

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	PearlSpace Support Services Society (formerly Howe Sound Women's Center)
Name of the program (if applicable):	Whistler Drop-In Center
Society Registration Number:	S-16716
Organization Mailing Address:	PO Box 2052 Squamish, BC, V8B 0B4
Contact Name & Title:	Shana Murray, Community Program Director
Organization Phone Number:	604.892.5748
Organization Email Address:	smurray@pearlspace.ca
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence.)</i>	To provide crisis intervention, support and advocacy for women, two spirit, gender-diverse, non-binary, trans people, children and youth who are experiencing violence and adversity.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Service, Community Service, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Community Service

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	42
How many active members/participants does the organization have in the current year? <i>(e.g. how many athletes have signed up for this year)</i>	PearlSpace has 80 active members. As of December 2023 the Whistler Drop-In Center supported 413 adults, 233 children and youth, 8 women and 11 children for a total of 18 bed nights for our Whistler Safe Home Program / Hotel Stays, and 9 women and 11 children through our Pemberton Safe Home for a total of 129 bed nights, 138 adults and 132 children through our Homeless Prevention Program, and 143 individuals through our Northern Community Outreach Services were supported.
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	na
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	13 local staff and board members local to Whistler.
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	28 active volunteers, including 10 board members and 57 paid staff members.
Age range of participants in the organization:	0 - 80

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	www.facebook.com/PearlSpaceSociety; www.instagram.com/pearlspacesociety/ website: pearlspace.ca
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Anyone can become a volunteer or become a member of PearlSpace Support Services Society (annual membership \$20 or \$5 low-barrier fee). Anyone identifying as a woman, trans, two-spirit, or non-binary and all children requiring services at no cost and we encourage fathers to participate in counselling program. We support people within our Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program.
Does the organization have any outstanding debts or other means of funding from the RMOW? If yes, please state the amount and reason. <u>Note</u> : Please include any Value In Kind support that you receive from the RMOW (eg. reduced rent, utilities in RMOW buildings)	No

GRANT INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Grant	<i>Explain in detail how the funding will be spent. Please refer to Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program, available at www.whistler.ca/cep for funding criteria and eligibility. Please be as concise as possible using the space below.</i>
<p>This grant will support the Whistler Drop-In Centre, a PearlSpace Support Services program. Grant funds will allow PearlSpace to operate four days a week of drop-in services and a day a week of outreach, as an additional outreach and meeting with clients outside of the office hours. PearlSpace Whistler Drop-In support and outreach are promoted at both the Whistler & Pemberton libraries, the Whistler Health Clinics, and throughout the community in Sea to Sky.</p> <p>We offer safe, confidential support services to vulnerable women, trans, non-binary, two-spirit, and other diverse-gender individuals and children, particularly those experiencing high conflict, violence, or abuse. Grant funds allow for the delivery of existing and new programming to support diversity and various workshops. These funds allow us to support various programming and workshops to reach more women and children in our community including but not limited to: karma yoga, mindful movement, art therapy, free baby clothes, harm reduction kits, menstrual products, hot lunch, and various support groups and circles. We continue to evolve to meet the needs of our growing community to address the unique situations and barriers in Sea to Sky by providing emotional support and referral drop-in services, the homeless prevention program, transportation and emergency food supports, affordable housing units, as well as operating safe homes in Pemberton and Whistler for women and children experiencing violence.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
<p>The Whistler Drop-In Centre is an established program of PearlSpace Support Services Society, however, with the increased rates of gender-based violence seen during and after the pandemic, PearlSpace is expanding its services including a new safe home in Whistler. Our Transition House in Squamish has been at full capacity in 2023. PearlSpace has also started gender-diverse and inclusion work to better support trans, two-spirit and non-binary survivors of gender-based violence, one of the many reasons we changed our name to better serve our community. We will continue to expand our services to reflect the unique needs of those who come to us in the community with diverse backgrounds, experiences and needs.</p>	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p><small>PearlSpace offers clients confidential, non-judgmental support, community referrals, access to resources, advocacy and systemic guidance from our trauma-informed, safe space. Our programming focuses on:</small></p> <p><small>1. Emergency Transition Housing: In the absence of emergency transition housing in Whistler, PearlSpace is a direct link to accessing emergency safe housing at Pearls Place Transition House in Squamish and Pearls Safe Home in Pemberton, and offers outreach support, advocacy, counselling and referrals to other resources to mitigate the effects of gender-based violence and Intimate Partner Violence.</small></p> <p><small>2. Community Outreach: PearlSpace staff continue to provide individual outreach supports by meeting women in the community with safety measures in place.</small></p> <p><small>3. Sexual Assault Support and Prevention: PearlSpace offers sexual assault education and prevention as well as front-line support for survivors, and participates in advocacy awareness and education initiatives for the service industry in Whistler in addition to providing Third Party reporting services for sexual assaults in the community.</small></p> <p><small>4. Access to necessities for clients and their children: PearlSpace provides practical items such as gently used clothing, books, toys, personal care products, food, and other necessities at no cost to anyone in need in the community. In addition, these items are delivered when individuals cannot access the drop-in centre.</small></p> <p><small>5. Homeless Prevention Program (HPP): This program provides rental subsidies for survivors fleeing abusive relationships or at risk of homelessness in the area. PearlSpace staff has seen an increased need for this service.</small></p> <p><small>6. Navigating the Legal System and Family Justice: The WWC can help women, trans, non-binary, Two-Spirit, and other gender-diverse survivors understand their legal rights when facing abuse or separation and provide referrals to legal supports. PearlSpace offers a safe and private meeting space for survivors to meet with other agencies and law enforcement personnel as well as providing confidential support and referrals for clients who are suffering from physical, emotional, and mental health challenges.</small></p>	

4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i> 2. <i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i>
<p>RMOW CEP Grant - \$18,000 (pending) Grants other - \$14,000 (pending) BC Gaming Grant - \$8000 (approved) International Women's Day Fundraiser Auction, March 8 - 22nd, 2024 - \$10,000 (pending) Third Party Fundraising Initiatives and general donations - \$3,238 (pending) Holiday Hamper - \$1000 (pending)</p>	

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:			
<i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application</i>			
	Annual Operating Budget	Grant Requested	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. (Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	91720.02	13000	Employee salaries and benefits, including coordinator and program manager, administration and bookkeeping
General operations:	14050.00	5000	Client travel, staff travel, client food and grocery vouchers, administrative expenses
One-time project / program:			
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	13424.00	N/A	Rent, insurance, repairs and maintenance
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:	2709.26		Admin costs: accounting and audit costs, bank charges, equipment lease
Total	\$ 121903.28	\$ 18000	<u>14.77</u>% <i>(Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)</i>
Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.			

6. Additional Information:	<i>Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.</i>
	Due to rising costs and inflation over the past five years we have increased the amount requested by an additional \$3000 for 2024.

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget (Required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status (Required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Other: Program Brochure 	

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

8. Please list how your organization may improve Community Performance Indicators:	<p>Please visit https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/ to learn about the four priority areas of RMOW 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing 2. Climate Action 3. Community Engagement 4. Smart Tourism <p>Please determine how your grant (or organization) can contribute to fulfilling any priorities described in the four areas listed above. Each priority has numerous specifications to choose from while describing how your grant (or organization) may help to improve Strategic Plan.</p>
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Example: This grant addresses the priority of “Community Engagement” because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...

PearlSpace programs and services in Whistler address all four quadrants of the new 2023-2026 strategic plan, however, more specifically the priority of Community Engagement and striving to connect locals to each other and valuable essential services. PearlSpace does this by:

1. Enriching Community Life
PearlSpace serves the unique and diverse needs of all survivors of gender-based violence, bringing together clients of various cultures and ages, including Multicultural and First Nations communities. PearlSpace staff knows that this work contributes to the social fabric of the community, the social attachments of its residents, and contributes to the wellbeing of our community and society at large. The PearlSpace drop-in programs give all women, trans, non-binary, Two-Spirit and other gender-diverse individuals in the community the opportunity to build their village of support, gather tools and resources, and prevent isolation; fostering wellness and a sense of community.
2. Enhancing the Resort Experience
Whistler is a unique resort-based community that welcomes people and ideas from around the world, while maintaining a rich local mountain culture. When an individual faces unexpected challenges, including but not limited to violence and abuse, they turn to their most trusted support network for guidance. Most Whistler residents and visitors alike are far away from home and in difficult times may feel isolated, lost, or alone. PearlSpace enhances the resort experience by providing confidential guidance and support to survivors of gender-based violence during these times, mitigating some of the harms of violence.
3. Protecting the Environment
Through the community clothing and necessities swap, PearlSpace is able to divert gently used goods from the landfill. PearlSpace is also able to divert any overflow to Pearls Value and Vintage, PearlSpace’s social enterprise. Furthermore, offering gender-based violence support services within the Whistler community allows for a reduction in the frequency of trips to Squamish or Vancouver, therefore reducing the environmental impact of Whistler residents accessing such services outside of the community.
4. Ensuring Economic Viability
While some survivors fleeing violence and abuse choose to leave their community and relocate for their own safety, PearlSpace offers safe housing and ongoing support to give survivors the options to increase their safety and heal from violence and abuse while staying within their home community. By offering free, non-judgmental, confidential support to all survivors in the community, PearlSpace supports Whistler residents in continuing to engage fully in economic, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities that make Whistler the vibrant community that it is. HSWC also offers specialized job skills development and employment services for clients who have experienced violence and abuse, in partnership with the WorkBC program. Empowering survivors to remain in or re-enter the workforce after experiencing trauma and abuse ensures an equal opportunity to develop and maintain financial independence and contribute to the local economy. PearlSpace Homeless Prevention Program also provides rental subsidies for survivors of gender-based violence and children fleeing violence to support them to find stable and affordable housing.
5. Partnering for success
Working collaboratively in partnership with other agencies, law enforcement, and the justice system is paramount to realizing PearlSpace’s vision of a violence free future. With that in mind, PearlSpace actively participates in cross-sectoral committees and partner relationships focused on ending gender-based violence, including RCMP, Victim Services, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Society of Transition Houses, Sea to Sky Community Services, Mental Health and Addiction, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Whistler Non-Profit Network.

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat People, known in their language as L'il'wat7úl and the Squamish People, known in their language as the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

9. How has your organization considered truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations?

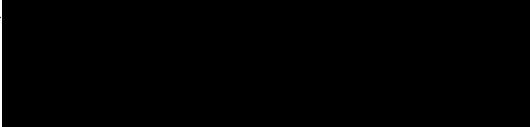
The past year continues to be characterized by massive change in a global context, deeply affecting the communities that make up the Sea to Sky Corridor and St'atl'imx regions (including Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish and the Nations of N'Quatqua, Samahquam, Lil'wat, Skatin, Xa'xtsa and Squamish). With these changes has come many challenges as well as many opportunities to pursue truth and reconciliation. In October 2023, the HSWC rebranded as PearlSpace Society. The new name was chosen because it creates opportunities for inclusion for equity-denied groups, and those who are, or have been erased from the feminist anti-violence movement. Removing "women" from our name helps furthers our commitments to Two-Spirit, trans and gender diverse communities. Our mission is to cultivate hope through inclusive supportive services and community. In June of 2023 PearlSpace worked with Resilience Planning to review our documentation and visit each site and location and provide recommendations and improvements as part of PearlSpaces journey towards deeper, more equitable relations to Indigenous clients, community, and staff.

Integrating Indigenous values into organizational values statements, and create strategic goals to meet those. In the fall, a Decolonization Committee was formed within PearlSpace to integrate decolonization through all aspects of the organization. Evaluating the organization at multiple levels (programs, services, staff, volunteers, board leadership) based on its progress towards these goals.

In February 2024, [REDACTED] begun facilitating Decolonization training for all PearlSpace staff in small groups, as well as in ensuring the safety and participation of Indigenous People and People of Colour in difficult conversations and topic matter. to recognize, support and respect the emotional labour that Indigenous People put into helping non-Indigenous people to understand colonization and reconciliation.

In the year ahead, PearlSpace will endeavor to learn and unlearn colonial and colonized practices. We will collaborate with our own Indigenous communities and organizations to identify and establish reciprocal learning and engagement opportunities. In January of 2024, PearlSpace and Stqaka7stumc Lilwat Transition House came together to participate in the Reducing Barrier Supporting Women with Varying Levels of Mental Wellness & Substance Use facilitated by the BC Society of Transition Houses at the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre. Working together, we identified strengths, gaps and possible barriers within our programs, discussed promising practices and learned skills to enhance the safety, autonomy and well-being of women seeking support in our programs. These cross learning opportunities are pivotal to our continued work of breaking down barriers and intersections of oppression that shape our lives and create alternative ways of thinking and being and doing to build a more equitable and just future.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Shana Murray
Phone number:	604-892-5748
Email:	smurray@pearlspace.ca
Acknowledgement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that the information provided in this CEP Grant Application Form is true;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that a representative is required to present this grant request at a future Council Meeting;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted that the Grant Reporting Form is due by December 1 of this year;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted, it will be used only for its intended purpose unless otherwise approved by Council.
Signature:	

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2024.

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at corporate@whistler.ca if you require any assistance.

Personal and third party information provided in this application form is collected under the authority of Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Should you have any questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of this information please contact the Legislative and Privacy Coordinator at 604-935-8118 or at 4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler.