

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i> | Sea to Sky Community Services |
| Name of the program(s) (if applicable): | Whistler Playgroup |
| Society Registration Number: | S14102 |
| Organization Mailing Address: | PO Box 949, Squamish, BC V8B 0A9 |
| Contact Name & Title: | Julie Van Eesteren, Manager of Children's Services |
| Organization Phone Number: | |
| Organization Email Address: | julie.vaneesteren@sscs.ca |
| Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence)</i> | SSCS is a valued social service provider for individuals and families living in BC's Sea to Sky Corridor. We create healthy, connected and diverse communities where everyone has the opportunity to grow, develop and lead meaningful lives. |
| Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture) | Social Service |

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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| How many years has the organization existed? | since 1978 |
| 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> | 5524 persons served in 2023-2024 |
| 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? | Last year the Whistler playgroup attendance was on average 40 people per playgroup including children for 93 sessions (2 sessions per week for 46 weeks). Many of these participants attended the playgroup more than once. |
| How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year? | 190 staff currently and about 65 volunteers |
| Age range of participants in the organization: | birth to seniors |

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| Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.): | www.sscs.ca https://www.facebook.com/Sea.to.Sky.Community.Services instagram@Sea.to.Sky.Community.Services |
| What are the membership and participation requirements? | none |
| 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

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| 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 would help cover the wages of the facilitator for our playgroup program. Over the course of the year, we plan to offer a 2.5-hour playgroup three times a week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) year-round. During the cooler months, the playgroup takes place indoors in the Millar Room at the Myrtle Phillip Community Centre, while in the warmer summer months, it moves outdoors to one of the local parks. This translates to approximately 250 hours of playgroup time for Whistler families with young children.</p> <p>Occasionally, we also have guest speakers from other community services attend the program to connect with families and share valuable information. Playgroups provide parents with the opportunity to learn from each other, improve their parenting skills, gain knowledge about their children's needs, and build a strong social support. Children who participate in playgroups during early childhood experience better developmental outcomes when they start school. These benefits are seen across all areas of development: physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and communication. This is why playgroups are so crucial.</p> <p>This playgroup program is an upstream initiative that helps prevent the need for more expensive interventions down the road. The purpose of this grant is to support the operation of a playgroup for Whistler families with young children.</p> <p>The playgroup is part of our Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) program, with the Whistler CCRR consultant serving as the facilitator. For more information, you can visit our CCRR page: CCRR Playgroups</p> | |

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| 2. Is This a New Program or Activity? | <i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i> |
| no | |

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| 3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits: | <i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i> |
| <p>Early childhood experiences have a profound impact on long-term health, education, and employment outcomes. There is a critical window of opportunity from ages 0 to 6 to set children on a positive trajectory towards health, education, and employment. Adverse experiences such as low income, poverty, neglect, and food insecurity can delay a child's development and lead to poor future outcomes. The primary influencers on a child's early experiences are their parents or caregivers. Many Canadian parents lack the skills, resources, or knowledge needed to provide nurturing early experiences for their children.</p> | |

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| 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>The Whistler Playgroup is part of Sea to Sky Community Services' Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs enhance the availability and accessibility of a range of child care options and services and build relationships within BC communities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides funding to CCRR service providers, which work with the Province to improve access to affordable, quality and inclusive child care as well as programs and services in all B.C. communities.</p> | |

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

| 5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown: | | | |
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| <i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application</i> | | | |
| Whistler Playgroup | 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: | 19403.25 | 5000.00 | facilitator including prep, set-up, clean up and follow-up |
| General operations: | 1625.00 | | cell phone, materials and supplies |
| One-time project / program: | | | |
| Physical assets: | | | |
| Rent (RMOW facilities): | 5316.16 | N/A | Millar Room at Myrtle Phillips |
| Rent (other facilities): | | | |
| Other: | 2634.41 | | admin costs |
| Total | \$ 28978.82 | \$ 5000 | 17 % (Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount) |
| <i>Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.</i> | | | |

| 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> |
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| | <p>Canadian children are experiencing increasingly delayed development, as reflected by the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which measures five key areas of early childhood growth that predict future health, education, and social outcomes.</p> <p>Recent data shows that 28% of Canadian children are vulnerable in one or more areas of development when tested in Kindergarten (CIHI, 2022), an increase from 26% in 2014 (CIHI, 2014). In British Columbia, the rate of vulnerability is even higher, with 34.6% of children starting school with developmental weaknesses in areas critical to their health, and this trend is rising (HELP, 2016).</p> <p>In Whistler specifically, there has been a noticeable rise in the percentage of children entering the school system with vulnerabilities. For more detailed information, visit the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC and explore their EDI dashboard: https://dashboard.earlylearning.ubc.ca.</p> <p>Many children also face adverse childhood experiences that contribute to developmental delays and poor health outcomes. Almost one in five Canadian children live in poverty (First Call, 2021), and food bank usage, even before the pandemic, reached record highs in certain regions, with children disproportionately affected (Ghoussoub, 2016). Additionally, one in three Canadian children endure physical or sexual abuse, exposure to intimate partner violence, or a combination of these factors (Boesveld, 2014), with neglect rates likely even higher (Trocmé, 2005). The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) through playgroups addresses these challenges by supporting the most vulnerable families, helping them provide the best environments for their children's development.</p> |

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| 7. Attachments: | <i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i> |
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| <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 type="checkbox"/> <i>Other:</i> |
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COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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| <p>8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:</p> | <p><i>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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Housing</i> 2. <i>Climate Action</i> 3. <i>Community Engagement</i> 4. <i>Smart Tourism</i> <p><i>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.</i></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...

The CCRR Whistler Playgroup supports the "Community Engagement" priority by playing a key role in connecting children and families to their community. Playgroups are highly effective in fostering these connections, helping families access valuable resources and services that promote overall physical, mental, and social well-being. Attending playgroups gets people out of the house and together on a regular basis.

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?

We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and work on the unceded ancestral territories of the Coast Salish Peoples and Líl'wat Nation, serving the Sea to Sky Corridor of Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Stl'atl'imx Nations, Líl'wat (Mt. Currie), Samahquam, Skatin, Xa'xtsa (Douglas) and N'Quatqua Nations. At SSCS, we are committed to supporting Truth and Reconciliation recommendations through intentional and meaningful partnerships and program delivery.

For more than 40 years, Sea to Sky Community Services has focused on creating positive change in the communities we serve. Throughout the years, we've added new services, overcome challenges and worked to reflect the needs of Sea to Sky residents. We know there is still much more we can do.

Our mission as an organization is to provide high-quality programs throughout the Sea to Sky corridor. With compassion, respect, and care we strive to enhance the lives of every resident at every age and stage of life, recognizing, and respecting the variety of cultures, races, backgrounds, religions and creeds we find here in our region. We are committed to creating opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous community members to work together, in good relations, toward common goals.

Here are some examples of the work we have engaged in:

On September 29 we are honoured to invite Seesaxwalia (Aggie Andrews) and Slomish, two community leaders from Squamish Nation, and Lois Joseph, the Manager of the Líl'wat7úl Culture Centre to share their thoughts and stories on the lasting legacy of Canada's Residential Schools with SSCS staff. They will also lead us in a moment of silence for all of the lost children.

On September 30, we are humbled to be participating in the second annual Canoe Pull happening on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Alice Lake Provincial Park.

SSCS Youth Services is partnering with Squamish Nation and the Integrated First Nations Unit at the Squamish RCMP. Everyone involved gathers together – wearing orange – to paddle the Little Thunderbird canoe. Youth who have participated in the Paddle Carving program with See Appl-tun/ Art Harry will once again have the chance to put their own hand-carved paddles into the water.

In addition, the youth services team is planning a drum-making workshop for youth later in the fall, so that, over time, they will be able to bring their own drums to events such as the September 30 TRC Solidarity walk down Cleveland Avenue.

Through nature walks led by First Nation knowledge keepers, SSCS staff gain opportunities to learn about the land on which we work. We have so much to learn about the cultural practices and histories related to the forests, estuaries, rivers and riparian areas where our offices and programs take place.

Our Diversity committee has compiled a lending library of books Indigenous authors so SSCS staff can continue their learning journey.

SSCS is also in the process of developing more consistent consultation practices with our partners in the Southern Stl'atl'imx nations. The plan is to ensure that all future grant opportunities for our operations in the region will be grounded in meaningful consultation.

SSCS' Diversity committee compiled and distributed a list of resources to assist staff with their journey to Truth and Reconciliation. These resources are available for everyone and we encourage you to explore them if they resonate with you.

While we continue taking steps—large and small—on this journey, we are energized by this work and the knowledge that the future will hold many new, exciting opportunities for creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive world.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

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| Submitted by: | Julie Van Eesteren | |
| Phone number: | [REDACTED] | |
| Email: | julie.vaneesteren@sscs.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] | Digitally signed by Julie Van Eesteren Date: 2025.02.07 15:29:37 -08'00' |

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.