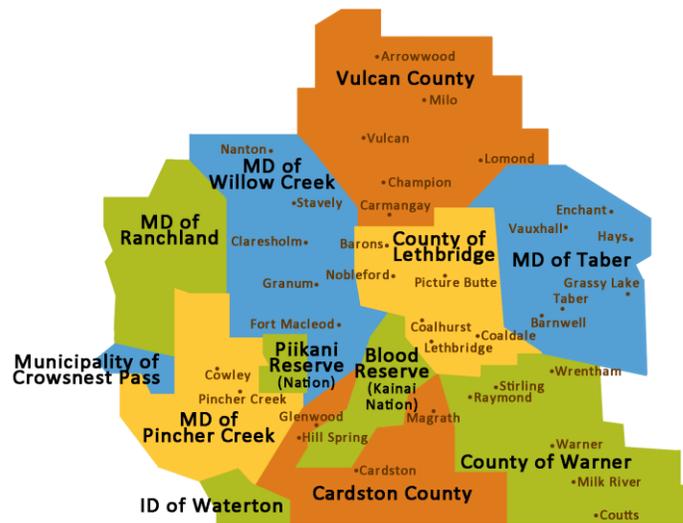




The Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life
Sustaining the Quality of Life in Rural Communities

VARLEY FUND GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta matches the wishes of donors with the grass roots needs of communities. The geographic area served by the Community Foundation stretches from Vulcan County in the north and Waterton Park in the south; and the M.D. of Taber in the east to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass in the west.



Henry S. Varley Fund: A Rural Family Legacy

The objective of the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural life is to provide support through community organizations to people who are committed to sustaining the rural communities of southwestern Alberta. The Fund was established through a bequest of William (Bill) Long to honour his uncle Henry Varley and the family’s ranching heritage. The Varley family ranched southeast of Pincher Creek in the community of Fishburn for a century.

Bill Long established the Varley Fund at the Community Foundation to support the quality of rural life which the Varley family greatly valued. Bill knew that rural communities will continue to change and it is impossible to predict future community issues and the support needed. The Community Foundation will ensure that the Varley Fund responds to the changing issues and needs of rural communities.

Applicant Eligibility

The Henry S. Varley Fund was established as a permanent endowment fund with the investment income used each year to provide grants to community organizations. Organizations applying for grants must be qualified by the Canada Revenue Agency (Registered Charities and municipalities). To ensure eligibility and collaborative partnerships contact the Community Foundation Grants Coordinator at 403-327-1011.

Varley Fund Application Process – Submission of Introductory Proposals

The Community Foundation will receive introductory proposals throughout the year in several categories which will fulfill the goals of the Varley Fund. Eligible organizations are invited to submit project proposals in one of four categories – innovation; community collaboration; education and training initiatives; or information and research. There are two guiding principles which will form the basis of evaluating and funding projects:

1. Project grants will focus on addressing community issues through the development of innovative and collaborative approaches.
2. The granting criteria is as open as possible to encourage creative solutions. The Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life is coordinated with the Foundation's Community Priorities Grant Program. Therefore proposals that focus mainly on capital expenses such as new construction, renovations, large equipment items, playgrounds, parks, and vehicles will NOT be funded by the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life. These proposals will be directed to the Community Priorities Grant Program.

Applicants are asked to submit a project proposal through the online application portal at www.cflsa.ca. Eligible organizations will choose one or more categories to submit an introductory proposal to meeting the goals of the Varley Fund:

Innovation – Project initiatives proposed by one or more organizations will encourage innovation through new approaches, new models, and new ways of making change for individuals in our communities.

Community Collaboration – Building community wide responses to local issues and opportunities is a goal of the Foundation's Vital Signs program. Project initiatives funded by the Varley Fund will encourage collaboration through mobilizing and facilitating individuals, groups, and communities to work together.

Education and training initiatives - The quality of life in rural communities thrives through opportunities for employment and the support people offer to community organizations. The Varley Fund invites education and training initiatives to support individuals and organizations in rural communities.

Information and research initiatives – The Community Foundation will consider proposals that will provide important information and research related to issues that will impact the sustainability of rural communities and the quality of life of citizens.

If project proposals meet the criteria of the fund, eligible organizations will be invited to complete a full application.

Application Form: Visit www.cflsa.ca to access the online application portal.

Grant Application Deadline: March 15

October 15

Information and consultation: Contact the Community Foundation office to discuss your project proposal ideas – 403-327-1011 or grants@cflsa.ca.