2027-2028 Indigenous Initiative Grant Call for Applications

Initiative Grant applications are due February 12, 2027.

About CALP Initiative Grants

Calgary Learns is the granting council for the **Community Adult Learning Program (CALP)** in Calgary. Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, CALP supports over 80 community-based organizations across Alberta that offer adult literacy and foundational learning opportunities for adults facing financial and/or social barriers.

As Calgary Learns operates in an urban environment with various learning options available, our funding is specifically directed toward foundational-level programs that help remove financial barriers to adult learning.

Calgary Learns administers **one-time grants up to $25,000 that provide an opportunity for a non-profit organization to innovate and/or strengthen their ability to meet the foundational learnings needs of adult Calgarians** (+18) **who have financial barriers to learning.** The granting term is from **July 1st, 2027** to **June 30th, 2028**.

The Indigenous Initiative Grant Stream is for all initiatives designed for and serving Indigenous learners. The granting process for this stream follows recommendations from Elders and Indigenous community leaders. All proposals moving forward after the application process also present their initiative orally to the Calgary Learns Indigenous review team. This process aims to support initiatives to create ethical space for Indigenous adults learning at the foundational level.

There are two kinds of Initiative Grant Applications. The Grants Liaison will email you the appropriate application.

General Initiative Grants

- Curriculum development
- New research
- Development of new training for instructors and tutors

Pilot Initiative Grants

- Development and piloting a new part-time, non-credit learning opportunity that is in accordance with CALP Grant program requirements

Successful applicants for the **Pilot Initiative Grant** are required to collect Measurement and Evaluation data, as defined and required by the Ministry of Advanced Education's CALP grant.

Application Eligibility: General Initiative Grants

☐	The organization is a legal entity incorporated for a minimum of two years under one of the following Alberta Statutes: the Societies Act, Part 9 of the Companies Act, the Libraries Act, and the Post-secondary Learning Act.
☐	The initiative operates between July 1st, 2027 to June 30th, 2028, and within Calgary city limits.

Funding support provided by
Alberta Advanced Education

☐	The initiative will ultimately benefit Indigenous adults (18+) facing financial and social barriers and reside in Calgary.
☐	The initiative addresses a current foundational learning need for Indigenous adults with financial barriers to learning and does not unnecessarily duplicate locally available learning opportunities.
☐	The initiative is covered under the applying organization's current liability insurance.

Application Eligibility: Pilot Initiative Grants

☐	The organization is a legal entity incorporated for a minimum of two years under one of the following Alberta Statutes: the Societies Act, Part 9 of the Companies Act, the Libraries Act, the Métis Settlements Act, and the Post-secondary Learning Act.
☐	The pilot operates between July 1st, 2027 to June 30th, 2028 and within Calgary city limits.
☐	The pilot serves Indigenous adults (18+) facing financial and social barriers and reside in Calgary.
☐	The pilot operates from an Indigenous perspective of learning and literacy, engaging with culturally relevant oral and written tools in content, delivery, and evaluation.
☐	The pilot addresses a current foundational learning need for Indigenous adults and does not unnecessarily replicate locally available learning opportunities.
☐	The initiative has culturally appropriate systems in place to collect the required outcomes data and demonstrate the impact of the adult learners.
☐	The pilot is covered under the applying organization's current liability insurance.
☐	All pilot, staff, and volunteers who work with vulnerable pilot participants have appropriate security clearance.

CALP Areas and Categories

Both general and pilot initiatives address a current foundational learning need for adults. Applications are accepted for initiatives with delivery pilots and projects that support the following funding areas and categories as defined and prioritized by the Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education.

Highest Priority Funding Area		**LITERACY AND FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING (LFL)** LFL programs focus on foundational skill development of financially and socially barriered adult learners (18+).
CATEGORIES	**Adult Literacy**	Reading, writing and document use for learners with English as their first language (can speak and understand English). The ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts for learners up to and including Grade 9.
	Numeracy	The ability to use, apply, interpret, and communicate mathematical information and ideas for learners up to and including Grade 9.

	Basic Digital Skills	Builds skills beyond a basic understanding of applications, such as Word, and enables individuals to understand and use digital systems, tools, applications and networks in order to access and manage information and thrive in learning, the workplace and daily life.
	Skills for Learning	Fundamental skills and habits of learning that support foundational learners to build confidence, develop an identity as a learner, advocate for themselves, and engage in foundational and other learning. These skills and habits include: • Recognizing oneself as a learner • Taking risks in learning • Actively engaging in the act of learning • Developing learning strategies • Building collaboration skills in learning • Strengthening communication skills in learning
	Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC)	The Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) is for adults who do not have a high school diploma. CAEC preparation courses, offered through CALP, help adult learners build skills to earn their CAEC credential and reach their goals.
Secondary Priority Funding Area		**COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING (CCB)** CCB programs complement, build upon, or supplement the literacy and foundational skills Indigenous adult learners (18+) facing financial barriers are trying to achieve. Although CCB programs are more focused on delivering a specific content rather than foundational skill development, the design and delivery of the program must focus on being accessible to and meeting the needs of foundational level learners. CALP examples include programs that may focus on the following: • Employment readiness • Indigenous languages/cultures • Parenting • Social & Emotional Skills

Eligible Pilot Program Delivery: Pilot Initiative Grant Only

Literacy and Foundational Learning (LFL) and Community Capacity Building (CCB) pilots can be delivered through various types of learning opportunities to meet the adult learner goals. These include:

Tutoring
Ongoing one-on-one or small group with individualized learning plans delivered by a paid tutor or a trained volunteer
Courses
A series of instructor-led, learner centred classes delivered to the same group of learners with the same learning objectives
Family Literacy Courses
A series of instructor-led classes delivered to the same group of learners with the same learning objectives utilizing Family Literacy philosophy and best practices to achieve adult literacy and foundational learning outcomes
Learning Activities

Lowest priority: drop-in or one-off learning opportunities, which includes drop-in tutoring (no ongoing relationship with learners)

How to Apply

☐	**Receive the Application from Calgary Learns**

Calgary Learns wants to connect with you prior to sending you the relevant application**.** Please contact grants@calgarylearns.com to arrange a phone conversation to:

- Confirm your organization and initiative meet all eligibility requirements
- Discuss the proposed initiative description and how it will be focused on meeting the learning needs of Indigenous adults learning at a foundational level

The appropriate Initiative Grant Application Package will be emailed to you by the Grant Liaison.

☐	**(Optional) Arrange an Application preview with Calgary Learns before January 15th, 2027**

Calgary Learns staff can preview your draft initiative application and offer feedback prior to your final submission going to our review team. If interested, please send your draft application to grants@calgarylearns.com before January 15th, 2027.

☐	**Complete and Submit the Initiative Grant Application Package by February 12th, 2027**

Please submit your application package to grants@calgarylearns.com by February 12th, 2027.

Calgary Learns Granting Process

February 12th, 2027	Deadline for applications.
February to April 2027	Calgary Learns staff screen applications for eligibility. A team of **external reviewers** assesses applications. This team is comprised of Indigenous Sector Experts and/or Elders. Based on their recommendations, a slate of recommendations is prepared for the Calgary Learns Board of Directors for approval. Calgary Learns then submits the slate to the Ministry of Advanced Education for final approval.
Late Spring 2027	After the Ministry of Advanced Education approves the CALP Grant, unsuccessful applicants receive a declination letter, and successful applicants are notified of their full or partial grant allocation. Grant agreements are sent to and completed by successful applicants.
Summer 2027	Upon meeting all applicant initial requirements and responsibilities (outlined in Grant agreements), and with Calgary Learns' receipt of the CALP Grant, initiatives receive their first grant installment (80% of total allocation).
Fall 2027	Calgary Learns staff visit initiatives, if appropriate and/or check-in with Program

	Coordinators.
July 31st, 2028	Final Reports are due **July 31st, 2028.**
Early September 2028	Upon approval of the Final Report, initiatives receive their final grant installment (20% of total allocation).

Successful Applicant Responsibilities

- Become a Calgary Learns member following grant approval (membership year is July 1st to June 30th)
- Ensure CALP funds (via Calgary Learns) are accounted for separately from other funds. Any changes to the budget allocations must be pre-approved by Calgary Learns
- Throughout the funding year **if delivering a pilot**:
  - Collect the required Measurement and Evaluation data required by the Advanced Education's CALP Grants (the source of Calgary Learns' funding), as well as Calgary Learns' required data
  - Keep track of in-kind contributions and referrals to your program
  - Keep Calgary Learns informed of any changes or challenges with the delivery of agreed to instructional hours, staffing, or operational issues.
  - Allow Calgary Learns to observe a class, interview learners and instructors, and tour the learning venue
  - Maintain annual program records including: staff qualifications, promotional and instructional materials, registration, attendance, evaluation and financial tracking
- Ensure that all materials that promote or advertise the pilot display the Calgary Learns logo
- **By July 31st, 2028:**
  - Complete and submit the electronic copy of the final reporting package which includes both reporting on final program financials and the required evaluation data. This electronic file will be sent to you at the start of the funding cycle
- Attend and deliver an Oral Report on the program at a gathering hosted by Calgary Learns