



ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE RURBIC

Mazon Canada, 2024

Key Contacts:

Robbie Solway

Community Lead
robbie@mazoncanada.ca

Izzy Waxman

Executive Director
Izzy@mazoncanada.ca

2024 GROCERY GRANT RUBRICS

TWO STREAMS / TWO RUBRICS:

1) A General application

2) A Specialized application for programs serving primarily children, youth, and their families



The rubrics for these streams are detailed on the following pages. The 2024 Grocery Grant rubric (general / any ages) has blue headings. The 2024 grocery grant rubric (children, youth, and their families) has pink headings.

Recruitment for Mazon's allocations committee prioritizes frontline experience with low-income communities (Allocations Committee - social workers, non-profit staff, medical or justice system experience, etc).

If this sounds like you, and you're interested in participating in this volunteer led process, contact us at robbie@mazoncanada.ca.



2024 GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: GENERAL / ANY AGES

Located in a 'Low Service' Area (UP TO THREE POINTS)

2 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF Location Criteria (C) and/or (D) are true for the organization or program (e.g., program is located in a rural community or applicant indicates elsewhere that their program is one of the only sources of food aid for the region they serve)

OR

3 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF Location Criteria (A) and/or (B) are true for the organization or program (e.g., program is located on reserve or within a Nutrition North catchment area)

Location Criteria:

- (A) Located on reserve
- (B) Located within a Nutrition North catchment area
- (C) Located in a rural community
- (D) Indicates elsewhere in their application that their programs are the only (or one of the only) sources of food aid for the region they serve

Being Grassroots (ONE POINT)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant has more volunteers than staff members.

Please note: MAZON Canada values the metric of 'having more volunteers than staff members' because it has tended to serve as a good proxy for programs being grassroots and being community involved. It is important to note that we do not use this because we value organizations that rely on unpaid labour.

If you have suggestions for how we might better value grassroots programs without devaluing the importance of paid labour, please contact us at granting@mazoncanada.ca

GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: GENERAL / ANY AGES

Support for Vulnerable Populations (UP TO TWO POINTS)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant serves populations with a statistically higher risk of experiencing food insecurity (either exclusively, or at an “over 50%” threshold).

PLUS

0.5 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant serves populations with culturally or nutritionally specific needs (either exclusively, or at an “over 50%” threshold).

PLUS

0.5 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant's programming or method of food delivery is tailored to accommodate or meet the distinct needs of the specific population(s) they serve (either exclusively or at an “over 50%” threshold).

You may use the informal guide linked [here](#) as a secondary resource in determining whether the populations served by this program are at a higher risk of food insecurity.

Please note: Across all demographics, poverty and being low-income are some of the most common factors for increased risk of food insecurity. At nearly all our partner organizations, the majority of clientele are poor and/or low-income, so we do not use these factors as markers of increased risk of food insecurity in the Grocery Grant rubric. Each of these demographics often compounds with other axes of marginalization when it comes to food insecurity, some particularly so. As such, we have noted a couple of the most relevant intersectional risks in this guide.

Human lives and circumstances are far too complex to be slotted into easy yes/no categories, and the near-infinite possible intersections of identity categories outlined in the guide have the potential to amplify or mitigate risk for the groups involved.

Use your personal discretion if the demographic served is not represented in the guide, or if the group in question is marked as 'depends' (e.g., their risk level is significantly determined by other identity/socioeconomic factors). An applicant may also make an argument for their clients' vulnerability in ways not represented below. Wherever possible, defer to the applicant's expertise. DO NOT use the guide as a primary resource for assigning points. If, after consulting this list, you are still unsure whether to award a point: reach out to another allocations committee member for a second opinion, or apply an Orange Flag.

GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: GENERAL / ANY AGES

Offering Wrap-around Non-Food Supports (UP TO THREE POINTS)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant offers community building or activity oriented programming (includes events and programs designed to bring people together like community kitchens, gardens, game nights, arts initiatives, etc).

OR

TWO POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant offers complex/specialized/ professional supports (includes programs like addictions counselling, safe injection, facilitating referrals to medical specialists, placement in half-way houses/shelter homes, etc).

OR

THREE POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant offers programming that provides clients with material support in securing, or building towards, permanent housing or stable employment OR offers services that assist clients with navigating and securing Employment Insurance (EI) claims or other social/financial assistance (such as Ontario Works (OW), Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), etc.)

PLUS

WRAP-AROUND REVIEWER'S DISCRETION (ONE POINT):

To be awarded if the applicant demonstrates excellence in their community support or complex/specialized support programming such that the reviewer determines that these programs are not adequately valued at the 1 or 2 point level. If you wish to assign 0.5 or 1 discretionary point, please describe your reasoning in the "Discretionary Points" section provided.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Organizations cannot earn points based on multiple categories of support. Reviewer's Discretion points do not qualify as a "category of support", and can therefore be awarded in addition to the 1 point associated with community supports, or the 2 points associated with specialized supports

For example: If an organization provides community supports (1 Point) and specialized supports (2 Points), they would receive 2 points, NOT 3.

If the applicant offers specialized supports but does not offer community connections, they would still receive 2 points. Points awarded on a discretionary basis cannot result in an outcome over the maximum possible 3 points.

GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: GENERAL / ANY AGES

Community Solidarity (UP TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO POINTS)

0.5 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant regularly solicits feedback from clients (eg. through surveys, focus groups, townhall-style discussions, etc.) AND meaningfully incorporates insights gleaned through these efforts into their programming and institutional decision-making processes.

PLUS

0.5 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant meaningfully contributes to communities of practice, convenes expert committees comprised of people with relevant lived experience, or participates in regular community consultation AND meaningfully incorporates insights gleaned through these efforts into their programming and institutional decision-making processes.

PLUS

0.5 POINTS* ARE AWARDED IF a significant portion of volunteers are former clients, or share relevant lived experience with clients.

*For 100% volunteer run applicants, this criterion is worth a full 1 POINT.

PLUS

1 POINT IS AWARDED IF a significant portion of staff members are former clients, or share relevant lived experience with clients.

PLUS

2 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF a significant portion of the organization's leadership (on staff, or in high-level volunteer roles) share relevant lived experience with clients.

Priority Food Sources (ONE POINT)

More than 10% of food served is acquired through food rescue efforts AND explanation of food rescue policies and partnerships seems credible. If rescue exceeds 10% but applicant does not account for the policies and partnerships that make this possible, reviewers are required to contact the applicant for clarification.

GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: GENERAL / ANY AGES

BEING SMALL (UP TO THREE POINTS)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF year-to-date food spending is less than \$50,000.

OR

TWO POINTS ARE AWARDED IF applicant revenues on most recent financial statement are between \$150,000 and \$300,000.

OR

THREE POINTS ARE AWARDED IF applicant revenues on most recent financial statement are below \$150,000.

URGENT NEED (UP TO TWO POINTS)

Any applicant experiencing or anticipating significant financial challenges with the potential to meaningfully disrupt programming.

For example, an organization projecting an imminent funding shortfall, or an organization that needs additional resources to adequately respond to a critical emergent need (feeding recently arrived refugees, or scaling up to accommodate an increased number of requests for service), etc.

Note: If you wish to award points for Urgent Need, please provide justification in the notes section. There are no rigid criteria for defining Urgent Need.

Remember, each point is equivalent to approximately \$400. If an applicant is experiencing a \$1,000,000 shortfall, consider whether these additional points will meaningfully impact their ability to continue providing for their clients.



2024 GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: CHILDREN / YOUTH

Located in a 'Low Service' Area (UP TO THREE POINTS)

2 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF Location Criteria (C) and/or (D) are true for the organization or program (e.g., program is located in a rural community or applicant indicates elsewhere that their program is one of the only sources of food aid for the region they serve)

OR

3 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF Location Criteria (A) and/or (B) are true for the organization or program (e.g., program is located on reserve or within a Nutrition North catchment area)

Location Criteria:

- (A) Located on reserve
- (B) Located within a Nutrition North catchment area
- (C) Located in a rural community
- (D) Indicates elsewhere in their application that their programs are the only (or one of the only) sources of food aid for the region they serve

Support for Vulnerable Populations (UP TO ONE POINT)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant serves populations with a statistically higher risk of experiencing food insecurity (either exclusively, or at an "over 50%" threshold).

You may use the informal guide linked [here](#) as a secondary resource in determining whether the populations served by this program are at a higher risk of food insecurity.

Community Solidarity (UP TO ONE POINT)

1 POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant's food or service provision is guided by or led by, on an ongoing basis, the community they serve (e.g., a significant portion of the staff and volunteers at an Indigenous childcare centre are Indigenous themselves; a program for high school students engages the teenagers in ongoing community consultations, decision-making, and priority-setting, and implements changes to their menu and delivery model based on these processes).



GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: CHILDREN / YOUTH

Engaging Support Systems (UP TO ONE POINT)

0.5 POINTS: engaging clients' families or support systems through skill-building (e.g., cooking classes, financial literacy workshops, etc).

OR

1 POINT for any of the following:

- Engaging and strengthening clients' families or support systems through developing healthy life and food practices outside of the program (e.g., household menu planning, client access to family nutritionists, parent-child workshops, child and family support workers, etc).
- Engaging and strengthening clients' families and support systems through social and emotional supports (e.g., family counselling, support groups, etc).
- Supporting clients in finding, developing, or nurturing their own support systems (e.g., mentorship programs, community-organizing work, etc).

Offering Non-Food Wrap-around Supports (UP TO TWO POINTS)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant offers community building, weekly (or more) drop-in space, or activity-oriented programming.

PLUS

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant offers specialized supports for the client's wellbeing and development (e.g., family counselling, literacy programs, etc.), OR programs that provide material supports (e.g., clothing provision, helping families secure permanent housing).



GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: CHILDREN / YOUTH

COORDINATING EFFORTS (UP TO A MAXIMUM OF ONE POINT)

0.5 POINTS ARE AWARDED IF the applicant refers clients to two or more types of institutions on an ongoing basis.

OR

1 POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant partners with one or more other institutions on programming, or other substantive partnership efforts, on an ongoing basis

FOOD QUALITY (UP TO ONE POINT)

1 POINT IS AWARDED IF the applicant has clear and credible practices, structures, and/or standards in place to support the nutritional quality of their program

PRIORITY FOOD SOURCES (UP TO ONE POINT)

1 POINT IS AWARDED IF more than 10% of food served is acquired through food rescue efforts AND explanation of food rescue policies and partnerships seems credible. If rescue exceeds 10% but applicant does not account for the policies and partnerships that make this possible, reviewers are required to contact the applicant for clarification.

BEING SMALL (UP TO THREE POINTS)

ONE POINT IS AWARDED IF YTD food spending is less than \$50,000.

OR

TWO POINTS ARE AWARDED IF applicant revenues on most recent financial statement are between \$150,000 and \$300,000

OR

THREE POINTS ARE AWARDED IF applicant revenues on most recent financial statement are below \$150,000.



GROCERY GRANT RUBRIC: CHILDREN / YOUTH

URGENT NEED (UP TO TWO POINTS)

Any applicant experiencing or anticipating significant financial challenges with the potential to meaningfully disrupt programming.

For example, an organization projecting an imminent funding shortfall, an organization that needs additional resources to adequately respond to a critical emergent need (feeding recently arrived refugees, or scaling up to accommodate an increased number of requests for service, etc).



Interested in joining?

This volunteer led, community driven process would not be possible without our incredible allocations committee members.

If you are interested in joining our allocations committee, please contact Robbie Solway, Community Lead, at robbie@mazoncanada.ca.

With deep gratitude and warm wishes,

The Staff of Mazon Canada

