

## Local Compassion Fund | An Overview

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### Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide The Meeting House local churches and local partners with an overview of the Local Compassion Fund (referred to as the Fund from now on).

The Fund was created in 2011 as a means to financially support the work of the organizations with which our The Meeting House local church partner. The aim of the fund is to increase the capacity of our partners to effectively reach vulnerable people in the cities where we live. To date we have donated over 1.7 million to non-profit organizations around Ontario. The Fund process runs annually and between \$200,000-\$250,000 is distributed.

There are approximately 55 organizations who partner with The Meeting House's 18 local churches. Only organizations that are partners of a The Meeting House local church and align with the criteria below are eligible to apply for the Local Compassion Fund. Funding is not guaranteed for every application.

### What's the Timeline?

1. This year the submission window will open in January 2023.  
\*\* Our 2023-24 Local Compassion Fund grant window(s) have not been decided.
2. Submission window closes approximately a month after opening.
3. Applications are reviewed by the cross-regional Compassion team.
4. Cross-regional Compassion team presents recommendations to a panel of Meeting House staff.
5. Finalized list of approved applicants is determined based on feedback from the panel.
6. The Meeting House local churches are informed of the funding decision approximately one month after the submission window closes.
7. In the January window, applicants are informed of the funding decision by mid-March
8. Approved applications receive funds in April.

### Who can Apply?

Organizations can be invited to apply if they:

- Are a registered Canadian charity
- Are a local partner of your The Meeting House local church as indicated on your Compassion Action Plan
- Have submitted all previous reports for funding received through the Fund. (If the previous project is still ongoing, the final report is due after the completion of the project.)
- Are applying for a project within your local community or its affiliated Home Churches geographical area
- Have been a local partner of The Meeting House for at least one year

### How are Funding Decisions Made?

Applications are assessed by a team of reviewers using criteria which is made available to the applicants. The criteria assesses: Strategy (the need, the project, and the organization's suitability); Process (the approach to address the need); and Budget (financial capacity, impact, and sustainability).



There are two additional criteria: The Meeting House Local Church Assessment (The Meeting House local church funding preferences); and Funding Interest (a priority area of funding for the year). All five criteria are used to determine a score for each application. The reviewers compare their scores to determine an accumulative ranking of all applications. A proposed list of applicants is presented to a panel of Meeting House staff where feedback is provided. Then a final list is determined.

### **What are my Responsibilities?**

1. Complete your Compassion Action Plan in the summer to officially determine partners and provide their preferences for funding. Each local Meeting House should rate their partners starting from one to indicate their preference to receive funding (Note: this does not mean they will receive funding as it is only one component of the application assessment). Each Meeting House local church must also disclose any conflict of interests with any of the organizations on the Compassion Action Plans.
2. Invite all eligible partners to apply. Each of The Meeting House local churches will receive an email from the Compassion Managers with a link to the application and all resources organizations need to assist them while writing the application. All eligible local partners must be invited to apply as this is part of the partnership agreement with the organization.
3. (Optional) Compassion Managers will inform the applicants of the final funding decision as they are the most knowledgeable about the decision making process. However, the option to have a leader from The Meeting House's local church will have the option to inform their partners of the funding decision if that is the preference. If your local church would like to directly contact applicants with the final funding decision, please inform the Compassion Managers.

### **Local Partner Responsibilities**

1. Local partners are responsible to discuss and review their application at the beginning of the grant cycle with their local church partner.
2. Local partners are responsible to reach out to the cross-regional Compassion team (contact info below) if they need assistance in completing their application.
3. Submit an application online. Note: the application will likely take about 2.5 hours to complete.
4. If they receive funds, local partners are responsible to provide a final report by the stated deadline.

Still have Questions?

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