



Local Initiatives Fund (2025-2026)

The Embassies of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand accredited to Argentina and Paraguay have unified their local cooperation efforts and jointly launched a call for proposals for the Local Initiatives Fund, which will include project support from the three embassies.

Fund Description

This Fund combines the following programs designed to support small-scale, high-impact projects:

- Direct Aid Program (DAP) of the Australian Embassy in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) of the Canadian Embassy in Argentina and Paraguay
- New Zealand Embassy Fund in Argentina and Paraguay.

The joint fund will support projects primarily conceived and designed by local partners. Projects will be selected and approved by all three embassies.

The average contribution from the Local Initiatives Fund is approximately USD 25,000. In Phase 1, the budget will be estimated in U.S. dollars. Contributions will be calculated in the respective national currency of each embassy (CAD, AUD, or NZD) based on the official exchange rate.

How to Apply

- This call consists of two phases. In the first, an expression of interest must be submitted, providing summarized project data. The embassies will select a group of projects to proceed to Phase 2, where a complete and detailed project and budget presentation will be required.
- Projects must have a maximum duration of 12 months and flexibility in their activity schedule. Execution timelines can be:
 - A) Between June 2025 and February 2026
 - B) Between October 2025 and June 2026

Exceptionally, projects with a longer duration may be approved, depending on the scope of their objectives and potential impact.



- **The application deadline is February 13, 2025, at 11:30 PM (GMT-3).** Applications must be submitted by completing the information in the online form of the call.
- The Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI) will be responsible for receiving applications in Argentina. Interested organizations must create a user profile under the organization's name on the following [online platform](#). Then, they must submit their application.
- Organizations must provide legal documentation from the country (bylaws, financial statements, a bank account in their name, and other legal documents) to confirm their official status. (This documentation will be required for organizations whose projects are preselected and invited to participate in phase 2.)
- For more information on the types of activities and costs eligible for funding under the Local Initiatives Fund, please refer to the list of approved activities and costs at the end of this document.
- Proposals can be submitted in Spanish, English, or French.
- A selection committee will evaluate the applications based on their merits.
- All applicants will be informed of the progress of the call by late March 2025. Projects selected to advance to Phase 2 will be contacted accordingly.
- For questions or inquiries, organizations can refer to the FAQ document and participate in the informative webinar that will be held. Questions already addressed in these documents will not be answered.
- For additional inquiries, organizations can email fondoiniciativaslocales@raci.org.ar.

Organizations Eligible for the Local Initiatives Fund

Eligible organizations are:

- Local non-governmental, community-based, and non-profit organizations.



- Local educational institutions working on local projects.
- International non-governmental organizations working on local development activities.
- International, intergovernmental, multilateral, and regional institutions, organizations, and agencies involved in local development activities.
- Canadian non-governmental and non-profit organizations working on local development activities.

Thematic Priorities

All projects must align with at least one of the following thematic priorities:

- Gender equity and empowerment of women and girls.
- Inclusive governance, focusing on promoting diversity and the rule of law.
- Democracy.
- Protection and promotion of human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, youth, and LGBTQI+ individuals.
- Human dignity: health, education, and nutrition.
- Inclusive growth, understood as growth that works for everyone, prioritizing the promotion of women's economic rights, access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship, investment in the poorest and most vulnerable, and the preservation of economic gains.
- Environment and climate action focused on adaptation and mitigation, as well as water management.

Gender Analysis

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are committed to promoting gender equality. Consequently, all projects supported by this Fund must include a Gender-Based Analysis.

Applicants are required to:

- Consider how women, girls, men, and boys are differently affected by the issue their project aims to address, particularly to ensure that the project causes no harm.
- Consult* with women and girls in the development of their project proposal.
- Ensure these views are incorporated into the project design.

*Consultations may include: speaking with women and girls in a local community; women and others working for civil society organizations in the local community; and men and women decision-makers and changemakers who are knowledgeable about the local community.

Inadequate gender analysis may impact the consideration of the proposal. Please note that the detail of the Gender based Analysis will be required only on phase 2.



Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding by the Local Initiatives Fund:

- Administrative and general expenses directly related to the project (must not exceed 15% of the total contribution from the Fund).
- Capital and/or operational expenses related to leasing or constructing infrastructure.
- Installation, maintenance, shipping, and/or transportation expenses, including fuel, computers, and communication devices.
- Civic education expenses.
- Conference and event expenses.
- Hospitality expenses, excluding alcoholic beverages.
- Training and capacity-building expenses.
- Communication and information dissemination expenses.
- Environmental assessment expenses.
- Advocacy-related expenses.
- Legal expenses.
- Accounting expenses.
- Medical expenses.
- Publications/visibility expenses.
- Advertising expenses on radio and television (including social media related to the project).
- Rental of facilities and equipment expenses.
- Equipment rental and/or purchase costs (only when the purchase is necessary to achieve the objectives of the project, represents good value for money and the implementing organisation has a solid maintenance plan to ensure the durability of the equipment and its exclusive use by the beneficiaries).
- Research-related expenses.
- Project-related salary expenses.
- Security expenses.
- Translation and interpretation expenses.
- Domestic travel expenses, using the lowest possible fares but not exceeding full economy-class rates.
- Vehicle leasing or rental.
- Website development and related costs.
- Miscellaneous expenses central to the project.



Non-Eligible Costs

The following costs are NOT eligible for funding:

- Nuclear technology and facilities.
- Assistance to military or paramilitary organizations.
- Gifts.
- Acquisition of luxury items.
- Direct financial support to a government.
- Seed funding and/or micro-financing.
- Funding of an organization's core activities or recurrent costs.
- Expenses incurred before the contribution agreement is signed or after its expiry.