



WildSafeBC Community Program Application Information 2023

WildSafeBC is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions. It has evolved out of the highly successful Bear Aware program and is managed and delivered by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF).

The WildSafeBC Community Program

A part-time community coordinator that is hired trained and supervised by BCCF leads WildSafeBC Community Programs. These annual contracts typically run from mid April/May to November 30, and include a minimum of 400 contract hours. Local coordinators are responsible for delivering the WildSafeBC Community Program by working closely with their community liaison(s) and local Conservation Officers. An annual report, summarizing the program's activities, is made available each year on our [website](#).

How the Program is Funded

The BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) currently applies for funding from the Provincial Government and Columbia Basin Trust in order to provide communities with an additional grant to supplement their contributions. The amount BCCF receives annually varies and is not guaranteed. Communities that apply for a WildSafeBC Community Program will automatically be considered for additional funding support if available. Combined with community funds, the total program budget is used to pay for local program delivery including coordinator salary and benefits, mileage and office expenses, toolkit education materials and program administration, as well as coordinator training and supervision.

The WildSafeBC Community Program application process is competitive as BCCF receives more requests than funds available. Applicants can strengthen their application in a number of ways:

- Provide support to the local coordinator with local in-kind resources such as providing office space, an office or mobile phone, storage area for materials, and/or access to printing services
- Completion of the [Bear Smart Community](#) program six criteria. Points are awarded for each criteria met. Proof of completion is required.
- Hosting Bear and/or Wildlife Working Group meetings, which includes attendance by the local government staff (e.g. bylaw, solid waste, environmental departments), Conservation Officer Service, and other key community partners (e.g. local First Nations, stewardship groups etc.)
- Work with other funding partners to increase contributions beyond the minimum \$4000 threshold.

Application Process

Communities are required to submit their application in the month of January of every year. The application must include a minimum of \$4,000 in community funds in order to be considered. If their application is successful, and primary funding is secured, their contribution will be augmented by a funding grant to deliver a minimum 400 hour WildSafeBC Community Program. Communities are required to apply even if they are fully self-funded and are not relying on a grant.



To apply for this Program, and potential funding grant, please complete the application form attached and email it to programs@wildsafebc.com by **January 31, 2023**. If you have questions regarding the form, need guidance on levels of funding required, please contact us by email to set up a mutually convenient time.

Key Dates in 2023	Description
January 3 rd	Application intake is open
January 31 st	Applications are due - email to programs@wildsafebc.com
March 31 st	Community Program Applicants are notified
April 11 th	Typical start date for returning WildSafeBC Community Coordinators
April 30 th	Community Program funding payments are due for the community's portion of their contribution
May 8 th – 11 th	WildSafeBC New Community Coordinator Training
May 15 th	New coordinators begin working in their communities
November 30 th	Typical Program End Date

Thank you for your interest and support of WildSafeBC and our mission to keep wildlife wild and communities safe.

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