

Business Foundations 2026/27

Tip Sheet + FAQ

The Business Foundations program invests in growing businesses owned by people from systemically excluded groups in B.C.'s music ecosystem, to expand and develop networks, capacity, and infrastructure.

This Tip Sheet will be updated in response to questions that Creative BC receives throughout this program's intake period.

Program Updates for 2026/27

- Application deadline time has moved to **4 PM, PT** from 11:59 PM, PT on the deadline day. No applications will be accepted past 4 PM. Applicants are encouraged to apply early in the day, or the day before, to avoid submission delays resulting in a late application.
- The program requires applicants to disclose and describe use of AI on application materials and the use of AI for content creation on Creative BC supported projects. Guidance on acceptable use of AI is based on the Province of B.C.'s [draft artificial intelligence responsible use principles](#).
- Previous funding from other Amplify programs (Live Music, Music Company, Industry Initiatives, and Business Foundations) cannot exceed \$30,000. For the 26/27 intake, funds received from the Business Foundations program are now included within the \$30,000 previous funding cap, which applies to businesses that have received more than \$30,000 cumulatively through Live Music, Music Company, Business Foundations and Music Industry Initiatives programs.
- Business Foundations will now require businesses to report total gross revenues, up to \$100,000.
- Applicants must outline their community and business partnerships in a separate document, not within the application form. Upload instructions can be found in the application, and submission of this document is required. Document can be found [here](#).

As You Work Through the Application

- You can start and save your application at any time. You will receive a link to your email from noreply@formstack.com when you save it. When you return to your application, the original link you received will continue to update your saved material.
- Once you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email with a .pdf of your completed application form, along with the attachments you submitted with your application. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please email Navreet at ndhaliwal@creativebc.com
- Reference the Business Foundations Scoring Sheet as you respond to the application questions

Frequently Asked Questions

1. If I received funding from Business Foundations last year, do I need to submit my final report before applying to this year's intake?

If an applicant has previously received funding from through the Business Foundation program, all final reports must be submitted by March 1, 2026, to be eligible through this program. Grant recipients from 2024/25 who have completed their projects are encouraged to submit final reports as soon as possible, as final reports for returning applicants will be reviewed before 2026/27 grants are issued.

2. Do I have to register my business or have a business number?

No, individuals, sole proprietors, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. If your business is registered, you will need to upload your Business Statement of Registration or Society Registration with your application.

3. Can temporary residents apply for the Business Foundations program?

Yes, temporary residents are eligible to apply if the business is headquartered, or the owner(s) is residing in B.C., files B.C. tax returns (if required) and has a valid social insurance number.

4. Can artists apply for the Business Foundations program?

No, artists are not eligible. They can apply through the Demo Recording and Career Development programs.

5. Are there any restrictions on the types of businesses that can apply?

This program supports various types of businesses active in B.C.'s music industry, such as record labels, artist managers, live music presenters, recording studios, and other music-related companies.

6. I have more than one business, can I submit more than one application?

Each applicant is limited to one application per business for this program.

7. Can I apply if I've received funding from Creative BC in the past?

Yes. Previous Creative BC recipients can apply for the program; however, they are ineligible if they have received \$30,000 or more in funding from Creative BC through the Live Music, Music Company, Business Foundations, and Industry Initiatives programs. Applicant must have submitted all final reports and be in good standing with Creative BC to be eligible.

8. How is the Business Foundations program different from Music Company?

Please note the following differences between the programs in the table below. Applicants are welcome to apply to both if they meet the eligibility criteria for each program.

Business Foundations	Music Company
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For businesses owned by people from systemically excluded groups. • Simplified application process. • Funds 100% of eligible expenses, up to \$10,000. • Supports ongoing business operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program is open to all music businesses in B.C. • A more comprehensive and competitive application process. • Creative BC covers 50% of eligible expenses, up to \$75,000.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility restrictions: revenue cap of \$100,000 for applicants, applicants cannot receive more than \$30,000 in past funding from Creative BC. <p>Deadline: March 25, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports specific business development activities that enhance the capacity of your company. There is no revenue or funding cap for the Music Company program. <p>Opens: March 18, 2026</p>
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9. How can I create a business plan to help me determine my business goals?

A business plan serves as a roadmap for your business, helping you define goals, strategies, and actions for success. Creative BC has provided some tools that may help you develop your business plan/scope and aid you in the application process.

Please note: A business plan is **not required** for this funding application. These are tools to help you define your business goals. Should these items and templates be listed as optional documents in the guidelines?

- SWOT Analysis:** This tool can help you identify your business's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats by assessing internal and external factors affecting your venture.
- SMART goals:** This tool can help you set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound goals. They provide clarity and structure to your objectives, making them more actionable and achievable.
- Business Model Canvas:** This tool can help you develop a visual representation of your business model, covering key elements such as partners, activities, resources, value propositions, customer relationships, channels, customer segments, cost structure, and revenue streams.

10. What does a profit & loss statement look like?

Organize financial data into categories such as net revenue and expenses and create a profit & loss statement that summarizes your company's financial performance.

Creative BC has offered a [template](#) of a profit & loss statement for reference.

If you're looking for more information on understanding and drafting financial statements, please visit this [link](#) for more information.

11. Do I need to complete the Self-ID form more than once if I am involved in multiple applications, or applying to multiple programs?

Yes. Each time you complete the self-identification form; it connects to the specific grant application you are involved in. If you have multiple applications, you will need to use the unique code and complete the form for each one.

12. Does applying early increase my chances of receiving a grant?

Starting early to collect supporting documents, addressing any questions with staff, and avoid any surprises on deadline day is always a great strategy. Keep in mind that staff support may be limited on the last day. All applications will be assessed following the submission deadline.

13. I'm working on my application form with other people remotely. Do you have any tips for doing so effectively?

When you save your work for the first time, the contact email address you've entered will receive an automated email with a hyperlink that can be used to return to your application form at any time. Subsequent updates and edits you make and save in the form will be captured in the same link.

You will only receive one saved form link per application. Downloading and working within the sample application forms available for each program on its website is also a useful way to organize and share thoughts and ideas among collaborators in the application stage, prior to completing the online form.

14. How do I know if you received my application?

Once you successfully submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email to the address you provided. This email will include a PDF copy of your application and copies of the attachments you provided. If you do not receive this email, please contact Navreet Dhaliwal at ndhaliwal@creativebc.com.

Contact:

For more information about this program, and upcoming opportunities:

Navreet Dhaliwal (she/her)
 Coordinator, Music Programs
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 Direct Line: 236-455-0945

Program inquiries: [Schedule an Appointment](#)
 Sign up for online **info sessions** on the [Creative BC website](#).