

Frequently Asked Questions

Strengthening Pathways to Care & Connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth



Section 1: Project Background & Overview

Q: Where did this funding come from and what is the current opportunity?

A: In 2023, Foundry received a grant from Sun Life to enhance services and programming for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth at Foundry centres. Over the three-year funding period, **17 Foundry centres** (including centres in development and Foundry Virtual) delivered **203 programs or activities**, including queer drop-in groups, land-based activities, Pride festivals and more. Notably, **65% of respondents said that these programs/events helped connect them with other Foundry services and 67% said their interest in accessing Foundry services had increased**. These findings highlight how these types of programs can be a stepping stone for youth to access Foundry and integrated youth services.

Now, following the conclusion of the third and final cycle of Sun Life funding in December of 2025, up to 14 Foundry centres (all phases) and select rural and remote pilot communities can **receive up to \$2,500.00 to create, strengthen and sustain pathways to care and connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in their communities**.

Section 2: Eligibility & Funding Period

Q: Is this funding only for Foundry centres that previously received funding through the Sun Life/GSD Project?

A: No! All Foundry communities and select rural and remote pilot sites are eligible to receive this funding, regardless of whether you received funding in Cycles 1-3 of the Sun Life grant. While we encourage past Sun Life funding recipients to apply again and use their \$2.5k to build on their previous work, this is not a requirement. Similarly, if your centre/community did not participate last time, you can still apply.

Note: To ensure that we can provide up to \$2,500.00 to centres/communities, we will be capping the number of funding recipients and may not be able to fulfill all requests for funding.

Q: How long do we have to spend our project funding?

A: Successful communities will be alerted by June 1, 2026 and will have until September 30, 2026 to spend their funds. Funds can be used for an event or program during this period or retroactively to pay for a relevant event or program that took place between January 1 – May 31, 2026.

Section 3: Required Reporting, Invoicing & Reimbursement

Q: What are the reporting requirements for this funding?

A: Reporting requirements for these funds will be minimal. Participating communities will be asked to complete a brief (5 questions max) form after submitting their invoice/receipts. This form will ask for a high-level summary of activities funded, perceived impact on community, and any photos or links to social media posts/news coverage. This information will help FCO secure future funding for 2SLGBTQIA+ focused programming.

Q: How will we receive the money?

A: As per the Master Operating Agreement between your Centre and FCO (or your Memorandum of Understanding between your community agency and FCO), you or your centre's/agency's finance person will need to email the FCO finance team at finance@foundrybc.ca and jedi@foundrybc.ca by September 30, 2026 with an invoice from your centre/agency and digital images of the accompany receipts. FCO will then issue you a cheque for the amount invoiced up to \$2,500.00 within 30 days.

Q: What about partner organization invoices?

A: Partners should invoice your centre/agency directly for expenses related to your shared project/event/work (e.g. facilitator or presenter honoraria, supplies for your shared event, etc.) along with their accompanying receipts, then your centre/agency should reimburse the partner directly. You can then include the partner invoices along with a digital copy of their receipts as a part of your invoice.

Section 4: Eligible Expenses



Q: What can we use our funding for?

A: Ideally, this funding would go toward activities, programming and services directly benefiting 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. This could include (but is not limited to):

- ✓ Honoraria for external group facilitators, Elders, youth participation;
- ✓ Event costs such as space rental, transportation, food, flyers;
- ✓ Supplies and materials for programs such as craft supplies; and
- ✓ Traditional medicines and gifts of recognition for Indigenous Elders and knowledge keepers supporting your project.

When deciding on what to spend the funds on, we strongly encourage you to keep the following questions in mind (you'll need to address each question in your proposal):

1. Does this project address or touch on needs/gaps/opportunities to support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth *as identified by* 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in your community?
2. Does this project create or sustain pathways to care and connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ in your community? For example, if you were a previous Sun Life funding recipient, does this project build on this previous work?
3. Does this project actively attempt to reduce barriers to care and connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ who face additional, intersecting forms of marginalization?

For example, you could use the funds to:

- Organize an open house at the Foundry centre and invite the local Pride Society or Queer Straight Alliances from nearby schools.
- Contract a local Indigenous artist to work with Two-Spirit youth to paint a mural celebrating Two-Spirit identities.
- Collaborate with a local Pride society to organize a queer prom.
- Organize a presentation for parents/caregivers about supporting trans youth and pay for an interpreter so it's accessible to parents who don't speak English as a first language.

Q: What *can't* we use our funding for?

A: While we encourage interested communities to propose projects that align with the above questions, there are relatively few limits on what funding can be used for. However, the following restrictions remain:

- ✘ Funding for staff wages;
- ✘ Health services and supplies already covered by the provincial health system (MSP); and
- ✘ Providing funding for another organization's event/program/group (this excludes partnerships where the Foundry centre and partner organization both take an active role and contribute equitably to the work, see *Community Partnerships* section)

Section 5: Community Partnerships

Q: Can we contract/give our money to another organization to carry out our project?

A: Unfortunately, no. To ensure the safety of participants, provide services consistent with our Foundry model, for liability reasons, and to honour our funding agreement with Sun Life, your centre and lead agency are responsible for all your project activities, events, groups, etc. Centres/communities receiving funding are solely responsible for all project finances, receipts and invoices for reimbursement to FCO. In turn, FCO is responsible to Sun Life.

However, we do strongly support equitable and collaborative partnerships with local organizations, Host Nations, and groups in your community. An equitable and collaborative partnership means your centre/agency takes an active role by contributing time and resources in addition to funding. Partners can invoice your centre/agency for expenses related to your shared activity/event/work (e.g. facilitator or presenter honoraria, supplies for your shared event, etc.) and your centre/agency should submit those invoices to FCO finance for reimbursement, along with the accompanying receipts they provided. If you have questions, please reach out to us directly at jedi@foundrybc.ca

Section 6: Ensuring Safety



Q: Why is a safety plan recommended for some activities?

A: A safety plan is recommended ***only if your project involves hosting or attending a public/open access event in the community***. This is necessary to address the increased risk for hate-based crimes towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people, especially IBPOC folks and trans youth. If your event or activity is happening in the community at a public location with open access (i.e. it's open to the public or there's nothing to prevent anyone from wandering in), we would prefer that you create a safety plan to minimize the risk to youth, their families, staff, and volunteers. Please email your safety plan to jedi@foundrybc.ca ideally a minimum of 2 weeks before the event, and cc your MSII & SC.

Q: What should be included in the safety plan?

A: Please refer to [these Safety Planning Toolkits](#) from EGALE to create a plan that works for your community. Whether you're organizing or accompanying youth to the event, your safety plan should include these areas:

1. **Pre-event:** How will you prepare ahead of time to ensure your event is as safe as possible for participants?
2. **During the event:** What safety and security measures will be in place, and how will you respond if there is a safety concern? How will your group communicate in an emergency?
3. **Post-event:** If anyone in your group (youth/families/volunteers/staff) was psychologically or physically harmed, what support will you provide?

Section 7: Future Funding

Q: Will there be more funding to support programs and services for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth?

A: While there is no more funding from Sun Life, FCO is currently searching for additional funding opportunities to support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to build connections and partnerships in your community (you can use your \$2,500 for this!). This may enable you to secure in-kind funding and/or additional funding opportunities to support project sustainability, as ongoing FCO funding is never guaranteed. Developing connections and partnerships may also help to build a network of community members and organizations that are supportive and welcoming of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and families—this can also increase safety in your community, so it's a win-win! Our FCO Engagement, Indigenous Wellness, and JEDI teams can help support you, please reach out!

How to Contact Us

Ari Spence, Equity & Engagement Specialist

Main contact for Strengthening Pathways to Care & Connection Project

Jedi@foundrybc.ca or aspence@foundrybc.ca

(778) 554-4602

Mon- Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



Sukhdeep Jassar, Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Team Lead

Responsible for Strengthening Pathways to Care & Connection Project Budget

sjassar@foundrybc.ca

Foundry Central Office Finance Team: finance@foundrybc.ca

Please submit your invoices and receipts to the FCO finance team directly, or if you have questions related invoicing, reimbursement, financial reporting, etc. Please cc Ari Spence and Sukhdeep Jassar (listed above) on your email.

JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) Team: jedi@foundrybc.ca

This email is monitored by the whole team, including Sukhdeep Jassar, Team Lead; Seren Friskie, Equity & Engagement Specialist; and Ari Spence and Equity & Engagement Specialist. If one of us is away, or you need to speak with someone urgently, please contact us here.

Regional Managers of Service Integration & Implementation (MSIIs) and Service Coordinators

(SCs): It's always good to include your MSII and SC on all project emails so they're in the loop and can provide support if needed. If you're not sure who your regional MSII is, you can ask your Centre Manager.