

Grant Guidelines

Building Vibrant Communities Program - 2017-2018

About Nova Scotia's commitment to reducing poverty

Reducing poverty is a multi-faceted issue that crosses most government departments, requires the involvement of community, and benefits most from a collaborative approach. Alleviating poverty involves supporting the capacity of community-based organizations; leveraging and increasing the reach of large service-based organizations; enabling social enterprises/community interest companies and businesses that are seeking a way to make a difference; and supporting partnerships among these groups because collective impact is greater when communities and organizations work together.

Therefore, the Government of Nova Scotia's four-year Poverty Reduction commitment (announced in Budget 2017) focuses on four objectives:

- Build vibrant communities
- Prevent poverty by breaking the cycle
- Alleviate the effects of poverty
- Enable Nova Scotians to exit poverty

About the Building Vibrant Communities Program

This program offers community grants aimed at building the capacity of community organizations and encouraging partnerships.

Grant Themes

In this first year, grants will focus on three themes:

- Food Security – supporting initiatives that provide Nova Scotians with adequate access to food
- Youth Transition – enabling Nova Scotian youth to become independent adults
- Transportation – helping Nova Scotians to access the transportation they need

Grant applications must demonstrate:

- How the project addresses one or more of the themes
- How the project will be evaluated – how participants will be surveyed

Evaluation of Projects

Successful applicants will need to demonstrate the impact of their project. This will take the form of participant surveys at the beginning and end of each project. The purpose of the surveys is to answer the question: “How do we know this project was successful?”

Applicants must briefly describe their evaluation plan in their application. Successful applicants will receive an evaluation guide that will help them develop effective surveys. Those awarded grants must submit a final report at the end of the project that includes survey results.

Tools for demonstrating impact

Tamarak Institute’s website vibrantcanada.ca has a framework to measure the impact of projects: *Sustainable Livelihoods Framework*. It describes a holistic, asset-based framework for understanding poverty and the work of poverty reduction. It focuses on capacity/assets and measuring outcomes, while emphasizing strengths and acknowledging barriers to poverty reduction. It sets out five categories of sustainability assets:

- Financial Assets – income, savings, etc.
- Social Assets – cooperation and networking, relationships of trust, collaborations, organizational capacity, etc.
- Human Assets – skills, knowledge, employability, good health, capacity, etc.
- Physical Assets – secure shelter, affordable transportation, accessible and affordable child/elder care, air and water quality, etc.
- Personal Assets – self-esteem and confidence, emotional well-being, etc.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered non-profit society/cooperative in good standing
- Registered Canadian charities
- Post-secondary institutions
- Federally incorporated non-profit organization
- Mi’kmaw band councils
- Municipalities
- Social enterprises/community interest companies
- Incorporated businesses

Ineligible Activities and Applicants

- Fundraising events, capital building/development, and major equipment purchases
- Expenses incurred prior to receipt of application
- Research
- Applicants who are individuals

Funding Limits

Funding is available for up to \$50,000 per project. Organizations may submit applications for more than one project.

Tier 1 – Seed Funding

- For requests up to \$5,000.
- Project participants must be surveyed at the beginning and end of the project.

Tier 2 – Collaborations

- For requests \$5,001 to \$50,000.
- A demonstrated collaboration/partnership with a minimum of 2 additional organizations is required.
- Project participants must be surveyed at the beginning and end of the project.
- Applicants must contribute a minimum of 25% towards eligible project costs. This includes a minimum of 10% cash and 15% in-kind.

Application Deadline

- Apply before February 2, 2018
- Applications will be reviewed as received

Project Start/End Dates

- Project must have defined start and end dates.
- Project must start prior to March 31, 2018.

For more information

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