



Target Communities & IRCC Eligibility: A Guide for BUILD BC-Yukon CFP 2026 Applicants

At BUILD BC-Yukon, we know that “settlement” doesn't have an expiry date. A newcomer doesn't stop needing support exactly three years after they land. We recognize that:

- **Integration is lifelong:** Support is often needed for those who have been here for years but are now facing new systems (like the school system for their children or the health care system for their aging parents).
- **Intergenerational connection:** Younger generations often act as navigators for their elders and elders provide the cultural grounding for youth.
- **Building community:** Settlement is about moving from "surviving" to "thriving" and becoming a connected part of the community.

Who are "Eligible Newcomers" (IRCC-Defined)?

To ensure your project budget is eligible, your services and activities must primarily support individuals who fall into these categories:

1. **Permanent Residents:** Individuals who have been granted permanent resident status but have not yet become Canadian citizens.
2. **Protected Persons:** Individuals recognized as Refugees or persons in need of protection (including those with a positive Notice of Decision).
3. **Individuals in Canada on a Temporary Resident Permit:** Only those who have been issued a permit to stay in Canada for the purpose of receiving protection (e.g., CUAET/Ukrainian pathway or specific human rights-based permits).
4. **Live-in Caregivers:** Individuals who are in Canada under the Live-in Caregiver Program.

Navigating "Ineligible" Clients in a Grassroots Context

IRCC funding (and therefore this grant) generally **cannot** be used for the direct service costs of:

- **Canadian Citizens:** Once a person becomes a citizen, they are technically no longer an "IRCC client."
- **Foreign Students / International Students:** Individuals on a study permit.



- **Temporary Foreign Workers:** Individuals on a standard work permit (unless they have transitioned to PR status).
- **Visitors:** People in Canada on a tourist visa.

How to Frame Your Rationale for "Diverse" Communities

If your organization serves a mix of people (some citizens, some newcomers, some students), here are some ways to describe your project:

- 1. The "Majority" Rule** Ensure your project description focuses on how the **primary beneficiaries** are the eligible newcomers listed above. Even if a workshop is "open to everyone," your rationale should explain that the content is designed to solve the specific barriers faced by **Permanent Residents** and **Refugees**.
- 2. The Intergenerational Approach** When serving families, focus on the **Primary Applicant**. If a PR mother attends a workshop and brings her Canadian-born child, the service is still considered an IRCC service because it supports the **Permanent Resident parent** to navigate the system for their family.
- 3. The "Building Connection" Rationale** Frame your activities as **Community Integration**. Explain that by bringing "long-term immigrants" (who may be citizens) together with "new arrivals" (PRs), you are creating a peer-mentorship model that accelerates the settlement of the newcomers. You are building **Social Capital**.

Checklist for Your Application Rationale

When describing your clients, use these "strength-based" phrases:

- *"Our project targets **Permanent Residents** and **Protected Persons** who are seeking to deepen their community roots."*
- *"We utilize **Intergenerational Navigation**, where youth with lived experience support PR elders to access digital healthcare."*
- *"We address **Long-term Settlement Gaps** for newcomers who have been in Canada for several years but still face systemic barriers to integration."*

If your client is...	Can you use BUILD funds for their direct costs?	Strategy for the Application
A Refugee/Permanent Resident	YES	This is your core target group.



A Canadian Citizen	Indirectly	Focus on how their involvement supports a PR or Refugee (e.g., as a mentor or volunteer).
A International Student	No (Directly)	Mention them only as part of the broader "community" context, not the primary target.

Navigating Specific Groups

Indigenous Communities

While IRCC funding is primarily for "newcomers to Canada," we recognize the deep connection between Indigenous communities and racialized newcomers.

- **The Rationale:** If your project involves Indigenous communities, frame it as "**Building Bridges**" or "**Cultural Safety Training**." For example: "Training our staff in Indigenous-led protocols to better welcome and ground newly arrived refugees on this land."

Migrant Women & Mothers

- **The Rationale:** As discussed, integration isn't just for the first year. Focus on the fact that these women are **Permanent Residents** who are now navigating long-term systems (school for children, re-certification for work). IRCC values support that helps women move from "initial arrival" to "full economic and social participation."

In your application, you can use a description like this to satisfy both community needs and IRCC rules:

*"Our organization serves **Racialized Migrant Women** who have lived in BC for 3–7 years. While they are no longer 'newly arrived,' they remain **Permanent Residents** facing systemic barriers in the healthcare system. By funding our 'Mothers' Circle' project, BUILD supports this community to move toward long-term stability and deeper community connection."*

Racialized Youth

- **The Rationale:** Even if youth have been here for 5 or 10 years, if they are still **Permanent Residents**, they are eligible. Focus on "Youth-Led Navigation" and "Labour Rights," which are critical for young people entering the workforce for the first time.



Newcomer Status Verification Checklist

While it is technically accurate that "Status" is the legal requirement for federal funding, focusing too heavily on this can feel **exclusionary** or **transactional** to grassroots organizations (GROs) that view their community as a whole, regardless of legal paperwork.

Below is an assessment of your current framing and a "responsive" version that balances technical IRCC requirements with the values of community-led work.

Step 1: Identify the Eligible Newcomer Category

A person is an "eligible newcomer" if they hold one of the following statuses:

- ☐ **Permanent Resident (PR):** An individual who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently but is not yet a Canadian citizen.
- ☐ **Protected Person:** Someone whom the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) or IRCC has determined to be a Convention Refugee or a person in need of protection.
- ☐ **Approved Future Permanent Resident:** Individuals who have received an official letter from IRCC confirming they are "Approved in Principle" (AIP) for permanent residency.
- ☐ **CUAET Holder / Specific Crisis Pathway:** Ukrainian nationals and their family members in Canada with valid temporary resident status, or others under exceptional departmental responses (e.g., Gaza).
- ☐ **Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP) Applicant:** Specific temporary residents with a complete PR application in progress.

Step 2: Verify Documentation

To confirm eligibility, organizations should be prepared to see (but not necessarily store) one of the following official documents:

- **For PRs:** Permanent Resident Card or a "Confirmation of Permanent Residence" (CoPR) document.
- **For Refugees:** A positive "Notice of Decision" letter from the IRB or a Refugee Protection Claimant Document.
- **For Future PRs:** An official "Approval in Principle" letter from IRCC.
- **For Temporary Protected Status:** Valid CUAET visa documentation or a Temporary Resident Permit.



Step 3: Define the "Settlement Journey" (The Rationale)

Reviewers want to know *why* these newcomers need your help. Use this section to explain that settlement is a long-term process:

- [] **Intergenerational Support:** Is the project helping a PR parent navigate school for their child? (Eligible because it supports the PR parent's integration).
- [] **Community Connection:** Is the project connecting "long-term" PRs with "newly arrived" PRs to build social networks? (Eligible as it builds community cohesion).
- [] **System Navigation:** Is the project helping PRs who have been in Canada for years but are facing new barriers (like elder care or labor rights)? (Eligible because they are still PRs).

Important: Who is NOT a Primary Eligible Client?

While your organization may serve these groups as part of your broader community, their direct costs (e.g., specific stipends or 1-on-1 counseling fees) generally **cannot** be the primary focus of this grant:

- [] **Canadian Citizens:** Once a person takes the oath, they are no longer an "IRCC client".
- [] **Standard Foreign Students/Workers:** Most people on study or work permits are not eligible unless they have a clear, approved pathway to PR (like AIP).
- [] **Visitors:** People in Canada on a tourist visa.

Application Tip: Use "Status-Inclusive" Language

Instead of writing "*We help all immigrants in our neighbourhood,*" write:

*"Our project prioritizes **Permanent Residents and Protected Persons** from the [Specific Community] who are navigating intergenerational settlement barriers."*