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**Capital Regional District**  
**Grant-In-Aid Application Form**  
**FOR ELECTORAL AREAS ONLY:**

**Juan de Fuca**

**Salt Spring Island**

**Southern Gulf Islands**

[Revised November 16, 2012]

## CRD GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION FORM

Grants-In-Aid are for the CRD Electoral Areas only: Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands

### ***Application Submitted By***

Name and Address of Applicant: The Diverse Village



Contact(s): Anna Vineyard  
(name)

(phone)

(fax)

anna@thediversevillage.ca

Email address

Contact(s): Amanda Myers  
(name)

(phone)

(fax)

gifts@shaw.ca

Email address

### ***Application Summary***

Project or purpose for which you require assistance:

The Diverse Village (TDV) is a new non-profit serving families with neurodivergent (ND) children in the Gulf Islands. <https://thediversevillage.ca/> One of our missions is to improve access to education, information and resources for ND families on SSI and the Gulf Islands. This is done through helpful guides, curriculum, service provider directory, and workshops.

Amount of grant requested \$ 5,000.00

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is:

- **NOT** being made on behalf of an industrial, commercial, or business undertaking
- **NOT** available for the personal benefit of any individual, proprietor, member or shareholder

(signature of authorized signatory)

Founder of The Diverse Village  
(title)

Anna Vineyard  
(print name)

## Applicant Profile

1. Please describe the services / benefits that your organization provides to the community. Are these services / benefits available to the community from another organization or agency?

The Diverse Village (TDV) serves families with neurodivergent (ND) children in the Gulf Islands, addressing gaps in services by prioritizing disability centred community planning, advocating for accessibility and inclusion while offering education, peer support and practical help. We foster meaningful connections and relationships, improve access to critical resources and targeted support that increases resiliency, has positive impact on mental health and combats isolation that many ND families in the Gulf Islands face. TDV is the only organization inclusive of all ND children and families regardless of diagnosis. There is no qualifiers to receiving support, unlike Community Services who require an official autism diagnosis and only serve children with autism.

2. Describe the geographic area that receives services or benefits from your organization.

Salt Spring Island and the surrounding Gulf islands are served through Workshops, Parent Support Groups, and Family events. TDV website is a hub for information sharing, including useful guides, curriculum and a service provider directory.

3. Is your organization voluntary and non-profit? ☐ NO ☒ YES

Please detail any remuneration paid, or funds otherwise made available to members, officers, etc. of your organization.

As TDV is a new non-profit, we have not yet secured funding to pay for programming, staffing or events. All costs have been covered by Anna Vineyard and TDV receives gifts-in-kind via Gulf Islands Families Together Society (GIFTS) sharing location and resources, and Marmalade Strategies with the development of the website and promotional materials. All program planning, workshops and parent support happens via Anna volunteering and covering the costs. Several grant applications have been made and are pending.

Please indicate the number of members / volunteers in your organization and how long your organization has been in operation.

In 2020 Anna Vineyard (a parent of 4 ND kids) began by offering a parent support group to combat the isolation many ND families faced on SSI. That group has grown to include over 26 families. Nearly 60 people attended the Summer Play date event Aug 2024, and 33 attended the Family Day event in Feb. 2025. There are 110 members on the ND SSI Facebook group. As the group and needs of the community grew it became apparent that a non-profit was needed. TDV launched in Dec 2024, and has 4 board members as well as over 40 active clients.

## Project / Proposal Profile

1. Assistance is being requested for:

capital project and / or equipment

special event

other purpose ( Educational and curriculum development, Workshops, Webpage )

2. Please describe the proposal for which you are requesting assistance. Attach additional information if required.

A primary mission of TDV is education. We want to provide practical-help resources through online guides, in person workshops and targeted curriculum that benefits marginalized families raising ND children. We support families at every step of the way; through pre-diagnosis, assessments, school, mental health, young adulthood and partner with (GIFTS) to bridge our children into adult services. Our goal is to empower families by making them feel seen, respected, valued, capable and resourced. By removing accessibility barriers, TDV creates positive impact on ND families, fostering hope and connection. Please see attached document with examples of our previous workshops and existing guides as well as proposed curriculum development and future workshops.

Financial assistance will also be used for the development of a donations landing page on the website for those in the community who wish to directly support families experiencing barriers to ground level assistance. Please see the attached document detailing the subsidies that TDV will provide with the support gathered through the development of this website improvement.

3. Please describe how this proposal will benefit the community.

Families with neurodivergent children in the Gulf Islands face significant challenges due to isolation, stigma, and a lack of accessible resources. They are under-supported and often excluded from public programming. TDV supports these families by: Connecting them with essential local resources and services through online service directory, community collaboration partners and events, providing educational workshops and materials, how-to guides and curriculum, facilitating peer support groups and advocacy services.

Empowering vulnerable families not only fosters feelings of belonging, value and respect; but also reduces mental health strain and promotes positive self identity and resiliency in ND youth. This in turn positively impacts the wider community facilitating equity, acceptance, and inclusion, reducing discrimination and bias, leading to a more united and affirming Salt Spring.

## Funding and Financial Information

1. Attach supporting financial information, i.e., budget / financial report. Ensure the following information is clearly itemized;
  - o project budget,
  - o grants / funding from other sources,
  - o funding contributed by applicant through fund raising activities or other sources of revenue and,
  - o financial statement that itemizes total expenses for the fiscal year, including any monies and/or benefits paid to members or officers.

2. Have you applied for a grant / funding from another source(s)? ☐ NO ☒ YES

**If yes**, complete the following chart. **If no**, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Grant or Funding Agency	\$ Amount Applied For	Status of Grant Application		
		Approved (Y)	Denied (Y)	Pending (Y)
SSI Foundation	\$ 9,950.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Victoria Foundation	\$ 30,000.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
SS Arts Council	\$ 1,000.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
ParticipACTION Canada	\$ 750.00	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Have you received assistance (grant in aid / waiving of fees, etc.), from the CRD in previous years?

☒ NO ☐ YES..... **If yes**, please complete the following chart.

Year	\$ Amount	Purpose for which assistance was used

4. Does your organization:

Offer direct financial assistance to individuals or families?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Provide services that fall within the mandate of either  
a senior government or a local service agency?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Provide an opportunity for individuals to make direct  
Contributions to the project (e.g., fundraising for the project)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Or, is your organization:

part of a Provincial or National fund raising campaign?

☐ Yes ☒ No

The information provided in Section 4 is for data collection purposes.

**Followup:**

Please refer to Page 6 of the ***Grant-In-Aid - Application Completion Guide*** regarding the following:

**1. Acknowledgement**

**2. Reporting**

***Please remember to attach:***

1. Project budget
2. Financial statement for your organization

## Addendum Question 2:

A) The Diverse Village (TDV) has facilitated several public educational workshops since its conception in December 2024. This includes:

- Occupational Therapy – what is it, how can it be used to help, what resources are available, introduction to the Equipment Lending program on SSI.
- Disability Tax Benefit – run in conjunction with Disability Alliance BC we had 13 participants attend, four of which attended a follow up clinic assisting in their DTC application and seven who were empowered to apply on their own.
- Form Filling Assistance – how to find and fill out the correct forms online or in printed format including DTC, BCAAN, JFE, DL School applications, Assessments etc.

Workshops and events scheduled May and June:

- Salt Spring Library Fab Lab – using the Fab Lab for sensory supports, to meet OT or ADST goals, relationship building and supports in special interest topics.
- Sonosvarios – Musical introduction of different instruments, how music can benefit mental health, help with sensory stimulation and self-regulation, free concert, and instrument giveaway.
- ParticiP ACTION – inclusive sports initiative promoting active community involvement in programming, fundraising, enjoyment, and attendance.

Future workshops to be developed and planned will focus on supporting IEP development and navigating resources available in public schools, assessment preparation, after receiving a diagnosis roadmap, alternative school programs available, life skills preparation for teens, etc.

The Diverse Village also creates curriculum and step-by-step guides to help neurodivergent families access information relevant to their current needs and circumstances, such as Planning for your Child's education and Applying for the DTC.

(<https://thediversevillage.ca/step-by-step-guides/>)

Further development of these guides will expand our educational outreach to Gulf Island families that may not be able to attend in person workshops and events. The educational materials can be referenced and referred to as needed. TDV provides a centralized hub for accessing resources that are more efficient, user friendly and practical. Future curriculum development will include; introduction to AFU, how to prepare for assessments, types of assessments, creating an IEP, advocating in school, sensory integration, etc.



- B) There are practical needs going unmet due to financial constraints that TDV would like to address in our community. Funding from the CRD Grant in Aid would also be used for the one-time development of a landing page on our website that can accept charitable donations. Those who wish to directly support families in the community can donate money to be used for specific purposes. Much like the food bank provides food, charitable donations can then address systemic ground level barriers to practical needs such as providing:
- Prepaid ferry cards to subsidize trips for specialised pediatric appointments that are not covered under BC Medical (such as Physiotherapy, Psychiatry, Occupational Therapy, Dental or optical specialists, etc)
  - Child-care subsidy for parents who wish to attend TDV Workshops or Parent Support groups but cannot afford childcare.
  - Respite subsidy.
  - Bursaries for assessments (The public waitlist for an autism assessment is 3 years, some families will miss out on early intervention services entirely while waiting but cannot afford to pay for the assessment privately)
  - Scholarships for Therapies such as Therapeutic riding, Counselling/ Play therapy, Specialized camps

#### Addendum Question 4:

At present The Diverse Village does not offer any financial assistance to individuals or families. However, as outlined previously in the addendum of question 2B, this is something we are actively trying to change. If we are awarded the CRD Grant in Aid, we will develop a charitable donations page on our website. This will allow opportunity for individuals to make direct contributions to TDV.

TDV has also been approved by Country Grocer to be part of their new Save the Tape program which should launch in June, and we will be doing bottle drive fundraisers as well to increase financial assistance opportunities for neurodivergent Gulf Island families in need.

## Funding and Financial Addendum

To provide details, disclosure and clarification on grant applications that are currently pending for The Diverse Village:

**SSI Foundations Grant** – Submitted to cover the cost of parent support group and youth programming.

**Victoria Foundations Grant** – Submitted for operational funding including staff wages, non-profit expenditures (website hosting, annual fees, email service provider etc)

**Salt Spring Arts council** – Submitted to cover the cost of the Sonosvarios music concert event including travel, instrument exploration and instrument giveaway.

Received:

**ParticipACTION** - \$750 to run an inclusive sports event and promote community activity and action for the month of June.

Expense	Category	Description	Cost	Currency	Occurance
Website Hosting	Admin		-\$32.99	CAD	Monthly
Website Design and Development (Marmalade Strategies)	Contract Labor	for <a href="http://thediversevillage.ca">thediversevillage.ca</a>	-\$12,000.00	CAD	Gift in Kind Contribution
Graphic Design	Marketing	logo, 2x posters, letter head, more	-\$400.00	CAD	Gift in Kind Contribution
Email Service Provider	Admin	Google	-\$15.55	CAD	Monthly
Elf Insights	Admin	Digital Survey	-\$8.66	CAD	Monthly
Domain Name	Admin		-\$86.23	CAD	Annual
Statement of Registration	Admin	BC Registrars	-\$40.00	CAD	One Time Fee
Incorporation	Admin		-\$230.00	CAD	One Time Fee
Website Theme	Admin	<a href="http://Themeforest.net">Themeforest.net</a>	-\$99.64	CAD	One Time Fee
Sugar Calendar	App		-\$142.96	CAD	Annual
Canva	App	Design and Marketing	-\$173.29	CAD	Annual
Salt Spring Arts Council Membership	Membership	To apply for grant	-\$50.00	CAD	Annual

**Total**  
 Gift in Kind Contribution  
 Operating

-\$13,279.32  
 \$12,400  
 -\$795.27

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>#Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
8 Educational Workshops - development	40/hr	12	\$480.00
8 Educational Workshops - snacks		8	\$400.00
8 Educational Workshops - Implementation	40/hr	24	\$960.00
3 Educational Workshops - Speaker honorarium		3	\$600.00
8 Educational Workshops - promotional materials	75/hr	8	\$600.00
8 Online Guides and Curriculum	40/hr	24	\$960.00
Website addition - Charitable Donations		1	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Total Grant Request from CRD Grants in Aid</b>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>

152 Sarah Way  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2X8

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and offer my strong recommendation for *The Diverse Village*.

As a parent of a child with Autism, I have personally experienced the profound support and resources this organization provides to families like mine. *The Diverse Village* has had a tremendous impact on our family, especially as my son was recently diagnosed. A significant part of his progress is due to the invaluable guidance and support we received from them. They helped me navigate the diagnostic process, recommended doctors suited to our needs, and even introduced me to the concept of disability tax benefits—something I hadn't known about before attending one of their meetings.

*The Diverse Village* is deeply committed to supporting neurodivergent individuals and their families. As we've been navigating the unique challenges that come with being Neurodivergent, their services have been a constant source of help. Quite frankly, with the shortcomings of our healthcare and education systems, Anna and the team at *The Diverse Village* have been our lifeline.

One of the most valuable aspects of this organization has been their parent meetings, which have provided a space for me to honestly share my struggles. These sessions have significantly improved our family's well-being. Through these heartfelt, safe meetings, I met other parents who were facing similar challenges, and hearing their experiences helped me in identifying my child's diagnosis. Additionally, *The Diverse Village's* Family Event was the first event I attended with my son where I didn't leave feeling exhausted or in tears. It was the first time we felt understood and welcomed, allowing my son to truly be himself.

The organization's commitment to creating an inclusive, understanding environment has given us support that we hadn't encountered before. Our journey had been incredibly isolating, but *The Diverse Village* opened their arms to us, providing personalized guidance that has made navigating the complexities of Autism much easier. Their support has been both emotional and practical, making a significant difference in our lives.

Thanks to *The Diverse Village*, we've found the right resources, educational tools, and community connections. The difference they've made in our lives is immeasurable.

I wholeheartedly recommend *The Diverse Village* to anyone in need of Neurodivergent support. Their dedication and compassionate approach make them an essential resource for families like mine, and I am confident they will provide the same level of care and support to others in the community who need it.

Sincerely,

Simone Dunne

To Whom it May Concern,

Anna Vineyard and Diverse Village facilitates events that connect parents of children and youth with autism and other neurodivergence. These events give parents access to peer support, the opportunity to share challenges and successes, and also offer information about local resources and agencies that may be useful for parents to connect with. The path to finding support for youth with autism is a bureaucratic journey, and it certainly helps to have help in navigating the necessary steps. In particular, in a small community, it can be useful to know about activities and resources that are available or that others have found helpful. Anna holds a calm, compassionate presence and is a great facilitator and provides a hub for resources and connection.

Sincerely,

Jessica Torrens

To whom it may concern,

Anna Vineyard's neurodivergent support groups have been essential for gathering community, providing support and sharing resources in often isolating and confusing times. It has been a desperately needed and appreciated help to our neurodiverse family and to many others.

Trianna Elliott

# GIFTS

## Gulf Islands Families Together Society

The face of community living and inclusion.

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Gulf Islands Families Together Society (GIFTS), we are pleased to express our enthusiastic support for The Diverse Village, a newly established non-profit organization. The need to support neurodivergent youth across the Gulf Islands is both urgent and significant. The Diverse Village is poised to address this gap by fostering meaningful connections and relationships, improving access to critical resources, education, and information, and driving the transformation of systemic barriers within government and educational institutions. Through inclusive programming, dedicated spaces, and equitable funding distribution, The Diverse Village will create new opportunities for engagement and inclusivity in our communities.

Currently, youth and families on Salt Spring Island and throughout the greater Gulf Islands are often overlooked and excluded in the development of community initiatives and policies. This oversight not only marginalizes a vital part of our population but also limits the potential for growth, understanding, and resilience within the broader community.

GIFTS wholeheartedly supports The Diverse Village's mission to address these inequities, we are confident that they will bring lasting and positive change to the Gulf Islands. Miigwetch,



Executive Director, GIFTS

March 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter in support of **The Diverse Village**, an organization dedicated to fostering inclusivity and support for families raising neurodiverse children on the Southern Gulf Islands. Their invaluable work in removing barriers to access, providing essential resources, and bridging the gap between families and program providers is making a significant impact on the community.

The Diverse Village plays a crucial role in ensuring that neurodivergent children can participate fully in community events and programs. By advocating for accessibility and inclusion, they help create opportunities that foster resilience, improve mental health, and strengthen the sense of belonging for both children and their families. Their initiatives not only empower families but also educate the broader community, fostering a more inclusive and understanding society.

Through their dedication, The Diverse Village has become a vital resource for families navigating the challenges of raising neurodiverse children. Their commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and education makes them an indispensable asset to the Southern Gulf Islands. I strongly support their mission and commend their efforts in building a more inclusive and supportive community.

Sincerely,

*Brettney Webb*

Brettney Webb  
Recreation Program Assistant  
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250-538-4251