

Building Excellence Research & Education Grants



FAQ

When was this grants program launched?

BC Housing launched the Building Excellence Research and Education Grants program in January 2015.

What is the purpose of this new grants program?

The grants program is designed to encourage externally generated research and education to improve the quality of residential construction and enhance consumer protection for buyers of new homes in British Columbia. Industry and consumer organizations, education providers and independent researchers can identify projects and apply for funding.

Sharing information, fostering excellence and advancing best practices help us deliver our ongoing mandate: strengthening consumer protection for home buyers and improving residential construction.

Who is eligible to apply?

Organizations or persons resident in Canada, including:

- Industry organizations
- Consumer organizations
- Education providers
- Housing Sector Organizations or Associations
- Independent researchers including college and university researchers

How many times per year will grant applications be accepted?

Submissions are accepted once a year, based on available funding. A summary of previous grant recipients is available online at www.bchousing.org.

What are the key application dates for 2019?

The 2019 application intake period opens October 2018. Submit your completed application to BC Housing no later than 4:00 pm on January 11, 2019.

How can I apply?

Application Forms and a helpful Step-By-Step Guide are online at www.bchousing.org starting October 2018.

When will I be informed if my project received funding?

All applicants will be notified by email on the outcome of their submission in April 2019.

How can I learn about future application deadlines?

Future application dates will be posted online at www.bchousing.org.

How much funding is available?

The number of grants awarded each year depends on available funding and the number of applications received. Eligible projects may receive up to a maximum of \$30,000. Preference may be given to projects that leverage partnerships and funding from other sources.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Projects must align with BC Housing's mandate under the *Homeowner Protection Act* to enhance protection for buyers of new homes and improve the quality of residential construction in British Columbia. The final results must be relevant to the home building industry, Licensed Residential Builders and Building Envelope Renovators or homebuyers in BC.

The types of projects that are eligible fall within four categories: industry research, industry education, consumer research and consumer education.

The following topics are intended as helpful suggestions only. Other topics or innovative projects proposed by applicants are encouraged and will be considered.

Industry Research and Education Topics

- BC Building Code requirements and standards
- Business planning and management
- Construction technology
- Construction management and supervision
- Customer service and home warranty insurance
- Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Financial planning and management
- *Homeowner Protection Act* and regulations
- Housing market studies
- Legal issues in residential construction
- Residential construction practices
- Other topics of interest and innovative projects proposed by applicants

Consumer Research and Education Topics

- Consumer protection education and information resources for stakeholders involved in buying and selling homes (e.g. real estate licensees, lawyers, notaries, lending institutions)
- Education and information resources for homeowners/homebuyers related to:
 - Consumer protection, particularly home buying and home warranty insurance
 - New home and maintenance and governance
- Homeownership and housing market trends
- Other topics of interest and innovative projects proposed by applicants

Is research conducted outside the province of British Columbia eligible for funding?

While project results must benefit the residential construction industry and home buyers in BC, the development and execution of the project can occur outside of British Columbia.

Can I apply for funding for more than one project?

Yes, you can apply for funding for more than one project at a time. However, only one grant will be awarded per organization in each funding application period. Eligible projects may receive up to a maximum of \$30,000.

If I am a successful grant recipient, can I apply for additional funding in future application rounds?

Yes, applicants who receive a Building Excellence Research & Education Grant may submit a new request for funding in future application periods. These applications must be for new projects that have not previously been granted funding. Multiple grants are not provided for different phases of the same project. To ensure a fair process, please note we are unable to provide information on the anticipated success of your application.

Questions or feedback?

If you have questions about the grants program or about completing your online forms, please contact us by phone at 1-844-648-6400 (toll free) or email BuildingExcellence@bchousing.org.