



Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Guidelines 2020-2021

About Nova Scotia's Commitment to Reducing Poverty

Reducing poverty is a complex issue that requires considerable collaboration and partnership development between government departments, community organizations, stakeholders, and all levels of government. The Government of Nova Scotia has made a 20-million-dollar five-year investment in Poverty Reduction. The goal is to support innovative projects that are designed to improve the lives of low-income Nova Scotians. The results, outcomes and approaches from these projects will be collected to help inform and guide actions for poverty reduction from 2022 onward.

The Province's Poverty Reduction work is guided by four objectives:

- **Building** vibrant communities by investing in community expertise
- **Preventing** poverty by breaking the cycle
- **Alleviating** the hardship of poverty through improved services
- **Enabling** Nova Scotians to exit poverty by building capacity

2020–2021 Focus and Themes

This year's themes are:

- Children
- Youth Transition
- Housing
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Economic Inclusion (Workforce Attachment)
- Food Security
- Transportation

Building Vibrant Communities (BVC) Grants

Building Vibrant Communities (BVC) Grants offer communities an opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to:

- alleviate the impacts of poverty
- prevent the cycle of poverty
- build capacity in their local communities to address their own poverty-related priorities
- collaborate with other community partners
- focus on innovative approaches that create or increase opportunities for low-income community members

Grant Applications and Assessment

Poverty Reduction work over the past three years has included evaluation which has resulted in key learnings and promising practices. This year, these areas will be considered by the grant assessment panel. Projects that demonstrate how these practices are incorporated into their project may be given preference. In addition, decision-making may prioritize projects which address challenges that have been created or worsened by COVID-19. Projects may include the costs of technological adaptations required to make projects virtually accessible.

The promising practices resulting from the evaluation and considered in proposal submissions are approaches that:

- Intentionally address the needs and conditions of vulnerable populations who are susceptible to systemic barriers and socio-economic exclusion.
- Support children and youth, through whole family approaches; engaging entire families instead of focusing on one member of the family.
- Build new, and strengthen existing partnerships based on trust and shared contributions. Ensure this includes local partners who have relationships with community, and insight into community priorities.
- Identify and employ communication approaches that the target audience regularly accesses in order to promote participation of those who would most benefit from the program or service.
- Adapt programming and service delivery to fit within the complex hardships and realities of people living in poverty, including flexible approaches (i.e. Drop-in sessions versus multi-week commitments, 'Every door is the right door' or multiple access points).
- Foster reciprocal learning for participants and systems (including staff, volunteers, service providers) to respect insights gained through first voice expertise.
- Coordinate among services and supports to develop wrap-around approaches that address multiple social determinants of health.

- Practice equity-focused approaches by:
 - Cultivating culturally representative partnerships with organizations that have trusted relationships with community.
 - Including representative voices so that policies, services, and programs are tailored to community-identified priorities.
 - Designing culturally appropriate and inclusive programming, policies, and services.
 - Champion inclusive practices and opportunities across all sectors.
- Support the alleviation of systemic barriers that obstruct participation such as, childcare, food, transportation, and housing.

Evaluation

Successful applicants will be required to participate in the poverty reduction evaluation and provide a final report. Staff and evaluators will be available to support these processes.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered non-profit society/cooperative in good standing
- Registered Canadian charities (actively operating in Nova Scotia)
- Post-secondary institutions
- Federally incorporated non-profit organization
- Mi'kmaw Band Councils
- Municipalities, Townships, etc.
- Social Enterprises/Community Interest Companies
- Incorporated businesses

Ineligible Activities

- Fundraising events or activities
- Major building development or major equipment purchases
- Applications from individuals
- Expenses incurred **prior** to November 15, 2020
- Research, studies, focus groups or public meetings. The BVC grants are intended to support action-orientated activities that will guide future actions in poverty reduction.

Funding

Funding is available for up to \$50,000 per project. Organizations may only submit ONE application/project. A financial contribution from the applicant is not required for BVC grants.

Tier 1 – Funding

- For requests up to \$5,000.

Tier 2 – Funding

- For requests \$5,001 to \$50,000.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership with a minimum of 2 other community partners is required. These partners must have an active role in the project and confirm their participation in writing. Partners can be other non-profit society/cooperative, charities, postsecondary institutions, federally incorporated non-profit organization, Mi'kmaw Band Councils, municipalities, government departments, social enterprises/ Community Interest Companies, incorporated businesses.

Deadlines and Project Start/End Dates

Applications must be received by 11:59 PM, January 15, 2021.

Projects must have a defined start and end dates. Eligible projects must start after **November 15, 2020** and can not extend beyond **December 31, 2021**.

For more information, contact:

Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage

Tel.: 902-424-5215

Email: communitiesns@novascotia.ca