUESTIONS:

Diana Bacon, Executive Director, 587-590-ARAS(2727), or ardrossag@gmail.com

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Each application will be reviewed based on the following in addition to the grant scoring criteria.

Organization: Does the organization meet the eligibility criteria? Is the purpose/mission clear and concise? Does the organization exhibit capacity to utilize the grant effectively? What is the organization's grant history with ARAS (number of grants applied for/awarded, past grant paperwork up-to-date, effectiveness, etc)?

Program Request: How well does the request meet ARAS' funding focus? How many youth and/or others benefit?

Budget: Is the budget request clear and focused on the program/project described?

Viability of Other Funding: If additional funding is needed to pursue the program, or if only partial funding is granted, specifically how will program be funded? ARAS grant is not to be the sole source of funding for the specific program.

Quality of Application: Is the grant clear and concise? Were the grant guidelines followed? Are the requested documents provided and well prepared?

REVIEW PROCESS:

All applications are reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be rated on these criteria and graded using the Grant Scoring Criteria. Applicants may be contacted for further information in this first review stage of applications. The Executive Committee will report its recommendations to the Board of Directors which review, modify, approve or decline applications.

Notes:

1. The ARAS Community Investment Program, Policies, Guidelines, Scoring Criteria, and other related documents will be reviewed on an annual basis.
2. The allocated funds for this program may vary from year to year.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Applications may be submitted online to ardrossanag@gmail.com or mailed to 60 First Avenue, Ardrossan, AB T8E 2A2. Applications shall be received on or before November 15.