

Community Access-Ability Program

Program Guidelines 2020-2021



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'kmaq Bands, 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 1st, 2020 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

- Federally or provincially owned buildings
- Private homes/buildings
- Church sanctuaries
- For-profit facilities

Eligible types of projects include the following

- Ramps, power door operators and lever door handles
- Barrier free washrooms
- Elevators and/or lifts
- Audio signals and loops and lighting/color contrasting for visually impaired
- Accessible portion of community playgrounds

Funding

- Applicants may use donated materials or in-kind work as part of their contribution.
- Eligible in-kind contributions include labour involved in the project (i.e., 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

- Up to 66.6% of eligible costs to a maximum \$10,000 per project.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership is not required.
- 100% funding in one payment with project approval.

Tier 2 – Convening Organizations/Community Collaborations

- Only one deadline: May 1, 2020
- Up to 66.6% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per project.
- Applicant must be:
 - **Convening Organization:** an organization with a demonstrated mandate to work with persons with disabilities, or
 - **Community Collaboration:** a demonstrated collaboration/partnership with a minimum of two community convening organizations required. These partners must have a mandate to serve disabled citizens and play an active role in the project, confirmed 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 Deadline Dates

Tier 1: March 2, 2020
May 1, 2020
September 25, 2020

Tier 2: May 1, 2020

Please Note:

- There is only one 2020-2021 deadline (May 1, 2020) for Tier 2 applications, i.e., for projects requiring funding that is more than \$10,000 and up to \$50,000.
- All projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year March 31, 2021.
- 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 10 weeks.

For more information contact:

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