



Building AUD Supportive Communities Program Overview

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Through our grassroots, community-led program, we aim to provide hope and reduce the impact alcohol use disorder by:

- supporting people to understand alcohol use disorder as a health condition
- supporting people to access treatment options
- creating a healthier drinking culture

After all, when more people understand alcohol use disorder as a treatable health condition, all sorts of good things happen. Individuals who are struggling feel supported to:

- seek care that controls their cravings
- retain work opportunities, find housing, and seek supports
- reconnect with family, culture and community

This reconnection translates into healthier communities, and more successful complementary community actions that aim to reduce alcohol-related harms.

HOW IT WORKS

The AUD Supportive Communities Program offers grants of up to \$15,000 to a local community organization to deliver a pre-designed program that brings awareness to the issue of alcohol use disorder in their community.

To be completed within one year, the local organization will be supported to deliver:

- A Leaders Workshop and Community Conversation Event
- The formation of an Action Group, which hosts 3+ additional activities of the organization's choice
- Final reporting, evaluation and sharing of knowledge and stories

Program Partners

This grant has been developed in partnership with the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen and the Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society.

The Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society oversees program delivery. This includes providing the local community organization with an initial program orientation, resources and up to 100 hours of support and guidance throughout the delivery of the program.

The Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen (CFSOS) administers the grant process to communities within the South Okanagan Similkameen area. Additionally, CFSOS mentors other local Community Foundations to take on the grant administration process for program roll out in their area.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

Before embarking on providing a grant for this program, the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen and the Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society work together to assess several factors that indicate community readiness.

This includes engaging:

Primary care:

Lead primary care providers/primary care organizations are engaged to ensure that there is awareness and support, that treatments are available, and that a primary care provider may be available to participate in presentations to community.

Health authority:

The local health authority is engaged in order to ensure that the timing and delivery of the program aligns with their goals, and to see if they are available to participate in the program. This includes engaging positions such as the chief medical officer and community health engagement officers.

Local community foundation:

Through their network, the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen engages a local Community Foundation to gauge interest in supporting the grant, to see if they feel that this is an area of focus or need in their community, and discover whether there is an interest within their non-profit sector for a program.

Community organization with AUD-related experience:

After engaging the local Community Foundation, and upon their recommendation, we engage with a community organization to determine if they have capacity and are a good fit to deliver the program.

Eligible community organizations must:

- be a registered charity, a non-profit or a social enterprise.
- work in the community/local area, preferably with some experience assisting people directly or indirectly impacted by alcohol use disorder.
- demonstrate collaboration and have the ability to bring together community leaders, community members and service providers.

Pre-engagement is essential in order to:

- ensure we don't increase demand for treatment that can't be met.
- ensure that we are setting up a grassroots program in an area where a community has pre-identified a need and is empowered to build activities that they feel best address their community.
- Create the best opportunity for success!

Learn more on the [Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Community Engagement page](#)