


GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	Zero Ceiling Society of Canada
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	Adventure Sessions
Society Registration Number:	897518916 RR 0001
Organization Mailing Address:	1519 Spring Creek Drive
Contact Name & Title:	Emily Suckling - Development Manager
Organization Phone Number:	
Organization Email Address:	emily@zeroceiling.org
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence)</i>	Zero Ceiling exists to empower youth. We provide marginalized youth with safe homes, a sense of belonging, connection to the land, and the opportunities they deserve so they can thrive.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Community Services

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	28
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>	350
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	40
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	- 10 Permanent, Full-Time staff - 5 Casual staff - 6 Board of Directors - 20+ Community Volunteers
Age range of participants in the organization:	16-29

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	Website: www.zeroceiling.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/zeroceiling/ Instagram: www.instagram.com/zeroceilingsociety/
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Our programs are targeted at youth aged 16-29 who face barriers to being included in our community. This includes Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, and BIPOC youth, as well as youth who have been in foster care and those facing mental health challenges. Membership and participation at Zero Ceiling are distinct groups. Our members are youth who live and work in Whistler, as well as staff and volunteer supporters. Our participants include a wider group of youth from Whistler, the Sea to Sky Corridor, and Metro Vancouver who get access to our programs through our partnerships with other youth-serving organizations
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)	Zero Ceiling receives value-in-kind support in the form of reduced rent for the location at 1519 Spring Creek Drive.

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>Zero Ceiling is seeking \$10,000 in funding to support our equal access to the outdoors program, Adventure Sessions. While many believe we mostly serve youth from Vancouver, in fact, 50% of our participants come from the Sea to Sky area, including Whistler, Squamish, Squamish Nation Lil'Wat Nation, and N'Quatqua Nation. Your support will help us provide youth from these communities with the opportunity to participate in the mountain recreation that is the heart of our community, when historically they have not had access.</p> <p>Adventure Sessions is a program that provides equitable access to skiing, snowboarding, hiking, and mountain biking for marginalized youth aged 16-27. In BC, the majority of residents have access to outdoor recreation, but the most vulnerable young people do not. Our programs are designed to bridge that gap and provide access to the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation for youth who have been marginalized, including Indigenous, visible minority, and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. The program is low-barrier, providing the equipment, instruction, and access required by youth, at no cost to themselves. The program connects over 500 young people to outdoor recreation, the mountain and Whistlers culture. We work with youth agencies who refer youth to the program such as the Foundry Sea to Sky Youth Hub, Sea to Sky Alternative School, Squamish Nation, N'Quatqua Snowboarding and Lil'wat Nation, to give youth access to Whistler's mountains.</p> <p>We partner with Whistler Blackcomb to deliver these programs in a safe and inclusive environment. While we receive in-kind donations of lift tickets, lessons, and rental equipment from Whistler Blackcomb, we are seeking funding for our skilled youth workers to deliver the program and our operations coordinator who handles program administration to ensure our services are safe, inclusive, and accessible for the diverse youth who we serve. Funding from the CEP Grant program will directly support the wages of the program staff and our operations coordinator staff who are responsible for managing and facilitating Adventure Sessions year-round.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
<p>No, Adventure Sessions is not a new program. It has been a core part of Zero Ceiling since the organization's founding in 1997. Connecting youth to the mountains has been the foundation upon which Zero Ceiling was built. Our mission has always been to provide youth from underrepresented and marginalized communities with the opportunity to engage in outdoor recreation, develop new skills, and build a deeper connection with nature.</p>	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>"Zero Ceiling continues to provide opportunities in the Sea to Sky for youth who live here. As a world class destination, the reality that every family is not able to afford these experiences is a known challenge. Zero Ceiling, and the programming it provides, helps youth feel more connected to their own community. The goal of any community is to provide the best foundation for those who live and grow up here. Zero Ceiling eliminates barriers so that there are opportunities for everyone to experience access to the outdoors. Whistler Blackcomb adventures are available to so many more youth, thanks to Zero Ceiling. Some of the youth from this season said they had the best time of their life on the hill. Think about that. Without this experience, someone might be missing their most formative memory. We all have one. Imagine your life without yours. That's why this program is so powerful, because it provides something that can never be taken away no matter how many struggles youth face in their future." – Youth Agency Support Worker</p> <p>Adventure Sessions not only connects youth to outdoor recreation but also provides significant community benefits. The program contributes to the employment of three local community members—our Program Manager, Youth Case Worker, and Operations Coordinator. It engages one of Whistler's largest stakeholders, Whistler Blackcomb, and encourages Whistler's ski and snowboard instructors to connect with a deeper cause. Additionally, Adventure Sessions creates regular volunteer opportunities for Whistler locals, enabling them to give back to their community and connect with a local nonprofit. This program has also become integrated into the Resort Municipality of Whistler's efforts to celebrate and share its mountain culture, ensuring that access to the mountains is open to those who are often excluded.</p> <p>Volunteer Opportunities: Adventure Sessions runs every Wednesday and Thursday, offering regular volunteer opportunities for community members. Volunteers can actively participate in outdoor sessions, providing mentorship and support for youth. This is an opportunity to connect with a meaningful cause and build stronger ties to a local nonprofit organization.</p> <p>Community Connection: The program has fostered lasting connections between Whistler Blackcomb's ski and snowboard instructors and the local community. Adventure Sessions has become a way for instructors to engage more deeply with the town and its residents. Through the program, they build meaningful ties to the community by supporting youth and sharing their passion for the mountains. Each year, we typically have about 50 days of Adventure Sessions, which translates to 50 days x 3 instructors + at least 1 volunteer = a total of 200 community contribution days.</p> <p>Access to Whistler's Mountain Culture: Adventure Sessions serves as a platform for the Resort Municipality of Whistler to share and celebrate its mountain culture, opening access to the mountain for those who are often excluded Indigenous, visible minority, and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. The program ensures that youth from diverse backgrounds can experience the outdoor activities that Whistler is known for, creating an inclusive environment where all can thrive in the mountains and connect to the land.</p>	

4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i> <i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i>
<p>Outdoor programming specific funding: Whistler Community Foundation: Whistler Community Grant \$2000 Pending BC Gaming: \$50,000 Pending CN Rail: \$10,000 Pending 3rd Party Fundraiser: Celebrating Outdoor programming: \$5000 fundraising goal RMOW CEP: \$10,000 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:	\$616,825	\$10,000	Portion of Program staff and Operations Coordinator wages directly impacting Adventure Sessions
General operations:	\$216,393		
One-time project / program:	\$17,920		
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	10	N/A	
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:	\$386,297		
Total	1237445 \$	10000 \$	0.8 % (Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)
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>
	<p>Adventure Sessions is an equitable outdoor program in Whistler that provides marginalized youth with no-cost access to the mountain in a safe and inclusive environment. The program has been running confidently for 28 years, offering year-round opportunities for youth to engage with the outdoors. However, we have never had any ongoing funding to deliver the program. As demand for the program grows, we are seeing our sessions book out quickly, with youth often placed on a waiting list. This program relies on the support of the community to continue its vital work, and we greatly appreciate your consideration and support.</p> <p>The below testimonials were provided by youth workers and supporters who referred youth to our equal access to the outdoors programs over the last few years. They're happy for us to share their experiences to demonstrate the impact the program has had for youth and the community.</p> <p>"Zero Ceiling helps youth feel more connected to their own community. The goal of any community is to provide the best foundation for those who live and grow up here. Zero Ceiling eliminates barriers so that there are opportunities for everyone to experience access to the outdoors."</p> <p>"Zero Ceiling provides an integral connection in the community that reduces barriers and brings us all closer together. Living in the sea to sky corridor is challenging for many marginalized folks. There is a misunderstanding that if you live in Whistler, or Squamish, or Pemberton, you have incredible access to all these activities. Many of the youth I work with had never been to Whistler, never been mountain biking, and may never have done so if not for Zero Ceiling. If Zero Ceiling didn't exist, I do not know what this community might look like -- and I am not interested in finding out."</p> <p>"Eliminating barriers to Whistler Blackcomb for youth. So many individuals would otherwise not have gone skiing this winter. With the ski instructors, there is safety and skill development. With Zero Ceiling staff there is awareness of other support systems in the corridor (and the Work 2 Live program that inspires youth to consider more options for their future)."</p> <p>"Everyone deserves to see the beautiful views in Whistler and experience the exhilarated joy of skiing or snowboarding down the mountain at least once in their lives. While this would be ideal, it is not always accessible to all people. The Adventure Sessions bridged the gap and provided a unique opportunity for at-risk youth to experience the beauty and thrill of what Whistler has to offer. The impact was felt by everyone who attended."</p> <p>To demonstrate the impact of Adventure Sessions please see additional testimonials attached in Section 7.</p>

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
<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: Adventure Session Testimonials

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<p>8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:</p>	<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>
<p><i>Example: This grant addresses the priority of “Community Engagement” because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...</i></p>	
<p>Housing - Working with Community Partners on Long-Term Housing Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero Ceiling plays an active role in contributing to the housing priorities outlined in the RMOW Strategic Plan by providing long-term housing solutions for youth. We maintain a strong, positive working relationship with the Whistler Housing Authority and currently hold a 3-bedroom unit occupied by Zero Ceiling graduates. These graduates have lived, worked, and contributed to the community of Whistler for over 24 months. One of our graduates is now coaching local youth sports, showing the long-term impact of our programs on youth who remain active and engaged in the community. - In 2024, Zero Ceiling secured housing through the Whistler Valley Housing Society for youth in the Work 2 Live program. We rent five units to support youth in the community, marking a significant first partnership of its kind in Whistler. We are proud to lead by example, demonstrating how collaboration between nonprofits and housing organizations can help create more equitable, inclusive housing solutions in Whistler. - The Resort Municipality of Whistler’s 2024 Vulnerable Populations Housing Needs Assessment identifies a current need for 22 supportive housing beds for marginalized youth in the Sea to Sky Corridor. Zero Ceiling currently provides 11 of these beds, and as part of our five-year strategic plan, we aim to expand and provide 22 beds of supportive housing to youth. <p>Community Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero Ceiling is dedicated to fostering strong community connections in Whistler. We work in partnership with several local organizations, including the Whistler Community Services Society, Whistler Valley Housing Society, Whistler Housing Authority, Whistler Community Foundation, Whistler Blackcomb, Evo and Nesters Market. Through these partnerships, we help create meaningful linkages between community members, organizations, Whistler’s workforce, and local businesses. - Zero Ceiling addresses community engagement priorities with the Nations through various initiatives, such as removing barriers to the land and outdoor recreation through Adventure Sessions, accepting Indigenous youth referrals and welcoming them into our Work2Live program (which offers supportive housing and employment), and running our Auntie Program, which fosters healing and reconciliation for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. 	

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'wat People, known in their language as L'il'wat7úl and the Squamish People, known in their language as the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for planning on unceded territories, as currently managed by the provincial government; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

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

- For years, Zero Ceiling has been committed to reconciling with the Nations by providing free access to outdoor recreation in their territory. Youth from the N'Quatqua Nation, Lil'Wat Nation, and Skwxwú7mesh Nation are active participants in our Adventure Sessions program. Through these sessions, they gain access to the land and outdoor activities that should never be excluded from them. For many of these youth, Adventure Sessions sparks a love for mountain sports, where they can connect deeply with nature and the land. Some have visited the program multiple times as it provides them with their first experience on Whistler Blackcomb Mountain.

- At Zero Ceiling, decolonization work is embedded in our organizational structure and strategic plan. In 2022-2023, we contracted an Indigenous-led consultant company to conduct an anti-racism audit of our programs and operations. The feedback from this audit has helped us identify both our strengths and areas for ongoing growth and improvement. We have since integrated the audit's recommendations into the design of all our programs, organizational structure, operations, and strategic planning.

- We run an Indigenous-led program, the Auntie Program, which is designed to support reconciliation through cultural revitalization, enhancing understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and supporting youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We contract two Indigenous Elders from the Skwxwú7mesh Nation to manage this program in collaboration with our Program Manager. The Aunties are maternal figures who share teachings, traditions, crafts, and cultural guidance with both youth and staff. This initiative fosters an environment of healing and understanding while empowering youth participants.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Lizi McLoughlin
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	lizi@zeroceiling.org
Acknowledgement:	<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:	[REDACTED]

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2025.

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.