

Appendix 1 Building Safer Communities Grant Process Evaluation Key Findings

Below are the key findings from the BSC Grant Process evaluation with applicants:

- A large majority of respondents participated in the information sessions and strongly agreed that the availability of multiple sessions provided flexibility for attendees. The information conveyed was clear, concise, and useful, covering topics such as eligibility, grant guidelines, and timelines.
- A large majority of applicants strongly agreed that information about the grant was easily accessible online, and that they were clear in outlining the application and review process.
- Grant Guidelines and other information sharing documents were easily understood and communicated using accessible language.
- Most applicants reported having a clear understanding of the grant process, knowing where to go to seek assistance if needed. It was also noted that all inquiries were addressed promptly.
- The call for applications was open for four weeks. Applicants indicated that additional time would be helpful in submitting a quality application.
- Respondents unanimously agreed that no charges or fees to apply for funding reduced barriers to submission.
- The grant management electronic platform was intuitive and easy to use, with word count limits being sufficient to answer application questions fully.
- Looking specifically to the grant management electronic platform, responses deviated with regards to the intuitiveness of the budget section, with several noting difficulties completing the required fields.

Below are the key findings from the BSC Grant Process evaluation with those who registered in the grant management electronic platform but did not apply:

- The majority stated they did not apply because the program areas of focus or target population fell outside their mandate.
- Additionally, it was mentioned that some agencies did not have the time, resources, or staff capacity to complete the application.

Below are the key findings from the BSC Grant Process evaluation with the Grant Selection Panel:

- The background document and associated eligibility forms, orientation, and evaluation matrix were easy to read, informative, and provided the tools needed to complete reviews adequately.
- The use of the grant management electronic platform to complete reviews was reported to be helpful, with panelists noting convenience in being able to view the application and the review criteria in tandem. Some panelists noted viewing information in charts (such as the budget and workplan) was challenging due to the size of the font and size of the allowable textbox.
- Feedback from panellists stated that they wanted more time to complete reviews and additional time to discuss deviation scores. These debrief meetings would be more effective if panelists had access to the application and their corresponding comments.
- Panellists felt well supported by Niagara Region staff and were confident in their abilities to provide objective feedback.