

Alberta Municipalities – Grant Survey

Introduction

In support of our members, ABmunis has initiated a review to develop a series of general and grant specific recommendations focused on funding available for municipalities from the Government of Alberta. These recommendations are expected to represent our members' experiences applying for grants, propose opportunities for improvement, and drive action to support the continued community building of municipalities across Alberta. As a member and recipient of grant funding from the Government of Alberta, your perspectives are vital to understand the pain points and opportunities for grants.

We have designed a survey to gather your feedback. This survey is estimated to take between **15 - 30 minutes** to complete. We kindly request that you submit your responses no later than **September 6, 2024**. Individual responses to the survey are confidential and the results will not be attributed to any individual or municipality. All findings, comments and responses from the survey will be aggregated and anonymized. We recommend using a desktop to complete the survey if possible.

KPMG LLP, a professional services firm, has been engaged to conduct this review and will be additionally leading a series of engagements that will dive deeper into preliminary findings from the survey. If you are interested in discussing your experiences with grant programs in more depth, we encourage you to register for one of our focus group sessions at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wQjqtN7wmA>

The survey is structured as follows:

Section 1 - Municipal Resources: Two multiple choice questions to understand the resources your municipality has available to support grant applications. (Approx. 1 minute).

Section 2 - Alignment with Municipal Goals: Two rating questions to understand how well grant programs align with the mandate and goals of your municipality. (Approx. 1 minute).

Section 3 - Grant Experience: Three open-text question to understand the general strengths and challenges you have faced when applying to grant programs. Please be as detailed in your responses as possible, as your answers will provide valuable insights for recommendations for improvement. (Approx. 5 - 10 minutes).

Section 4 - Identification and Rating of Grant Providers: Two rating questions for a list of 15 grant providers, primarily ministries or agencies, that municipalities can apply to for grant funding. This list also includes the Alberta Foundation of the Arts, as municipalities frequently assist local non-profits with these applications. (Approx. 5 minutes).

Section 5 - Grant Challenges: Four rating questions for each stage of the grant process for each grant provider to understand specific challenges in various stages of the grant process. (Approx. 5 minutes).

To submit your survey responses, please complete the following:

- 1) Download or print this survey. You may either handwrite your responses or type them in a Word document or email.
- 2) Scan or upload your completed survey and email your responses to Alberta Municipalities at advocacy@abmunis.ca.

Thank you for your participation, your time and thoughtful input.

Survey

Introductory Information

Your E-mail:

Name of Municipality:

Section 1: Municipal Resources

1. On average how many municipal staff hours are used annually by the municipality to support municipal grants received from the Government of Alberta (i.e., applying for, managing grant funding and reporting, etc.)

Circle one answer:

- a) Less than 50 hours
- b) 50-100
- c) 100-200
- d) 200 + hours

2. On average, how many third-party contractor hours are used annually by the municipality to support municipal grants received from the Government of Alberta (i.e., applying for, managing grant funding and reporting, etc.)

Circle one answer:

- a) Less than 50 hours
- b) 50-100
- c) 100-200
- d) 200 + hours

Section 2: Alignment with Municipal Goals

3. To what extent do Government of Alberta grant programs align with the mandate and goals of your municipality?

Circle one answer:

- a) Absence of Alignment
- b) Minimal Alignment
- c) Mostly Aligned
- d) Completely Aligned
- e) Unsure

4. To what extent are there overlapping or duplicative objectives across the Government of Alberta's grant programs?

Circle one answer:

- a) Significant Overlap
- b) Partial Overlap
- c) Minimal Overlap
- d) No Overlap
- e) Unsure

Section 3: Grant Experience

5. What could be done to improve alignment with the mandate and goals of your municipality and / or to reduce duplication?

6. What does your municipality see as general strengths in the current process for municipal grants provided by the Government of Alberta?

7. What does your municipality see as ways to improve the current process for municipal grants provided by the Government of Alberta?

Section 4: Identification and Rating of Grant Providers

8. Please identify all grant providers your municipality has applied to for grant programs. Put a check mark in each relevant box for each provider.

Please refer to the table at the end of the survey for a list of grant programs by provider. Please add any additional provincial grant providers you may have applied to that have not been listed.

	Successful Application	Unsuccessful Application	Both Successful and Unsuccessful Applications	Never Applied
Agriculture and Irrigation				
Alberta Innovates				
Alberta Foundation of the Arts				
Arts, Culture and Status of Women				
Environment and Protected Areas				
Health				
Jobs, Economy, and Trade				
Justice				
Municipal Affairs				
Municipal Climate change Action Centre				
Public Safety and Emergency Services				
Seniors, Community and Social Services				
Technology and Innovation				
Travel Alberta				
Transportation and Economic Corridors				

9. Please rate your overall experience in applying to grant programs for each grant provider you have applied to.

	Very Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very Positive
Agriculture and Irrigation					
Alberta Innovates					
Alberta Foundation of the Arts					
Arts, Culture and Status of Women					
Environment and Protected Areas					
Health					
Jobs, Economy, and Trade					
Justice					
Municipal Affairs					
Municipal Climate change Action Centre					
Public Safety and Emergency Services					
Seniors, Community and Social Services					
Technology and Innovation					
Travel Alberta					
Transportation and Economic Corridors					

Section 5 - Grant Challenges

10. Grant Preparation:

This initial stage involves potential grantees conducting research to identify grant opportunities that align with municipal objectives. They then review and prepare the necessary documentation.

Grant Identification: Ease of identification of grant program by grant applicants.

Grant Information: Accessibility and clarity of grant information, direction, and process direction.

Eligibility Criteria: Explicit and clear eligibility rules.

Did you encounter any of the following challenges with grant preparation? Select all that apply.

	Grant Identification	Grant Information	Eligibility Criteria
Agriculture and Irrigation			
Alberta Innovates			
Alberta Foundation of the Arts			
Arts, Culture and Status of Women			
Environment and Protected Areas			
Health			
Jobs, Economy, and Trade			
Justice			
Municipal Affairs			
Municipal Climate change Action Centre			
Public Safety and Emergency Services			
Seniors, Community and Social Services			
Technology and Innovation			
Travel Alberta			
Transportation and Economic Corridors			

11. Grant Submission:

In this phase, potential grantees pose clarifying questions, prepare, and submit their applications. They also monitor the status of their applications and await the decision notification.

Submission Process: The standardization, simplicity, and efficiency of the application submission process.

Status of Application: Grant status visibility and tracking for applicants.

Decision Process: Defined, consistent and transparent evaluation process.

Communication: Ease of communication to application inquires, response times following application submission, and application feedback.

Did you encounter any of the following challenges with grant submission? Select all that apply.

	Submission Process	Status of Application	Decision Process	Communication
Agriculture and Irrigation				
Alberta Innovates				
Alberta Foundation of the Arts				
Arts, Culture and Status of Women				
Environment and Protected Areas				
Health				
Jobs, Economy, and Trade				
Justice				
Municipal Affairs				
Municipal Climate change Action Centre				
Public Safety and Emergency Services				
Seniors, Community and Social Services				
Technology and Innovation				
Travel Alberta				
Transportation and Economic Corridors				

12. Grant Management:

This stage involves both grantees and grantors executing grant agreements. Grantees then implement relevant projects and work plans, report on progress, and manage the received funds. Key activities include monitoring project progress, managing funds, reporting to the funding organization, and ensuring compliance with the grant's terms and conditions.

Interim Reporting Requirements: The ease of interim reporting and the clarity of the requirements.

Interim Reporting Timelines: The feasibility of interim reporting timelines, with notifications and reminders.

Interim Communication: Ease of communication to reporting inquires, response times and feedback.

Did you encounter any of the following challenges with grant management? Select all that apply.

	Interim Reporting Requirements	Interim Reporting Timelines	Interim Communication
Agriculture and Irrigation			
Alberta Innovates			
Alberta Foundation of the Arts			
Arts, Culture and Status of Women			
Environment and Protected Areas			
Health			
Jobs, Economy, and Trade			
Justice			
Municipal Affairs			
Municipal Climate change Action Centre			
Public Safety and Emergency Services			
Seniors, Community and Social Services			
Technology and Innovation			
Travel Alberta			
Transportation and Economic Corridors			

13. Grant Closeout:

This is the concluding stage of the grant process. Here, the project is finalized, and final reports are submitted to the funding organization. Major activities include wrapping up project activities, preparing final financial and project reports, and ensuring all obligations have been fulfilled.

Final Reporting Requirements: The ease of final reporting and the clarity of the requirements.

Final Reporting Timelines: The feasibility of final reporting timelines, with notifications and reminders.

Final Communication: Ease of communication to reporting inquires, response times and feedback.

Did you encounter any of the following challenges with grant closeout? Select all that apply.

	Final Reporting Requirements	Final Reporting Timelines	Final Communication
Agriculture and Irrigation			
Alberta Innovates			
Alberta Foundation of the Arts			
Arts, Culture and Status of Women			
Environment and Protected Areas			
Health			
Jobs, Economy, and Trade			
Justice			
Municipal Affairs			
Municipal Climate change Action Centre			
Public Safety and Emergency Services			
Seniors, Community and Social Services			
Technology and Innovation			
Travel Alberta			
Transportation and Economic Corridors			

14. Please provide any further thoughts on challenges you may have encountered during the grant preparation, submission, management, or closeout stage.

List of Grant Programs for each Provider

Ministry / Agency	Grant (Full Name)
Agriculture and Irrigation	Agricultural Service Board Grant
Agriculture and Irrigation	Canadian Agricultural Partnership Modernization
Agriculture and Irrigation	Small Community Opportunity Program
Alberta Innovates	Land and Biodiversity Program
Alberta Innovates	Recovery Technologies Program
Alberta Innovates	Bitumen Partial Upgrading Program
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Community Performing Arts Organizations Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Community Support Organizations Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Major Arts Presenters Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Professional Performing Arts Organizations Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Provincial Arts Service Organizations Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Public Art Galleries Operating Funding
Alberta Foundation of the Arts	Arts Presenting Project Funding
Arts, Culture and Status of Women	Heritage Awareness Grants
Arts, Culture and Status of Women	Heritage Publication Grants
Arts, Culture and Status of Women	Historic Resource Conservation Grants
Arts, Culture and Status of Women	Heritage Research Grants
Environment and Protected Areas	Alberta's Public Land Trails Grant Program
Environment and Protected Areas	Drought and Flood Protection Program
Environment and Protected Areas	Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program
Health	Continuing Care Capital Program
Jobs, Economy and Trade	Northern and Regional Economic Development Program
Justice	Alberta Community Restorative Justice Grant
Justice	Alberta Community Justice Grant
Justice	Policing Support Grant
Justice	Alberta Crime Prevention Grant
Municipal Affairs	Alberta Community Partnership
Municipal Affairs	Community Revitalization Levy Program
Municipal Affairs	Fire Services Training Program
Municipal Affairs	Grants In Place of Taxes
Municipal Affairs	Local Government Fiscal Framework
Municipal Affairs	Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Operating
Municipal Climate Change Action Centre	Climate Resilience Capacity Building Program
Municipal Climate Change Action Centre	Community Energy Conservation Program
Municipal Climate Change Action Centre	Electric Vehicles for Municipalities Program
Municipal Climate Change Action Centre	Municipal Energy Manager Program
Public Safety and Emergency Services	911 Grant Program

Public Safety and Emergency Services	Indigenous and Municipal Police Transition Study Grant
Seniors, Community and Social Services	Affordable Housing Partnership Framework
Seniors, Community and Social Services	Capital Maintenance and Renewal Program
Seniors, Community and Social Services	Family and Community Support Services Program
Seniors, Community and Social Services	Indigenous Housing Capital Program
Technology and Innovation	Alberta Broadband Fund
Travel Alberta	Events and Festivals Fund
Travel Alberta	Rural Development and Promotion Fund
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program -- Economic Stimulus
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Green Transit Incentive Program
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Public Transit
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program -- Economic Stimulus
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Water for Life
Transportation and Economic Corridors	Clean Water and Wastewater Fund