

July 17, 2026

RDN Board Approves Grants in Support of Local Organizations

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board approved community grants for 27 organizations across the region at the July 14, 2026, board meeting. The value of the community grants awarded for the spring 2026 intake totals \$108,300 and will be used for a variety of community-focused projects. Community grants help registered non-profit organizations deliver social programs and services that serve a local community or provide a regional benefit.

Spring 2026 Community Grant Recipients

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island - To expand the Mindful Mentoring program, a school-based initiative combining mentorship, mindfulness, yoga and creative activities to help children aged 9 to 12 build emotional skills and thrive. \$5,000
- Bowser Seniors Housing Society - To create a fully equipped accessible kitchen space for residents, volunteers, and community members to prepare meals, run cooking programs and support food security. \$8,000
- Cycling Without Age Qualicum Beach Society - To purchase a backup battery for the trishaw, safety equipment for both passengers and pilots and training materials for new volunteers. \$3,000
- Errington Preschool Parents Society - To purchase art supplies and outdoor play equipment. \$4,000
- Extension and District Recreation Commission - To purchase a BBQ/griddle for community events and shade trees for the park. \$3,000
- Gabriola Island Community Hall Association - To restore the fir floor in the main hall and stage. \$5,000
- Haven Society - To purchase one-time supplies and portable equipment to support school-based delivery of the BELIEVE Project which will provide age-appropriate prevention education on healthy relationships, consent, personal boundaries, sexting, sexual harassment, digital safety and how to access support. \$6,000
- Hope Air - To provide essential medical travel support, including flights, accommodation, meals, transportation and client care services for residents requiring access to out-of-region healthcare. \$3,000

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- Island Crisis Care Society - To support the enhancement and modernization of ICCS's volunteer training program to better meet the needs of the organization and community. \$4,500
- Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society - To support the delivery and expansion of the 2027 Brant Wildlife Festival. \$4,000
- Mudge Island Citizens Society - To cover costs towards the construction of a cistern shelter. \$5,000
- Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society - To develop reusable kits and educational materials to support the Youth Mentorship Gardening and Cooking program. \$4,800
- Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre - To support the development of a Peer Support Pilot Program connecting individuals with others who have lived experience with a disability. \$4,000
- Nanaimo Fish and Game Protective Association - To purchase and install two Poly John Comfort XLT wheelchair accessible portable toilets in the newly developed archery field. \$3,000
- Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre - To furnish one counselling office to increase access to frontline mental health services in the Regional District of Nanaimo. \$3,000
- Oceanside Building Learning Together - To support the Saturday Breakfast Club and Stone Soup Kitchen for families in the Oceanside community that teaches food literacy and supports food security for families. \$2,500
- Oceanside Community Makerspace Society - To improve functionality of several of the studios, improve storage and working areas, adding to the tool inventory and offer a few free classes in the glass infusion studio. \$2,500
- Oceanside Family Program - To support the purchase and distribution of 30 Nanaimo Good Food Boxes per month, supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to complement the non-perishable food items provided to participants. \$3,000
- Oceanside Hospice Society - To purchase 37 Help Text subscriptions, expanding access to grief support by offering a low-cost, scalable and accessible mental health support option for residents who may face barriers to in-person services. \$4,000
- Pacific Coast Stage Company - To purchase technology upgrades that will strengthen both the International Nanaimo Fringe Festival and HUB Stage and year-round community outreach programming in Nanaimo. \$4,000
- Parksville Qualicum 4-H District - To purchase fans for the beef barn to keep cattle cool at the Coombs Fair, poultry cages, waterers, feeders, painting an agricultural themed mural on the storage container and to purchase Parksville Qualicum 4-H District shirts and hoodies to be worn at parades, fairs and other community events. \$5,000

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- Qualicum Bay Lions Club - To renovate the kitchen facility to support concession operations and better serve user groups. \$4,000
- Qualicum Beach Historical and Museum Society - To assist with the cost of hosting the annual Children's Museum Day on August 24, 2026. This is a fun-filled and educational event that the museum has been offering in the community for over 20 years. \$1,500
- Qualicum Beach Multi-Use Cinema Society - To purchase a professional fixed projection system to provide a consistent, wrinkle-free and high-quality visual surface, reduce setup time and enhance the safety of the setup. \$4,000
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 257 Seaview Centennial - To replace deteriorated fencing around the outdoor patio and space to improve safety. \$5,000
- South Wellington and Area Community Association - To establish the South Wellington Community Connection Program, a low-barrier, inclusive initiative providing accessible, ongoing programming at the South Wellington Community Centre. \$3,500
- Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation - To support the Take a Hike Nanaimo Program's 2026–27 outdoor learning component, providing up to 24 youth with barrier-free access to weekly land-based excursions and a multi-day wilderness experience. \$4,000

Total Awarded: \$108,300

The next RDN grant application deadlines are:

- Oceanside Community Safety Grants: August 28, 2026
- Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Grants: September 25, 2026
- Oceanside Recreation Services Grants: September 4, 2026
- Community Grants: April 30, 2027

For grant application forms and general grant information, visit rdn.bc.ca/grants.

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