



Community ACCESS-ability Program Guidelines

The Community ACCESS-ability Program is one way the Government of Nova Scotia is demonstrating its commitment to equal opportunity and improving access to community facilities and venues for persons with disabilities. Under this program, funds are available for cost shared grants to community groups for accessibility related capital improvements.

Proposals for ACCESS-ability Grants are welcome from non-profit community organizations or groups, and municipalities.

Under this program, the Provincial Government will make grants of up to two thirds of the direct and indirect costs of renovations, installations, and/or equipment, with the sponsoring organization being responsible for raising at least one third of their improvement project's funding from other sources. The maximum grant available for individual projects is \$10,000. Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate that the improvement proposed is part of an overall plan and commitment to the inclusiveness of persons with disabilities.

Guidelines

Objective: To assist non-profit community organizations or groups and municipalities with the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities in public buildings and spaces.

Eligibility

Funding is available to non-profit community organizations or groups, and municipalities for renovations that will provide universal public accessibility or to upgrade existing accessible facilities to improve universal public accessibility.

Organizations are eligible to receive funding for one project per fiscal year. See list of eligible projects below.

Eligible facilities must be open for use by all community members not just to those who belong to the applying organization or attend events sponsored by the applicant. For example, a curling club or church hall must be made available to the public to hold events not just available for club related events.

Projects involving new construction are required to meet the Barrier Free Design requirements of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations and therefore are not eligible for funding under this program. Additions to existing structures are not eligible under this program.

Expenditures for renovations and equipment incurred prior to April 1st, 2018 will not be eligible for cost sharing under this program. However, if the applicant chooses to incur the expenditure prior to approval, they assume the risk of the project not being approved under the Community ACCESS-ability Program and being responsible for 100% of the project costs.

Funding applications for improvements to leased premises will be considered, provided the lease period extends to at least two years beyond the date the application is submitted to the department.

Eligible types of facilities include the following:

- community halls/meeting facilities
- libraries
- community parks or playgrounds
- community cultural/heritage facilities
- shelters/group homes [non profit]
- sport & recreation facilities

Ineligible facilities include

- federal and provincial government owned buildings
- private home/buildings
- church sanctuaries
- for profit entertainment facilities

Eligible types of projects include the following:

- ramps, power door operators and lever door handles (see list of eligible expenses below)
- barrier free washrooms (see list of eligible expenses below)
- elevators and/or lifts
- audio signals and loops and lighting/color contrasting for visually impaired
- accessible portion of community playgrounds

Eligible types of organizations are:

- non profit community organizations or groups
- municipalities

Funding

Funding will be available across the province to eligible applicants who wish to make their facilities universally accessible. Grants of up to 66.6% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible project will be provided. Cost sharing is required, but applicants may use donated materials or in kind work as part of their contribution. Eligible in kind work only includes trade labour involved in the project (ie design, electrical, plumbing, construction). For unskilled labour, applicants may report up to \$20.00 per hour rate. For skilled labour, applicants may use contractor’s commercial rate. Please include a copy of the contractor’s professional ID card.

Grants from other government sources may affect the amount of grant awarded under this program.

Program funding is limited. Consequently, it may not be possible to respond favorably to all requests for assistance.

Documentation Required

Proposals must be accompanied by a completed ACCESS-ability [Grant Application Form](#) and required documentation. Please use the checklist on the Grant Application Form. Incomplete submissions will delay consideration of your project.

Application Dates:

Application Dates: Applications for 2018/19 will be accepted every two months from May 15th to Jan 15th, 2019. **Please note that all projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2019).** Applications will be reviewed by staff at the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and recommendations for approval made to the Minister. The approval process can take up to eight weeks.

Please note that all projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year, March 31st, 2019.

For more information contact:

Grant Manager:

Karen Parusel (902) 424-1723

Or your closest regional office:

Central Regional Office

Michelle Aucoin (902) 424-6608

Cape Breton Regional Office

Larry Maxwell (902) 563-2380

Valley Regional Office

Meg Cuming (902) 679-4390

Highland Regional Office

Rae Gunn (902) 863-7380

South Shore Regional Office

Debby Smith (902) 634-7505

Fundy Regional Office

Peter McCracken (902) 893-6215

Community ACCESS-ability Program Eligible Project Expenses

1. Ramps, Power Door Operators and Lever Door Handles:

Eligible expenses:

- Materials for new ramp including railing
- Power door operator and lever door handles
- Accessible door (wheelchair width)
- Cost of installing ramp, railing, power door operator and door handle
- Site preparation and demolition of old ramp if new ramp is being installed in the same location

Ineligible expenses

- Removal/demolition of old ramp if it is not in the same location as the new ramp
- Lighting
- Administration costs

2. Barrier Free Washrooms:

Eligible expenses:

- Accessible stall
- Grab bars
- Accessible toilet
- Wheelchair level toilet tissue holders
- Wheelchair level sinks
- Wheelchair level counter tops
- Wheelchair level mirrors
- Wheelchair level paper towel holders
- Plumbing costs associated with accessible features
- Wheelchair level change table
- Accessible door (wheelchair width) including power door operator
- Cost for lowering light switch or installing motion sensed switch
- Noise barrier

Ineligible expenses:

- Flooring
- Framing & roofing
- Painting
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Ceiling tiles
- Administration costs