



University
of Regina

Go far, *Together.*

ENSE 271 – People-Centered Design

SSCF Charitable Hub Project

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Introduction:

In Saskatchewan, charitable organizations play a crucial role in helping individuals and communities in need. These charities depend on funding and assistance from various community foundations, which are created by caring, dedicated, and socially responsible individuals. Among them, the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (SSCF) is a key supporter, ensuring that local charities have the funding and resources needed to build a strong, inclusive, and sustainable community.

The SSCF follows a long-term approach, using Legacy Funds to make lasting investments that create ongoing impact. It distributes grants throughout the year to important causes and receives generous donations from individuals and organizations dedicated to strengthening Saskatchewan's non-profit sector. By carefully managing these contributions, the SSCF ensures that donor support continues to benefit communities for years to come.

In addition to financial aid, community foundations offer essential guidance and support to charities. They assist organizations in delivering programs, vital services, and emergency aid to those in need. Understanding the importance of continuous growth, the SSCF actively pursues partnerships and innovative ideas to better support charities in achieving their goals.

Right now, the SSCF is dealing with the challenge of charities having no central place to access the resources and information necessary for managing their operations and engaging with Saskatchewan's nonprofit sector.

Project Challenge:

Charitable organizations and nonprofits in Saskatchewan operate large-scale initiatives, programs, and services while working within the constraints of limited funding, small teams, and restricted resources. Their primary goal is to create the greatest community impact in the most efficient way possible, which often means employees must take on multiple roles and navigate complex operational challenges.

One major hurdle charities face is accessing reliable information, resources, and funding opportunities. Even when they allocate time to research, they often encounter:

- Scattered and fragmented sources require them to visit multiple websites.
- Unverified or unreliable information makes it difficult to trust resources.
- Paywalls and subscription barriers, preventing access to critical content.
- Irrelevant regulations and funding rules, as much of the information applies to other provinces or countries.

The Solution: A Centralized Charity Resource Hub

The Charity Resource Hub will address these challenges by providing a centralized, accessible, and locally relevant online platform that aggregates credible resources, learning materials, and collaboration opportunities. Managed by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, this hub will be a trusted source for Saskatchewan charities, giving them the knowledge and tools they need to work efficiently and stay sustainable. This initiative presents an opportunity to:

- Make it easier to find resources, saving time spent searching for information.

- Assist with funding by helping charities find grants and proposal-writing assistance.
- Foster collaboration between nonprofits, strengthening sector-wide impact.

By ensuring that the right resources are easy to find and readily accessible, this project will empower charities to work more efficiently, strengthen their impact, and foster collaboration within the non-profit sector.

Northstar customers

The North Star customers for the Charity Resource Hub are organizations and individuals who will benefit the most from its resources and help make it successful. These include:

- Small to mid-sized registered charities in Saskatchewan that don't have dedicated teams for strategy, HR, or fundraising.
- Non-profit leaders and board members seeking guidance on governance best practices.
- Grant-seekers and program managers looking for funding opportunities.
- Community-focused organizations that depend on networking and shared knowledge within the sector.

These users will regularly visit the hub, use various resources, and promote its benefits within their communities. Their feedback and usage trends will help improve future content and features.

Carryover customers

The carryover customers include organizations that are already engaging with the Community Foundation or similar support networks. These may be:

- Charities and non-profits that have previously accessed grant funding.
- Organizations that have attended past workshops, webinars, or networking events.

Keeping these users engaged is key to ensuring they continue using the platform and trusting its resources. By providing deeper insights, personalized support, and ongoing opportunities to connect, they can be encouraged to become long-term, dedicated users.

Project assumptions:

1. The website will be built using WordPress for its user-friendliness, scalability, and cost-effectiveness.
2. Users will find value in features like event tracking, access to recordings, and downloadable notes for post-event use.
3. Resources will be locally curated to align with Saskatchewan regulations and needs, ensuring credibility and trustworthiness.
4. Users will feel empowered and confident using the platform if it meets their needs consistently and is updated regularly.

Project constraints:

1. Ensuring that event recordings, grant information, and resources remain organized and up-to-date requires a dedicated effort.
2. Building an effective search and filter system that helps users quickly locate specific information may require technical expertise and testing.
3. Relying only on external methods like emails or newsletters for communication can make it more challenging, as it limits specific updates and centralized coordination.