


GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	PearlSpace Support Services Society
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	Whistler Drop-in Centre & PEACE Whistler
Society Registration Number:	S-16716
Organization Mailing Address:	38021 Third Ave, Box 2052, Squamish, BC V8B 0B4
Contact Name & Title:	Shana Murray, Community Program Director
Organization Phone Number:	
Organization Email Address:	admin@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 Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Community Services

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	43 years
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 2024 the Whistler Drop-In Center supported 321 adults, 178 children and youth, 9 women and 15 children for a total of 278 bed nights in our Whistler Safe Home Program, and 5 women and 8 children in our Pemberton Safe Home for a total of 68 bed nights, and 389 individuals were supported through our Community Outreach Services.
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	N/A
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	9 staff and board members are 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 65 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: pearlinspace.ca
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Anyone can become a volunteer or become a member of PearlSpace (annual membership \$20, \$5 low-barrier fee). Anyone identifying as a woman, trans, Two-Spirit, or non-binary and all children requiring services can participate in all programs and services at no cost and we encourage fathers to participate in the counselling program. We support all 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>We are requesting a total of \$26,000, \$18,000 to go towards our Whistler Drop-in Centre and \$8000 for our PEACE Counselling Program.</p> <p>The grant funds for the Whistler Drop-In Centre will support PearlSpace to operate four days a week of drop-in services and a day a week of outreach, as 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 Clinic, and throughout the community.</p> <p>We offer safe, confidential support services, resources, and referrals to vulnerable women, trans, non-binary, two-spirit, and other diverse-gender individuals and their 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 clothing (at our Drop-in centre and pop-ups), 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 by providing emotional support, outreach, drop-in services, housing subsidies, transportation and emergency food supports, affordable housing units, as well as operating a safe home in Pemberton and Whistler for women and their children and pets experiencing abuse, violence, and/or conflict in their lives.</p> <p>The grant funds for our PEACE Program will support an additional 5.5 counselling hours. The PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment) Program offers individual and group support and counselling services to children, youth and their families in Whistler and Pemberton who have experienced violence/abuse in the home and/or high conflict through separation and divorce. The PEACE Program is funded through the Public Safety and Solicitor General for 17.5 hours per week for both Whistler and Pemberton. What we have found in the last 8 years is the need is much greater for PEACE Program Counselling services than what we can offer within 17.5 hours. Our goal is to be able to maintain a 0 or minimal waitlist so that children and youth do not have to wait for service, we know that when people reach out for support, there is often a window of opportunity where engagement is optimal. In addition, to meet the growing needs of the two communities the PearlSpace has made the decision to fund an additional 15 hours per week from our Social Enterprise so we can offer a total of 38 hours per week. We feel that this will allow us to maintain a 0 or minimal waitlist that will best support the needs to children, youth and their families within Whistler and Pemberton.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
These are not new programs or activities.	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency Transition Housing: PearlSpace is now operating a Safe Home in Whistler that can sleep up to one adult and 5 children and their pets, PearlSpace continues to directly link folks to 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. 2. Community Outreach: PearlSpace staff continue to provide individual outreach supports by meeting folks in the community. This program has been growing over the last couple of years and we are seeing an increase in numbers of people seeking out outreach support services. 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. 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. 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. 6. Navigating the Legal System and Family Justice: The WWC can offer assistance to women, trans, non-binary, Two-Split, 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 those who are suffering from physical, emotional, and mental health challenges. <p>Last year (April 2024 - Dec 2025), the PEACE Program in Whistler/Pemberton supported children and youth through 101 hours of individual counselling sessions, 30 hours of support groups, 40 parent/caregiver support hours, and 6 family counselling hours. This past year we have seen a decrease in counselling hours due to our main staff person being on a leave from April 2024 onward, and only being able to fill the position in January 2025. One of the trends that we are experiencing is the children/youth and their caregivers are requesting to be supported for longer periods of time. In 2022/23 we did intakes with 22 children for 1:1 counselling for an average of 11 counselling sessions, last fiscal year (2023/24) we did intakes with 15 children/youth for 1:1 counselling for an average of 13 sessions, and so far this year, 11 children/youth for an average of 16 sessions. When exploring these numbers further and speaking with the counsellors what we are identifying is an increasing need for longer term counselling based on increasing challenging family dynamics which is impacting children and youth on a greater level. What we are also noticing is that children and youth are accessing the PEACE program multiple times over a number of years.</p> <p>Through the PEACE program, children and youth learn how to identify hard to handle feelings and how to express them in healthy ways, recognize their strengths, and increase their self-confidence and self-esteem. They learn effective problem solving and coping skills, how to define and protect boundaries, how to keep themselves safe and to identify safe and supportive people in their life, and better understand the concept of healthy relationships. Most importantly, children are provided with a safe, supportive, nurturing environment to deal with traumatic events in their lives and learn that they are not alone and not at fault for the conflict/abuse they have witnessed and experienced. Parents/caregivers are involved in the counselling process by learning skills and tools that will enable them to support their child/ren through difficulties associated with separation, divorce and gender-based violence.</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>Whistler Drop-in 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, 2025 - \$10,000 (pending) Third Party Fundraising Initiatives and general donations - \$3,238 (pending) Holiday Hamper - \$1000 (pending)</p> <p>PEACE Program Ministry of Public Safety and Solisiter General - \$60,108.00 RMOW CEP Grant - \$8,000 (pending) General donations - \$ 2,100 (pending)</p>	

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:

Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application

	Annual Operating Budget	Grant Requested	Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. <i>(Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	176,270.55	21,000	Staff wages and benefits
General operations:	21,012.00	5,000	Client/program supplies, training, travel, IT, telecommunications
One-time project / program:			
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	18,222.45	N/A	Rent, insurance
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:	5,384.77		Accounting and audit, bank charges, equipment lease costs
Total	\$ 220,889.77	\$ 26,000	8.5 % <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:

Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope that you will consider supporting our essential community program again this year.

7. Attachments:

Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:

- Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget (**Required**)
- Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status (**Required**)
- Other:** Program Brochures

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:

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:

1. Housing
2. Climate Action
3. Community Engagement
4. Smart Tourism

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.

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. 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. PearlSpace 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, Whistler 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 Lil'wat 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 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?

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 Stl'at'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 further 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, Tanina Williams 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 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.

The Whistler Drop-in Centre has recently undergone a full re-imagining of the space after reviewing the recommendations from Resilience Planning from June 2023. PearlSpace will be hosting an Open House to welcome people into our new space in the weeks to come.

In the year ahead, PearlSpace will continue to 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.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Shana Murray
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	smurray@pearlspace.ca
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.