

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'kmaq councils or groups and entities from the MASH sector (Municipal, Academic institutions, Schools and Hospitals).

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 improvements 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 submit one application per year.

Eligible facilities must be open for use by all community members and not just to those who belong to the applying organization. For example, a curling club or church hall must be open to the public and 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. All projects must strive to provide an independent, barrier free path of travel from public curb to interior amenities.

Expenditures for renovations and equipment incurred 12 months prior to and/or within the current fiscal year, which begins on April 1, are eligible for funding. 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 may include the following:

- Ramps, power door operators, accessible doors, and levered handles
- Barrier free washrooms
- Elevators, lifts, and other mobility assistive devices
- Audio signals and loops and lighting/color contrasting for visually impaired
- Accessible portion of community playgrounds

Funding

- Up to two thirds (2/3) of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000
- Applicants may use donated materials or equipment or in-kind work as part of their contribution.
- Eligible in-kind contributions includes applicants labour in the design or construction of the project.
- For unskilled labour, applicants may report up to \$20.00 per hour rate. For skilled labor, 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.
- If your organization is eligible for HST exemptions or rebates, please deduct these expenses from your application as the Province will not cover these costs.
- For projects \$10,000 or less funding will be disbursed in 1 transaction of 100%. Grants above \$10,000 will be dispersed in 2 transactions - 80% upon return of the Terms & Conditions document and 20% upon receipt of Final Report.

Documentation Required

Proposals must be completed using the Access-Ability Grant Application Form and submittal of 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 application. Please ensure to provide a current e-mail address as ALL correspondence and documentation will be forwarded via this e-mail address.

Please Note:

- All projects must be completed by end of the current fiscal year of the grant program, which ends on March 31
- Applications will be reviewed by staff at the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and our Accessibility Evaluation Panel

For more information contact:

Accessibility Coordinator

902-424-5793

AccessAbilityGrants@novascotia.ca

Or contact your closest Regional Office:

Cape Breton Regional Office

Larry Maxwell, 902-578-4813

Central Regional Office

Andrea Redmond 902-456-5908

Fundy Regional Office

902-324-8392

Highland Regional Office

902-338-0659

South Shore Regional Office

Anna Haanstra, 902-930-2872

Valley Regional Office

Anna Sherwood, 902-698-9407