

Community Spirit Program 2011 Applicant Survey Highlights

Summary of Survey Results

Since the Community Spirit Program (CSP) was completing its third year in the 2010/11 program cycle, applicants were asked if they would be interested in completing a brief survey regarding the program.

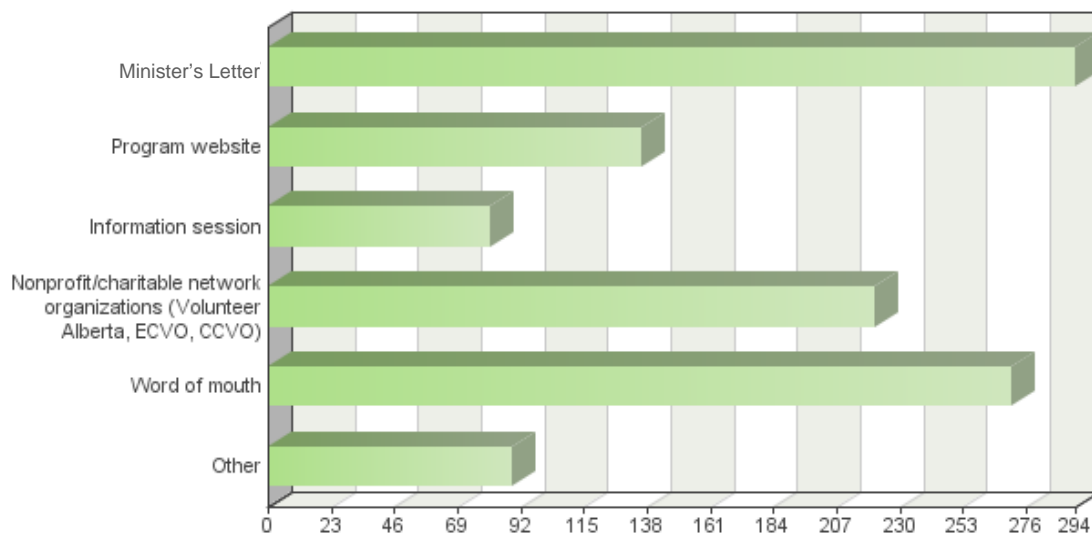
A total of 1862 applicants stated they would be willing to participate in the survey. Of that total, 20 applicants did not provide email addresses and were provided with a hard copy to fill out and return by mail or in person. The email was successfully delivered to 1695 applicants, as the remaining 167 addresses were incorrect or no longer valid.

On May 3, 2011, the survey was available for applicants to complete via the Opinio online survey tool. The survey concluded on June 20, 2011.

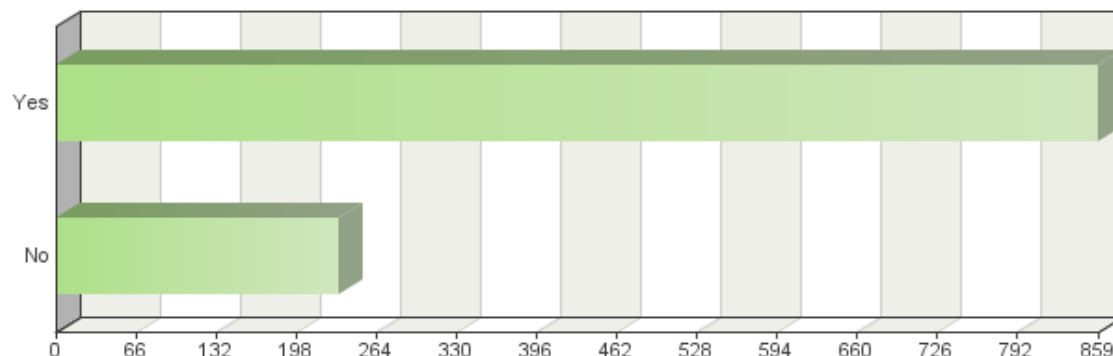
A total of 1092 completed surveys were returned, including both electronic and hard copy versions, which represents a 64.04% completion rate.

The tables and comments that follow provide a condensed cross-section of survey results.

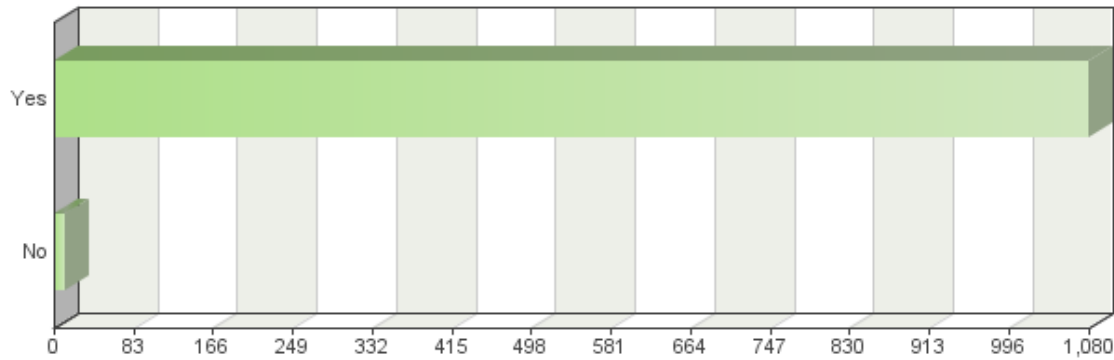
How did your organization hear about the Community Spirit Program donation grant?



Is your organization a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)-registered charity (has ability to issue official Income Tax receipts)?



Has the Community Spirit Program donation grant funding received benefitted your community?



Do you have any suggestions for improving the program guidelines?

"I honestly believe the current structure of the program is sound and clearly demonstrates the objectives of encouraging nonprofits to develop their donor base...The present structure and criteria of the Community Spirit program encourages organizations to further develop their donor base, and the more they accomplish this the more they benefit from the program directly."

"...in speaking with the staff they were not only professional, they were helpful, supportive and easy going - really one of the best experiences I have had with a government department."

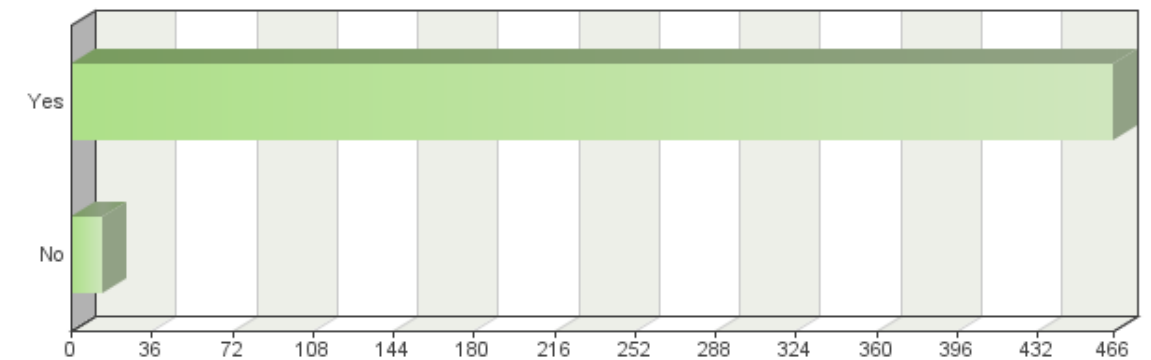
Do you have any suggestions for improving the application process?

"Just continue to work out the bugs in the online application process as they come up. The online application is an improvement over the paper application, but the interface is not very intuitive. I'm sure it will only get better as you continue to work on it."

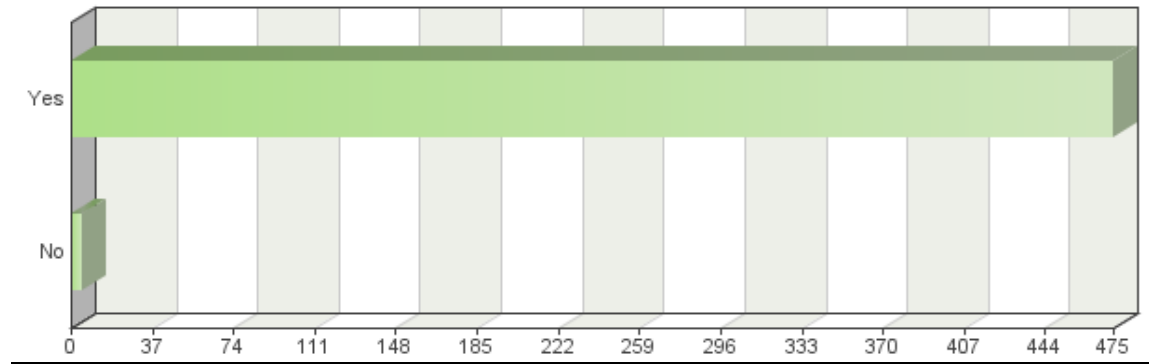
"As this was my first year of the online process, it took some extra time to understand the software. The staff was exceptional in answering all of our question and correcting input errors that occurred."

"I found it really straight forward and clear. I like the fact that the application and reporting process/forms are simple and do not take a huge amount of time for our non-profit society to complete."

Were you satisfied with the online application method?



Would you use the online method to apply to the program again?



Do you have any suggestions for improving the final report process?

Reminder emails are always great to have. If you could send out automated reminders for reporting so we can click on links immediately and work on the reports it would be fantastic. Even though I have my grants organized in a special file area it's still sometimes hard to keep track of all deadlines. Likewise, sending a link to the online application as soon as it is available for the next year would be great.

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions:

Please continue the Community Spirit Grant program, especially for smaller non-profits and charitable organizations...There are very few grants available to groups of our size since most foundations will only provide 'matching' grants and often those monies have to be designated for specific programs or capital expenditures. Smaller organizations do not have extra funds to match a grant. We are already working at our maximum when it comes to fund-raising, and all revenue earned through donations goes towards existing programs and their day to day operating expenses. I really do believe the dozens upon dozens of small non-profits and charitable organizations are the backbone of volunteerism in this Province...I don't know how our organization will manage without a Community Spirit Grant.

We have seen a definite increase in personal donation to our organization since we began highlighting the tax credit and the spirit grant fund opportunity. This is an excellent program and would like to see it continue. The grant application process is understandable and not excessively time consuming to complete, which is essential in organizations that don't have dedicated grant writers. The grant is also one of the few available that allow for a wide use of the funds received, often covering areas for not for profits that are difficult to fund.

Our community has an invested interest in this grant. They donate with the knowledge that we can then increase their donation by applying for this grant. Our residents donate even if they don't belong to the library because they know they are helping their community library. Community Spirit is an excellent name for the grant – *it does bring community spirit to us*. Thank you for everything.