



# Community Access-Ability Program Guidelines

## Objective:

To assist non-profit community organizations and municipalities with the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities in public buildings and spaces. Proposals are welcome from non-profit organizations, Nova Scotian Mi'kmaw Band Councils, and municipalities.

Under this program, the Provincial Government invests up to two thirds of the costs of improvements, with the applicant responsible for one third of the project's funding. 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.

## Eligibility

Funding is available for improvements that will provide universal public accessibility or to upgrade existing accessible features. Organizations are eligible to receive funding for one project per fiscal year.

Eligible facilities must be open for use by all community members not just to those who belong to the applying organization. For example, a curling club or church hall must be open to the general public, not just for members.

New construction is not eligible for funding under this program. Additions to existing structures may be considered if they are designed to improve accessibility.

Expenditures for renovations and equipment incurred prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 will not be eligible. 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 facilities include:

- community halls/meeting facilities
- libraries
- community parks or playgrounds
- community cultural/heritage facilities
- non-profit shelters/group homes
- sport & recreation facilities
- Royal Canadian Legions
- municipal buildings

## Ineligible facilities include: Ineligible facilities include:

- federally or provincially owned buildings
- private home/buildings
- church sanctuaries
- for-profit 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

### **Funding**

- Up to 66.6% of eligible costs to a maximum \$50,000 per project.
- Applicants may use donated materials or in-kind work as part of their contribution.
- Eligible in-kind contributions include labour involved in the project (ie design, electrical, plumbing, etc.).
- 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.
- Applicants are asked to provide a complete description of any in-kind contributions as part of their application, including a description of the service or product, and cost.

### **Tier 1 – Community Organizations**

- For requests up to \$10,000.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership is not required.
- 100% funding in one payment with project approval.

### **Tier 2 – Convening Organizations/Community Collaborations**

- For requests \$10,001 to \$50,000.
- **Convening Organization:** has a demonstrated mandate to work with persons with disabilities.
- **Community Collaboration:** 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 in writing.
- Funding is provided in two payments: 80% with project approval, 20% when the project is completed, and the final report approved

### **Documentation Required**

Proposals must be completed using the Access-Ability [Grant Application Form](#) and required documentation. Please use the checklist on the application form to ensure you have submitted all required information. Incomplete submissions will delay the consideration of your project.

### **Application Dates:**

Applications deadlines for 2019-2020: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, August 1<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 1<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Please note that all projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 2020.** Applications will be reviewed by staff at the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and recommendations for approval made to the Minister. Decisions may take up to ten weeks.

For more information contact:

**Grant Manager:**

Karen Parusel

[Karen.Parusel@novascotia.ca](mailto:Karen.Parusel@novascotia.ca)

(902) 424-1723

**Or your closest regional office:**

**Central Regional Office**

Andrea Redmond (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) 893-621