

Access Support Program Guidelines

Current as of: June 30, 2026

These guidelines are revised and updated regularly. Ensure you have the most current version of these guidelines by checking the website at this [link](#).

Accessibility Programs Overview

- **Application Assistance** – pays for a support person to help you to complete a grant application, profile registration, project update, Access Support request form, or Final Report form.
- **Access Support** – pays for specific accessibility costs associated with doing a project funded by a BC Arts Council grant.

This document contains information on the **Access Support** program. For information on **Application Assistance** visit this [link](#). For a Video, Audio or ASL overview of BC Arts Councils Accessibility programs visit www.bcartscouncil.ca/accessibility

The BC Arts Council developed these programs in consultation with existing and potential clients with lived experience. We welcome feedback and questions at any time.

About Access Support

The Access Support program provides additional funding for specific accessibility services and supplies, rental equipment, and other accessibility supports required to do a project funded by a BC Arts Council grant (referred to as the “associated grant”).

You cannot apply for Access Support on its own. Access Support is a section of a regular grant application. You can also submit an Access Support request after you have received a grant.

Access Support will not fund:

- General costs or wages for project implementation
- Audience or volunteer accessibility
- Day-to-day access costs outside of the project

Who Can Request Access Support

Access Support requests are limited to successful grant applications from:

- Individual artists or arts and culture practitioners who self-identify as D/deaf or disabled.

OR

- Arts or Curatorial Collectives who have at least one core member who self-identifies as D/deaf or disabled.

OR

- Organizations (Non-Profit Societies) that have a specific mandate or constitutional purpose to support D/deaf and/or disability arts practice or practitioners.

Funding Amount

Maximum funding amount is **\$7,500.00**.

Larger requests may be considered. Please contact an Accessibility Coordinator to discuss a larger request in advance.

Support may be awarded for less than requested.

How to Make a Request

Contact an Accessibility Coordinator to discuss requests and any accessibility supports required before making your request.

A request must include:

1. A description of the barriers being encountered.
2. A proposed solution to remove the barriers to support accessibility.
3. A breakdown of what the solution will cost.

Requests can be submitted:

1. Within a BC Arts Council Grant Application, in the "Access Support" section (Option 1)

OR

2. After you have received your grant (Option 2) - within your online user profile, under "Retroactive Access Support Requests"

At this time, Access Support requests are not accepted for Operating Assistance, Accelerate or Scholarship program applications.

What Can Be Funded

Some examples of eligible costs for Access Support include (but are not limited to):

- Sign language interpretation
- Captioning or CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services
- Personal Support Workers or Visual Describers
- Transcribers or specialized editors
- Rental of specialized equipment
- Travel for service providers
- Accessible local transportation during specific project activities
- Accessibility software or app subscriptions
- Other accessibility needs or supplies as discussed with Accessibility Coordinators

Contact an Accessibility Coordinator to discuss accessibility costs at any time. They can confirm if costs can be included in an Access Support request.

What Will Not Be Funded

Access Support is not available to fund:

- Artist fees or production costs
- Accessibility supports for audiences, staff and volunteers.
- Travel costs or per diems (Travel for service providers is eligible)
- Supports and services not directly tied to the associated grant or project activities
- Capital costs or equipment purchases over \$2,500 (e.g. mobility devices, renovations, etc.)
- Activities which have already received Access Support funding
- Support for applying or submitting updates or final reports for a BC Arts Council grant, which can be funded through the [Application Assistance](#) program
- Accessibility supports required for day-to-day living outside of the scope of the project (i.e.: medication, home care, regular therapy, day-to-day transportation, personal financial management)

What is an Appropriate Budget

Standard rates for disability-specific services and supports vary across rural and urban regions of our province and based on the activity and the experience of the provider. Applicants should compensate service providers at professional standards.

BC Arts Council uses the following fees as a general guide for costs, understanding specific amounts vary widely. This list does not include all accessibility services eligible for Access Support, and is **intended as a guide, not a requirement**. Applicants should consider what compensation is appropriate for their needs.

- General Support Worker | \$30 - \$40 / hour
- Visual Guides, Assistants, Describers | \$35- \$65/ hour
- Sign Language Interpretation | ASL: \$75- \$150 / hour
- Transcription Services | \$50 - \$70 / hour

The schedule of the requested support services should match the scope or schedule of the project activities. Contact an Accessibility Coordinator for further guidance if needed.

How will Requests be Reviewed

Eligible requests will be reviewed by an internal committee of BC Arts Council staff led by an Accessibility Coordinator. Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- an appropriate budget
- how connected the supports are to the funded project activities.

Notification of Access Support Funding

Notification of Access Support request results will be delivered:

- within six weeks of receiving the results of an associated grant (Option 1)

OR

- within six weeks of submitting a Retroactive Request (Option 2)

Ensure the email address NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca is on your email program's safe sender list to prevent notifications being flagged as Spam email.

Contact Us – We are Here to Help

BC Arts Council Accessibility Coordinators can answer your questions about our accessibility programs, eligibility, or take your request for assistance. Contact us:

By Phone:

- Individual Artists contact Nicola Dunne, Accessibility Coordinator at 778-405-4007
- Organizations/Collectives contact Clayton Baraniuk, Accessibility Coordinator at 250-978-9839

By Email:

- All inquiries by email to: BCACAccess@gov.bc.ca

For questions about BC Arts Council grant programs or project funding, Program Advisors can advise on available grants to support your project. A list of program and discipline specific Program Advisors is available at the [link here](#). If you're not sure who to speak to, contact our general line at 250-356-1718 or BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca, and our administration team can help direct your call or email.

Final Report

Recipients must submit a brief summary of their Access Support when completing the final report of the associated grant through the online Grant Management System (GMS). The summary should include:

- Final cost breakdown of accessibility supports
- Brief description on how the Access Support funds were used, and how they impacted the project

Payment of Support

Access Support payments will be delivered within six weeks of notification of approval for Access Support funding. As an agency of Government, all payments from the BC Arts Council are subject to an authorizing appropriation under the [Financial Administration Act](#).

The BC Arts Council reserves the right to redistribute, delay, or suspend payments if:

- The recipient does not carry out its planned program of activities.
- The project undergoes major changes in artistic or administrative direction.
- The recipient does not meet its obligations, including legal obligations and submission of final reports.

- The recipient fails to respect the commitment to provide a safe and respectful workplace free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

Grants and Access Support payments are taxable income and individuals receiving grants are issued T4As for the year in which the grant payment is processed.

Reporting for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Benefit

BC Arts Council grants are considered income by the BC Employment and Assistance programs, which may include the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit.

If you receive PWD benefit, you should report all grant amounts in the monthly report form. For instructions on how to report a grant please contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction at 1-866-866-0800.

Confidentiality of Information

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Access Support applicant information will not be shared with members of the associated grant application's assessment panel or shared publicly without explicit permission from the applicant. The names and locations of successful award recipients of the associated grant may be published, along with the amount of the award, in the Annual Report of the BC Arts Council as well as in various communications and promotional vehicles of the BC Arts Council and Government of British Columbia. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada and Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

Preview Application - Access Support Request

This is not an official application form but is provided for reference purposes.

You must complete the Access Support section in a grant application in the online system to request Access Support. The following preview represents the content within the online application.

Application Overview:

The [Access Support](#) program provides additional funding for specific accessibility services and supplies, rental equipment, and other supports required to do a project funded by a BC Arts Council grant (referred to as the “associated grant”).

Access Support requests are limited to successful grant applications from:

- Individual artists or arts and culture practitioners who self-identify as D/deaf or disabled.

OR

- Arts or Curatorial Collectives who have at least one core member who self-identifies as D/deaf or disabled.

OR

- Organizations (Non-Profit Societies) that have a specific mandate or constitutional purpose to support D/deaf and/or disability arts practice or practitioners.

Will you be applying for Access Support (please select).

- Yes, with my project application (Option 1)
- Yes, after I receive project funding results (Option 2)
- No

Note: If **Option 2** is selected, the Retroactive Access Support Request will appear once the project application has been approved, and the applicant has 90 days to submit the Retroactive Request.

If **Option 1** is selected, the following application appears:

Type of Access (Select all that apply):

- Sign Language Interpretation
- Captioning/CART
- Personal Support Worker or Visual Describer
- Transcriber/Editor
- Accessibility Software or App Subscriptions
- Rental Equipment
- Travel for Service Providers
- Accessible local transportation during specific project activities
- Other accessibility needs or supplies as discussed with program staff

If other, please specify:

(text field)

Access Support Detailed Costs

Below, provide a breakdown of Access Support costs for barriers encountered, services, supports and/or solutions.

Table Format: The table has the following columns to complete:

- Description of Barriers: Include specifics on the barriers (for instance communication, mobility, comprehension, physical, technological, visual, etc.), and who requires the supports.
- Description of Supports: Include specifics on how the solutions remove the identified barrier and support accessibility.
- Cost Breakdown: Include numbers of staffing positions, providers (when known), rates, numbers of days or hours to clarify how you came to your total number.
- Total: Enter total dollar amount.

Use the '+' to add additional budget lines. Your total should match the amount requested in the field below.

Description of barriers	Description of Supports	Cost Breakdown	Total Amount
(text field)	(text field)	(text field)	(number field)

Have you or will you apply for accessibility supports for this project from the Canada Council for the Arts or other funders? (please select)

- Yes
- No

If yes: Access Support Revenues

Enter any funding for accessibility supports from other sources, if applicable.

Describe the accessibility supports or solutions being provided by other sources.

Table Format: The table has the following columns to complete (if applicable):

- Source (text field)
- Description (text field)
- Amount (number field)
- Confirmed/Pending (Select one)

Use the '+' to add additional budget lines. Your total should match the amount requested in the field below.

Anything else we should know?

(text field)

Examples of Descriptions and Cost Breakdowns:

Description of Barriers	Description of Supports	Cost Breakdown	Total
Casey Chetwynd is Deaf and requires ASL interpretation to communicate during workshop.	ASL Interpretation (2 interpreters) for new play workshop, 1 day, 10am-5pm, for artist communication during the process.	\$80/ hour for 7 hrs x 2 interpreters for 1 day	\$1120
Performer Kei Princeton has limited mobility and uses a wheelchair and does not own a power scooter that is needed to cross the stage quickly.	Two-day rental of powered scooter for workshop to enable quick movement across the stage	2 days at \$95/day	\$190
Hari Sointula is coming from out of town, has limited mobility and requires support for all day to day living functions when away from home.	Personal Support Worker: 2 days for 24hr/day. Day rate: \$500 to support all day to day living functions while artist is away from home working on the project.	\$600/day for 2 days	\$1200
Hari Sointula is flying from his home to Victoria and requires support for all day to day living functions, including travel.	Round Trip flight for Personal Support Worker for Hari Sointula, who is required to support Hari during travel to and from Victoria. This will be his regular Support Person from home.	\$500 round trip Kamloops to Victoria	\$500
August Hazelton is blind and cannot see the gallery and surroundings of the exhibition.	Visual describer to describe the gallery and surroundings, so that August can understand the exhibition set up – 1 day (4 hours).	\$60/hour for 4 hours	\$240
Rowan Hope is neurodiverse and experiences high anxiety in group settings and has trouble tracking times and tasks.	Support worker for Rowan Hope, while working with groups of people to lower anxieties, and also to support the tracking of times and tasks during project activities. 1 day – 5 hours.	\$30 per hour for 5 hours	\$150

Author Mel Terrace cannot handwrite or type due to mobility barriers.	Otter.ai dictation software subscription to assist with writing the book for six months	\$40 per month for 6 months	\$240
Kelly Quesnel has disabilities that require them to rest frequently during activities.	Cot Rental for Kelly Quesnel to lay down during rehearsals.	\$100 per week for three weeks	\$300
Project Mentor Jean Maillardville is Francophone Deaf and does not understand ASL.	LSQ/ASL Interpretation so they can communicate with the Mentee during the six sessions of mentorship.	\$120 per hour for six 1-hour long sessions	\$720
Artist Riley Wells is a wheelchair user and requires transportation outside of the handyDART schedule and service area.	Wheelchair accessible taxi service to get to and from project activities outside of handyDART schedule and service area.	\$50 per round trip X 10 trips.	\$500
			Total: \$5160

These guidelines are revised and updated regularly. Ensure you have the most current version of these guidelines by checking the website at this [link](#).