

# Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Guidelines  
2018-2019

## About Nova Scotia's Commitment to Reducing Poverty

Reducing poverty is a complex issue that crosses most government departments, requires the involvement of community, and benefits most from a collaborative approach. The Government of Nova Scotia made a 20-million-dollar, four-year investment for Poverty Reduction. The goal is to work with and support innovative projects that are designed to address poverty and improve the lives of low-income Nova Scotians. The results, outcomes and approaches from these projects will be collected to better understand what has been most effective, and help form a *Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Blueprint* that will guide actions for poverty reduction from 2021 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

### 2018-2019 Themes

During the four year period, different themes will be chosen to target projects. This year's themes are:

- Children
- Housing
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Economic Inclusion (Workforce Attachment)

## Building Vibrant Communities Grants

This program offers 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

- address root causes of poverty
- focus on innovative approaches that create or increase opportunities for low-income community members

## Grant Applications and Evaluation

Building Vibrant Communities Grant applications must:

- Demonstrate how the project focuses on one, or more, of the theme areas.
- Clearly demonstrate how the project contributes to addressing poverty.
- Identify the lasting impacts that will result from the project. (i.e. what will be learned by the end of the project, etc.)
- Explain who will participate and benefit from the project. Will the project engage and involve traditionally marginalized community members? Is the project available in or with traditionally marginalized communities?
- How many people do you plan to engage or have participate in the project?
- Clearly demonstrate how partnerships and/or volunteerism will be leveraged.
- Demonstrate how the work will be evaluated. (Details about the evaluation process will be provided when grants are awarded. Evaluators will work with successful applicants.)

### Evaluation

Successful applicants will be required to participate in the poverty reduction evaluation. The evaluation will include a pre-survey with participants before the project begins and post-survey with participants after it has ended. Evaluators will be available to support the implementation of the evaluation.

## 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 receipt of application
- 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 submit applications for more than one project. Each application should be completed separately unless they are inter-related, in which case they should be submitted together as one proposal for the total of \$50,000. A financial contribution from the applicant is not required for BVC grants.

### Tier 1 – Seed Funding

- For requests up to \$5,000.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership is not required.
- Pre-and post-testing must be completed for evaluation purposes.

### Tier 2 – Community Collaborations

- For requests \$5,001 to \$50,000.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership with at minimum of 2 other community partners is required. These partners must have an active role in the project and confirm their participation. These can be other non-profit society/cooperative, charities, Post-secondary institutions, Federally-incorporated non-profit organization, Mi'kmaw Band Councils, Municipalities, Government Departments, Social Enterprises/Community Interest Companies, Incorporated businesses. (An Incorporated Business will be acceptable as a partner for community projects.)
- Preference will be given to projects that include in-kind contributions such as goods, services, space, expertise, volunteer effort, etc.

## Deadlines and Project Start/End Dates

**Applications must be received by 11:59 PM, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**All Applicants will be informed of grant decisions by letter, the week of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Projects must have a defined start and end dates.

Projects must start prior to December 31, 2018.

For more information, contact:

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