

Spring 2026

Expression of Interest Guide

International Development
Grant Program

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About This Guide

This guide is designed to help you decide whether to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Peter Gilgan Foundation's International Development grant program — and if you do, to help you make your submission as strong as it can be.

It outlines what we fund, what we look for, and what a compelling EOI looks like. It also provides detailed information on each of our six action areas, so you can read fully about the area most relevant to your work before you begin.

Our vision is to work with a small number of highly aligned, effective organizations, with one or two partners per action area. The EOI is how we begin building that candidate pool of registered Canadian charities. If you are selected to move forward, we will work with you directly to co-create the project scope and proposal — so your EOI is not a pitch. It is simply your opportunity to tell us why you are best positioned to achieve meaningful outcomes in one of our six action areas.

We know your time is limited. Our hope is that this guide gives you an honest picture of what we're looking for, so you can make the right decision for your organization.

If you have questions after reading this guide, please reach out to us at info@petergilganfoundation.org.



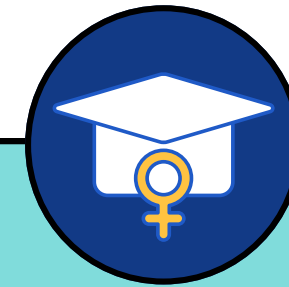
What We Fund

Our International Development grant program funds work in two focus areas:



Maternal & Child Health (MCH)

Improving survival, health, and long-term well-being for mothers and children through health systems, clean water and sanitation, and early childhood nutrition.



Women & Girls Opportunity (WGO)

Supporting women and girls to access education, build skills, and participate fully in economic life through girls' education, pathways to dignified work, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Our program prioritizes Sub-Saharan Africa. While this is not an absolute rule, organizations should consider honestly whether they have the presence, local partnerships, and capacity to work somewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa if ultimately selected. An organization whose work is based entirely outside of Africa is unlikely to be the right fit at this stage.

Maternal & Child Health – Action Areas

Paediatric and maternal health workforce development and quality of care - Strengthening health systems by building skilled clinical workforces, improving quality of care, and developing local leadership within health institutions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) - Expanding access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in communities, schools, and health facilities as a foundation for maternal and child health.

Early childhood nutrition, growth, and development - Improving maternal and early childhood nutrition and supporting healthy growth and development in the first years of life.

Detailed information on each action area – including what we look for in partners and the metrics we prioritize – is available later in this guide.

Women & Girls Opportunity – Action Areas

Girls' education – access, retention, and quality of learning - Ensuring girls can access, remain in, and meaningfully benefit from primary and secondary education as a foundation for lifelong agency and opportunity.

Adolescent and women's pathways to dignified work and economic agency - Supporting adolescent girls and women to transition into safe, dignified, and productive work through skills development and labour market access.

Climate-resilient livelihoods and economic opportunities for women - Supporting women to build sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods that increase income, resilience, and agency.

Detailed information on each action area – including what we look for in partners and the metrics we prioritize – is available later in this guide.

What We Don't Fund



Capital campaigns

Emergency relief

Endowments

Fundraising drives or events

Government services

Grantmaking intermediaries

Individuals

Scholarships



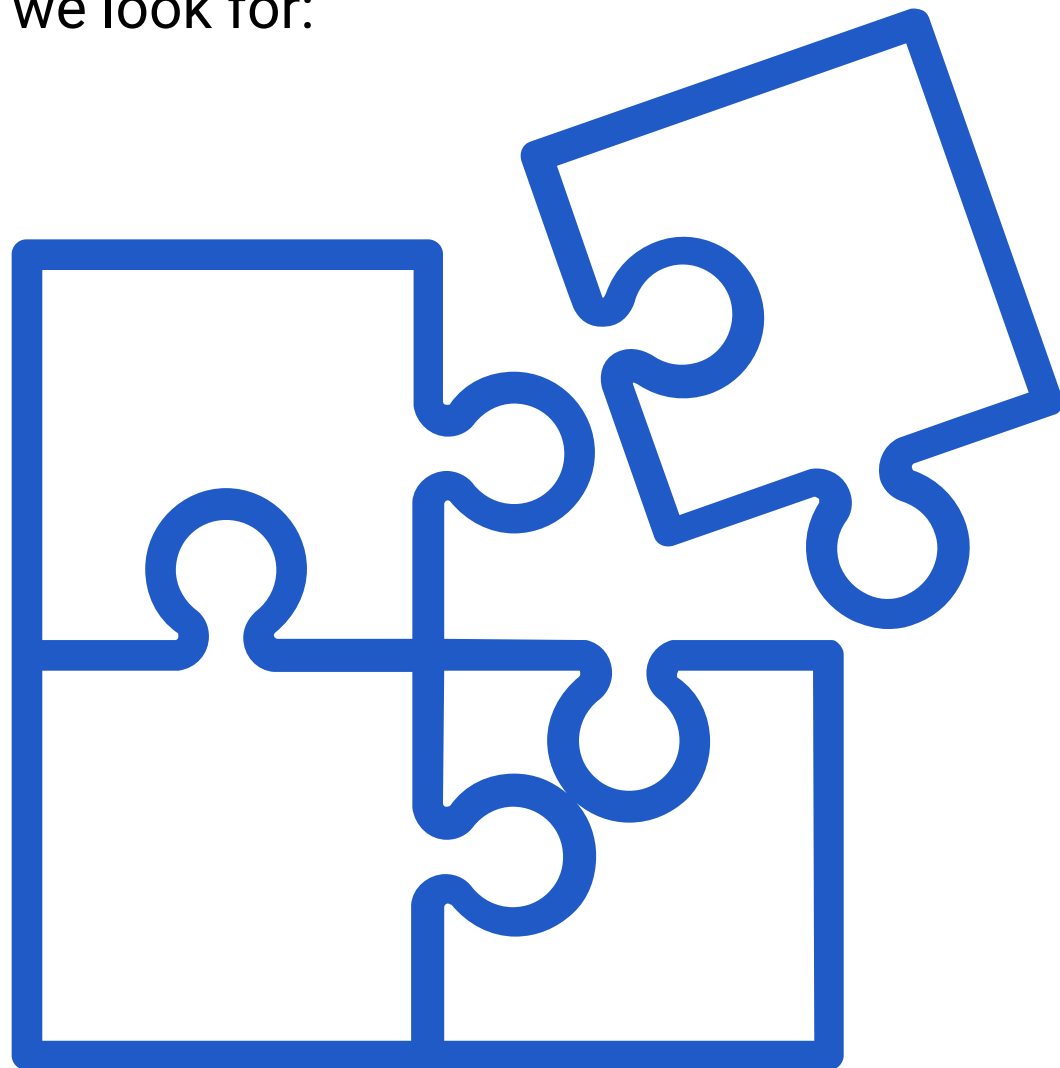
What Makes for a Strong EOI

Our vision is to work with a small number of highly aligned, effective organizations, with one or two partners per action area. The EOI is how we begin building that candidate pool of registered Canadian charities. The EOI is *not* an opportunity to pitch a specific project for funding. It is your opportunity to tell us why your organization is best positioned to achieve meaningful outcomes in one of the six action areas. Then, if you are selected to move forward, we will work with you directly to co-create the project scope and proposal.

We are looking for organizations whose work is grounded in evidence, led by strong local partners, and designed to produce durable, meaningful change. A strong EOI doesn't describe everything you do. It focuses on your strongest outcomes in one action area and answers one question clearly: why would your organization be the most effective partner we could choose?

What Stands Out to Us

We are most interested in organizations that can tell a compelling story about outcomes — not activities. Here is what we look for:



Evidence of durable change. Not how many people were reached, but what changed in their lives and whether it lasted. For example: not how many girls enrolled, but whether they graduated, whether learning outcomes improved, and by how much.

Specificity and honesty. Strong EOIs use real numbers, real timeframes, and are candid about what worked and what didn't. We are not looking for perfection. We are looking for learning.

Strong local leadership. Work that is led by or deeply embedded in the communities it serves.

A credible position in the field. Awareness of what others are doing and a clear sense of how your approach is distinct or complementary.

What Gives Us Pause

Most organizations doing work in our focus areas are doing good, meaningful work. This section is not about dismissing that – it's about helping you assess honestly whether this is the right fit, and the right moment, for your organization. Consider carefully before submitting if:

Your strongest story is about reach. If the most compelling thing you can share is how many people participated, but not what changed for them, this may not be the right moment for an EOI.

Your outcomes are activity-based. Workshops delivered, kits distributed, sessions held – these matter, but they are not what we are evaluating. We are looking for evidence of durable change.

You can't yet make the case for being the strongest partner. We are funding one or two organizations per action area. If your evidence base is still developing, there may be a stronger moment to engage with us in the future.

Your work is entirely outside of Sub-Saharan Africa. Our program is focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. If your organization has no presence or credible pathway to work there, this may not be the right fit at this stage.

The EOI Process

Our International Development grant program is in a period of intentional change. We are moving toward a model built around a smaller number of longer-term partnerships — relationships grounded in shared goals, mutual accountability, and sustained commitment.

This EOI process is the first step in that journey. Here is what to expect:

- **Submission window:** June 1 – July 13, 2026
- **After the window closes:** We may follow up with clarifying questions.
- **By end of August 2026:** All organizations that submit an EOI will hear from us — whether or not they are moving forward to the next stage.

Reminder: *This is the beginning of a multi-stage process. An EOI is not a full proposal. We are asking for a focused overview of your work, your outcomes, and your case for partnership. This EOI opportunity is only open to registered Canadian charities.*

What Your EOI Should Include

Your EOI must be no more than two pages in total – including all organizational information and your answers to the questions below. You may use any format you are comfortable with: Word, PowerPoint, PDF, etc.

Section 1 – Organization information

- Organization name
- Canadian charity number
- Primary contact name, title, and email address
- Website
- Which action area you are submitting for
- How did you learn about this EOI opportunity? For example: a current or past grant from the Peter Gilgan Foundation, a referral from a peer organization or funder, our website, or another channel.

What Your EOI Should Include

Section 2 – About your work

- **Question 1:** In two to three sentences, describe your organization's mission and the work you do in this action area – including where you work and who you serve.
- **Question 2:** What outcomes has your work achieved? Tell us about the change you have created – not the activities you have delivered. Use numbers and timeframes where you have them.
- **Question 3:** Why is your organization the strongest partner we could choose in this action area? Make the case for why your model, your evidence, and your position in this space set you apart.

Please submit a maximum of one EOI. If your work spans more than one action area, choose the area where your evidence and outcomes are strongest.

Submitting Your EOI

Please send your completed EOI by email to:
info@petergilganfoundation.org

Use the following subject line format:
EOI – [Action Area Name] – [Organization Name]

For example: EOI – Girls' Education – CharityChange
International

The submission window is open from June 1 to July 13, 2026.
All organizations that submit an EOI will hear from us by the
end of August – whether or not they are moving forward to the
next stage.



Explore the Action Areas

The following pages provide detailed information on each of our six action areas – including what we focus on, why it matters, what we look for in partners, and the outcomes and metrics we use to evaluate submissions. Click on an action area below to jump directly to that section.

We encourage you to read fully about the action area you plan to apply for before completing your EOI. The metrics listed are the kinds of evidence that will matter most in our review.

Maternal & Child Health

[Paediatric and maternal health workforce development and quality of care](#)

[Water, sanitation, and hygiene \(WASH\)](#)

[Early childhood nutrition, growth, and development](#)

Women & Girls Opportunity

[Girls' education – access, retention, and quality of learning](#)

[Adolescent and women's pathways to dignified work and economic agency](#)

[Climate-resilient livelihoods and economic opportunities for women](#)

Paediatric and maternal health workforce development and quality of care

Strengthening maternal, newborn, and paediatric health systems by building skilled clinical workforces, improving quality of care, and developing durable local leadership within health institutions.

Why this matters

The availability of trained health professionals is one of the most significant drivers of maternal and child survival. Investments in workforce development are highly cost-effective because they strengthen entire health systems, not just isolated services. By building clinical capacity, improving referral systems, and supporting local leadership, this work contributes to sustained reductions in preventable deaths and better long-term outcomes for mothers and children.

Paediatric and maternal health workforce development and quality of care

What we look for in partners

- Accredited or evidence-based training, mentorship, or fellowship models
- Strong partnerships with governments or public health systems
- Clear pathways to scale and long-term institutional strengthening
- A focus on quality of care, not only access
- Robust data systems to track outcomes and inform improvement

Indicators we prioritize

- Number of health professionals trained, mentored, or upskilled
- Retention or deployment of trained professionals in high-need settings over time
- Improvements in quality of care and clinical outcomes
- Strengthening of referral systems and clinical governance

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Improving maternal and child health outcomes by expanding access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in communities, schools, and/or health facilities.

Why this matters

Access to clean water and sanitation is one of the most cost-effective investments in global health. Poor WASH conditions are a root cause of maternal infections, neonatal illness, and childhood disease. WASH also reduces the time burden on women and girls, improving safety, health, and participation in education and economic life. Girls are more likely to stay in school when safe and dignified sanitation is available.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

What we look for in partners

- Scalable and sustainable WASH solutions in underserved settings
- Integration of WASH with health, education, or gender outcomes
- Strong community engagement and behaviour change approaches
- Partnerships with local governments or health systems
- Tracking of both access and downstream health and social outcomes

Indicators we prioritize

- Number of people gaining access to improved water, sanitation, or hygiene services
- Number of communities, schools, or facilities with improved WASH conditions
- Reduction in time spent collecting water, particularly for women and girls
- Reduction in WASH-related illness or absenteeism

Early childhood nutrition, growth, and development

Improving maternal and early childhood nutrition and supporting healthy growth and development in the first years of life.

Why this matters

Nutrition in the first 1,000 days is one of the strongest predictors of lifelong health, cognitive development, and economic opportunity. These investments are highly cost-effective and have intergenerational benefits. This work enables a shift from supporting child survival to supporting child thriving – well-nourished children are more likely to learn, succeed in school, and participate fully in economic life as adults.

Early childhood nutrition, growth, and development

What we look for in partners

- Evidence-based nutrition and early childhood development interventions
- Integration of nutrition with health systems or community-based platforms
- Behaviour change approaches at the household or caregiver level
- Potential for scale through public systems or large delivery platforms
- Tracking of outcomes beyond reach, including sustained improvements in practices

Indicators we prioritize

- Number of children and caregivers reached
- Improvements in nutrition outcomes, such as reductions in stunting or wasting
- Sustained adoption of improved feeding and caregiving practices
- Integration of nutrition services within broader health systems

Girls' education – access, retention, and quality of learning

Ensuring girls can access, remain in, and meaningfully benefit from primary and secondary education as a foundation for lifelong agency, health, and economic opportunity.

Why this matters

Girls' education is one of the most effective investments in global development. It is strongly linked to improved health, delayed marriage, higher lifetime earnings, and better outcomes for future generations. Improving both access and quality of learning ensures that education translates into real opportunity and agency – educated girls are more likely to become healthy mothers and contribute to stronger outcomes across communities.

Girls' education – access, retention, and quality of learning

What we look for in partners

- Approaches that address barriers to attendance, retention, and progression
- Evidence-based approaches to improving quality of learning
- Support for transitions between levels of education
- Community engagement that addresses social norms affecting girls' education
- Measurable learning outcomes

Indicators we prioritize

- Retention and completion rates at targeted levels of education
- Improvements in learning outcomes – for example, literacy rates, reading levels, or standardized assessment scores
- Evidence of sustained engagement in education pathways beyond the program period
- Number of girls supported to access or continue education

Adolescent and women's pathways to dignified work and economic agency

Supporting adolescent girls and women to transition into safe, dignified, and productive work through skills development, entrepreneurship, and labour market access.

Why this matters

Economic agency is a key driver of long-term well-being for women and their families. When women have access to dignified work, there are clear gains in health, nutrition, education, and household decision-making. Ensuring that education translates into employment or enterprise is critical to achieving lasting impact — strong economic pathways reinforce investments in girls' education and contribute to improved outcomes for children and families.

Adolescent and women's pathways to dignified work and economic agency

What we look for in partners

- Skills training aligned with local labour market demand
- Support for transitions from education to employment or entrepreneurship
- Approaches that address barriers such as safety, social norms, and unpaid care
- Strong links to employers, markets, or income opportunities
- Tracking of long-term outcomes beyond training completion

Indicators we prioritize

- Continued engagement in employment or self-employment over time – not just training completion
- Improvements in income, job quality, or economic stability
- Increased economic agency and decision-making power
- Number of women or adolescent girls completing training or work-readiness programmes

Climate-resilient livelihoods and economic opportunities for women

Supporting women to build sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods that increase income, resilience, and agency in the face of climate and economic shocks.

Why this matters

Investing in women's livelihoods delivers strong returns for households and communities — including improved child health, education, and economic stability. Integrating climate resilience ensures these gains hold over time. Increased income and stability enable women to invest in nutrition, health care, and education for their children, reinforcing outcomes across our two focus areas.

Climate-resilient livelihoods and economic opportunities for women

What we look for in partners

- Support for women's income generation in climate-affected or vulnerable settings
- Promotion of climate-resilient practices and diversified livelihoods
- Strengthening of market access and value-chain integration
- Measurable and sustained income gains
- Integration of environmental sustainability with economic outcomes

Indicators we prioritize

- Increased or stabilised income over time – not just participation in a program
- Adoption of climate-resilient practices or diversified livelihoods
- Evidence of improved economic resilience at the household level
- Number of women participating in livelihoods, skills, or enterprise programmes

Privacy & Data Use

We take your privacy seriously.

Any information you share with us through your EOI will remain internal to the Peter Gilgan Foundation. We will never share your submission, organizational documents, or any information you provide publicly without your explicit permission.

We may use AI tools to support internal tasks such as summarizing submissions or drafting materials. These tools are used through a paid, enterprise-level account that does not allow your data to be used for public model training or improvement.

Your information stays private, secure, and accessible only to our team. If you have questions or concerns about how your information is being used, please reach out — we are happy to talk it through.



Need Help?

If you have questions about whether your organization is a good fit, about a specific action area, or about how to approach your EOI – please reach out. We are happy to help.

info@petergilganfoundation.org

Please include your organization name and the action area you are considering in your message.

