

Better at Home

2020-21 Grant Criteria

Funding Goal

Older adults are an important and growing part of our communities, and their active involvement enriches everyone's lives. To ensure that seniors continue to play an active part in society, they often need support to live independently in their own homes, surrounded by friends, families, and neighbors.

The provincial Better at Home (BH) program's goal is support seniors to live in their own homes and stay connected to their communities, by providing help with day-to-day tasks through community-based non-medical home support services for the older citizens of B.C.

Funding Summary

[Healthy Aging by United Way](#) (HAUW) supports seniors to age with dignity, and, with funding provided by the Government of B.C. through the Ministry of Health, manages the BH program in over 75 communities¹ across B.C.

BH assists seniors with simple day-to-day tasks, thereby helping seniors maintain their independence and stay connected with their communities. BH is an inclusive program designed for all people aged considered older adults (generally 65 or older).

Non-profit organizations, municipalities or who could serve as potential lead organizations to offer a BH program were identified through the Better at Home community engagement process², and are invited to apply for a BH grant from United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM).

Grants will support local BH programs to offer services that have been identified through the community engagement process and that fall within the services described in the 'Funding Criteria' section below.

¹ Better at Home communities were selected with the help of regional experts, for example people from seniors-serving organizations and Regional Health Authorities. Communities with a high number of vulnerable seniors who would benefit from these services were identified and prioritized. Other community criteria such as demographics of seniors, contributing determinants of health, and community readiness, also informed the Better at Home community selection process.

² Communities selected as a Better at Home program site participated in a community engagement process to help assess readiness to implement the program. This included consultations with a range of community stakeholders, especially seniors, to identify existing community assets/strengths, identify the kinds of non-medical home support services most needed, support the selection of a lead organization, and identify potential local Advisory Committee/Reference Group members.

Guiding Principles

- **Seniors planning for and with seniors.** Seniors will be engaged in the planning and governance of the programs.
- **Senior centered.** The individual programs are designed with the needs, priorities and changing circumstances of seniors.
- **Community driven.** Built by the community for the community and will involve coordination of services from various organizations and partners.
- **Prevention oriented.** Built on the primary assumption that preservation of independence, dignity, health, and the delay of functional decline are worthwhile investments.
- **Evidence informed.** Built on the learning and evidence developed through the evaluation of previous models and a desire to enhance that model through additional learning and research.
- **Independence focused.** Foster self-sufficiency and independence by offering services that assist participants to live independently; helping to promote health literacy and support self-care; promoting social inclusion, and enabling community connectedness.
- **Simple and understandable.** Incorporate clear and accessible information, ease of access, and the least amount of official procedure needed to maintain standards of safety, privacy, and quality.
- **Based on need.** Respond to seniors' needs for service and ability to contribute to the cost of providing those services.
- **Integrated.** Developed in partnership with seniors and other key stakeholders and will be integrated where feasible and, by design, complementary to other services and supports.
- **A non-governmental program.** Managed by United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) and identified as a non-profit sector program funded by government, which does not replace existing governmental programs.

Funding Parameters

BH grants are awarded on a one-year term: **April 1 – March 31.**

Funding Criteria

BH is an inclusive program made available to all seniors. The range of BH services provided by lead organizations will vary from community to community, depending on the specific needs of local seniors.

BH services include:

- friendly visiting
- transportation to appointments
- snow shoveling
- light yard work
- minor home repairs
- grocery shopping
- light housekeeping
- other services – group activities, firewood chopping, delivery, and stacking, recycling services, library book pickup and return, etc. (*other services must fit within the Guiding Principles as above*)

BH grants **do not** support the provision of medical-related care or services such as wound dressing care, assistance with oxygen support or other equipment, personal hygiene assistance (e.g., bathing or grooming) etc. The program is not intended to provide for medically necessary support.

Organizations awarded BH grants will:

1. Convene an Advisory Committee/Reference Group (*optional*) to provide strategic advice and recommendations on the implementation and sustainability of the local BH program. The Advisory Committee/Reference Group will include representation of community stakeholders and local seniors as identified through the community engagement process.
2. Implement a standard sliding scale fee for services. The sliding scale is based on single or household income and accommodates regional differences. It is based on seniors' ability to pay, using Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) income levels for the lower rates and the average income of B.C. seniors for higher rate (*see updated Sliding Scale [on the Better at Home HUB](#)*).
3. Employ one or more paid coordinator(s) to implement local BH services.
4. Deliver non-medical home support services within the BH basket (as listed above).
5. Endeavour to enhance the local BH program by implementing activities and strategies to maximize reach and impact (e.g., engage volunteers, secure in-kind supports, apply for additional grants, etc.).
6. Undertake activities such as outreach, marketing, and/or public awareness to reach out to isolated or vulnerable seniors to ensure that BH is made accessible to all seniors, especially those who would significantly benefit from non-medical home supports.
7. Provide training and resources to support coordinators and volunteers involved in BH programs. Ensure all volunteers successfully complete a criminal record check.
8. Define the geographic boundary/catchment area that the lead organization offering the BH program will serve.

9. Meet the reporting, Learning and Quality Assurance, and information sharing requirements of BH. HAUW is committed to evaluation and learning in order to supporting ongoing quality improvement, and demonstrate impact and accountability to our many stakeholders (see 2020-21 *Better at Home Learning and Quality Assurance Plan [on the HUB](#)*).
10. Appropriately recognize and promote UWLM and BH in the organization's communication materials, and ensure adherence to the branding usage guidelines.
11. Commit to sharing knowledge and information amongst BH stakeholders – locally and in other communities – by actively participating in the BH Community of Practice (COP), in Regional Consultations (RCs) and virtually through [Healthy Aging CORE](#).

Conditions of Funding

All BH funding recipients must sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA) that includes the following conditions:

- Funds will be used for the program/project as approved by UWLM;
- All funds received from UWLM must be expended during the time-frame specified by the grant; any unspent funds may be carried forward and incorporated into the following year's BH budget (**Note: the maximum allowable carry-over funds cannot exceed 10% of the amount requested from UWLM**).
- Written approval will be required from designated UWLM staff prior to any funding, operational, and/or timeline changes to the original approved proposal;
- Annual reporting will be submitted to UWLM (see 2020-21 *BH LQA Plan [on the HUB](#)*);
- UWLM's support will be acknowledged in all communication and promotional materials pertaining to this program/project (see *Branding Guidelines [on the HUB](#)*).

Eligibility

Organizations applying for a BH grant must:

- At all times be recognized as a qualified donee as stipulated in Canada Revenue Guidelines. The term "qualified donee" as defined, includes a list of entities such as registered charities, government bodies (i.e., municipalities) and certain other specific entities. First Nations Bands or other Aboriginal-based entities not considered a qualified donee must be recognized as a public service body performing a function of government in Canada.
- Comply with all Federal, Provincial and Municipal laws, including laws concerning labour, employment, and human rights standards.
- Demonstrate community accountability through strong volunteer governance and leadership.
- Demonstrate effective human resources, program and financial management, and deliver programs and services in an effective and efficient manner.

Grant Application Deadline and Process

The BH grant application deadline and granting cycle are:

Application Deadline	Granting Cycle
March 13, 2020	April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Late applications, without prior approval, will not be accepted and **could result in a funding delay of one quarter**. UWLM will disburse funds in quarterly installments (*see distribution schedule in your Letter of Agreement*) upon receipt of the signed BH funding agreement, and uploaded via eAccess at <http://eaccess.uwlm.ca/>.

Applications must be submitted online in eAccess at <http://eaccess.uwlm.ca/>. If you do not have an eAccess account, please contact isaacs@uwlm.ca or 604.294.8929 ext 2259.

For questions about the BH Grant Criteria, please contact your Regional Community Developer (RCD):

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For a detailed overview of BH, review the Program Handbook [on the HUB](#) (*revised January 2020*).

For more information about BH, visit www.betterathome.ca