

Funding Sources for Community-Based Projects

Funds available through Nova Scotia's Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH)

Full list available at this link, several grants detailed below:

[Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Active Communities Fund

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/active-communities-fund>

The Active Communities Fund supports community-wide initiatives to encourage less-structured physical activity and movement. The Active Communities Fund helps communities encourage physical activity and movement through policies, social initiatives or physical environments. Projects should target community members who are less active, or who have fewer opportunities for physical activity.

Applicants can apply for up to 75% of eligible costs.

The fund supports the [Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia action plan](#).

Recreation Community Development Grant

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/community-development-grant>

Available through Communities, Culture and Heritage the Recreation Community Development Grant is designed to support activities and initiatives which respond to the recreation and physical activity goals and priorities of communities and the Shared Strategy for Recreation in Nova Scotia: Active Living, Inclusion and Access, Connecting People and Nature, Supportive Environments, and Capacity Development.

Community Food Literacy and Access

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/community-food-access-and-literacy-fund>

The Community Food Access and Literacy Fund supports programs that improve access to affordable, healthy food and which builds food literacy.

The Community Food Access and Literacy Fund supports initiatives that:

- improve food access for vulnerable Nova Scotians;
- teach meal planning skills, including how to reduce trips to the grocery store;
- teach food, nutrition and budgeting skills; and
- build and maintain community gardens to increase individual, family and community food security.

Cultural and Youth Activities Program

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/cultural-activities-program>

The Cultural and Youth Activities Program helps to build communities by fostering an appreciation for the arts; by introducing youth to artistic and cultural activity and to

professional artists; and by creating links between exposure to the arts and audience development.

Placing an emphasis on activities that integrate the arts into community life and facilitate lifelong learning among residents, examples of events that the program supports include performing arts festivals or competitions, community cultural events or projects, and cultural workshops.

Diversity and Community Capacity Fund & Community and Cultural Identities Fund

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/diversity-and-community-capacity-fund>

The Diversity and Community Capacity Fund invests in capacity-building efforts of organizations that represent traditionally marginalized communities and promote diversity and social equity.

The Cultural Communities and Identities Fund (CCIF), a companion program, supports activities which recognize and celebrate the diversity of Nova Scotia's new, emerging, and established cultural communities. By embracing and sharing our cultural identities, our province becomes a more welcoming, resilient, and creative place to live.

Festival and Community Event Development

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/festival-and-community-event-development>

The new Festival and Community Event Development Program aligns with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage's mandate and Government's Culture Action Plan. The objectives of the program are to improve the sustainability and event hosting capacity of unique community events and to support home-grown events that promote or strengthen the unique character of the community.

The department may contribute up to a maximum \$10,000.

Funding deadline: February 28

Major Hosted Events - Supports major events being hosted in Nova Scotia that align with the Nova Scotia

Events Strategy. Major sporting and cultural events, often bid related are a major focus with the fund, as well as

homegrown major events like DEVOUR Food Film Festival.

Funding deadline: Ongoing intake

Gender Equity Capacity Building Support Fund

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/gender-equity-capacity-building-support-fund>

This fund is designed to help physical activity, sport and recreation organizations create supportive organizational policies, and practices, to increase the engagement of diverse women and girls in sport, and recreation as coaches, leaders, and participants.

Various initiatives designed to build the gender equity capacity of organizations are eligible for funding, including education and training sessions, board development

workshops, organizational assessment activities, gender and diversity analysis, policy and action plan development, evaluations, etc.

Community Museum Assistance Program

[Community Museum Assistance Program | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Supports community museums that serve to preserve, protect, and interpret Nova Scotia's heritage resources by improving the quality of community museum collections and programs throughout Nova Scotia.

Funding deadline: May 13

Strategic Development Initiative

Supports projects that encourage and increase heritage/community cooperation including developing new revenue sources to increase financial sustainability; improving leadership and programming skills of existing heritage-related boards and workers through training.

The department may contribute up to 75% of eligible project costs for a maximum of \$10,000.

Funding deadline: Ongoing intake from April 1 until fully allocated

[Strategic Development Initiative | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

One-time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program - Supports one-time projects that enhance stakeholder capacity and sustainability; generate growth opportunities; support and bolster diverse communities; and offer increased opportunities for communities to engage in cultural and heritage activities.

The department may contribute up to 75% of eligible project costs for a maximum of \$10,000.

Funding deadline: Ongoing intake from April 1 until fully allocated

[One-time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Culture Innovation Fund - Using culture and creative expression in new and better ways to create value through arts, music, heritage, language, cultural identity, diversity, recreation, museums, libraries, traditions, food, spirituality and much more.

Tier 1 funding: Local-level initiatives led by community groups/organizations up to a maximum of \$15,000; Tier 2 funding: Larger partnership with orgs in tier 1, applicants must provide a minimum of 25% of eligible costs.

Funding deadline: Ongoing intake from April 1 until fully allocated

[Culture Innovation Fund - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

Operating Assistance to Cultural Organizations - Supports professional arts and culture organizations that develop and sustain Nova Scotia's cultural community annually.

Funding deadline: March 15

[Operating Assistance to Cultural Organizations | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Arts Equity Funding Initiative - Supports professional artists from designated communities who have historically faced barriers to accessing funding support. Designed to support artistic growth, development, production and dissemination of artistic work. Three funding streams: creation grants to a maximum of \$15,000; presentation grants to a maximum for \$5000; professional development grants to a maximum of \$12,000.

Funding deadline: March 15, September 15

[Arts Equity Funding Initiative | Arts Nova Scotia \(artsns.ca\)](#)

Mi'kmaw Cultural Activities Program –

The Mi'kmaw Cultural Activities Program will foster Mi'kmaw artistic and community cultural development. This panel-reviewed application-based program will support Mi'kmaw community groups and organizations to promote and preserve Mi'kmaw culture and heritage.

General grants to \$10,000

Funding deadline: May 15, September 15

[Mi'kmaw Cultural Activities Program | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Operating Assistance to Cultural Organizations

The program supports professional arts and culture organizations that develop and sustain Nova Scotia's cultural community. The types of organizations that receive assistance include: those that produce cultural product, own or manage cultural facilities, provide service to the cultural sector or produce a cultural festival or event.

Funding deadline: March 15

[Operating Assistance to Cultural Organizations | Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

One-Time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/one-time-emerging-culture-and-heritage-initiatives>

The One-Time Emerging Culture and Heritage Initiatives Program is designed for organizations that primarily focus on cultural and heritage development. This program is also available to organizations partnering with specific culture and heritage interests provided they are working to build capacity or foster innovation within Nova Scotia's culture community or that they are working in support of cultural development within diverse communities.

African Nova Scotian Affairs – Grants & Contributions Program

<https://ansa.novascotia.ca/grant>

Charitable, not-for-profit African Nova Scotian groups that are registered societies, associations or organizations can apply for a grant from ANSA. As part of the application, groups are required to provide proof of registration under the Nova Scotia Society's Act. Grants are also available to assist African Nova Scotian groups that have an organizational structure, goal and purpose that can demonstrate they are in the process of registering as a society.

Funding from the grant program is intended to go towards costs such as honoraria, travel, resources, office supplies, facilities and equipment.

Age-Friendly Community Grant Program

<https://novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant/>

This grant provides funding up to \$25,000 for projects that lead to more age-friendly communities. Projects funded through the program help advance the goals outlined in Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population.

Projects must fall into one of two broad categories:

Age-friendly community planning: Consultation and community planning initiatives that result in robust action plans and age-friendly communities. These planning initiatives must be in partnership with local government and include consultation with and engagement of older adults, the broader community, and key stakeholders.

Community projects: Innovative projects (could be collaborative) to develop and/or implement programs, services, resources or events that support active, healthy living; help older adults stay connected to community life; maximize the economic and social contributions of older adults; and increase social interaction and community involvement among older adults.

Community Foundation of Nova Scotia

<http://cfns-fcne.ca/en/>

A **community fund** is designed to be open and flexible to address the ever-changing needs and priorities of your community - from environmental concerns to social change and more. The fund is developed by members of the community, for the community, so you can be certain your investment stays local.

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia manages a growing network of community funds across the province:

- [Annapolis Royal Community Fund](#)
- [Bridgetown Area Community Fund](#)
- [Eastern Shore Community Fund](#)
- [Fondation communautaire du Grand-Havre](#)
- [Glace Bay Community Fund](#)
- [Lunenburg County Community Fund](#)
- [North Shore Area Community Fund](#)
- [West Hants Community Fund](#)

- [Wolfville Community Fund](#)
- [Yarmouth Area Community Fund](#)

Community Foundation of Nova Scotia also administers the ***Reciprocity Health Fund***. The Fund will support preventative, community-based, health projects rooted in an understanding of the social determinants of health. Projects should take place in Shelburne, Yarmouth or Digby Counties and must be led by a qualified donee (registered charity, municipality, post-secondary institution, etc.). Proposed projects should focus on improved population health and reduced health inequities. Applicants must demonstrate how their proposal aligns with these objectives in their application.

Creative Industries Fund (applicable to non-profits in the arts)

<https://novascotia.ca/programs/creative-industries-fund/>

Your proposal must demonstrate how your project will achieve the following objectives:

- Furthers the objectives of [Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan: Creativity and Community](#)
- Increases your capacity to export
- Increases your export sales and revenue growth
- Expands your global markets and audiences
- Fosters industry growth of Nova Scotia creative sector outside of Nova Scotia

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

[Home - Canadian Parks and Recreation Association \(cpra.ca\)](https://www.cpra.ca/)

Various funding streams for parks and recreation aligned programs and projects, updated annually.

Bell Let's Talk Community Fund

<https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/community-fund>

The Community Fund supports projects that improve access to mental health care, supports and services for people in Canada. Preference will be given to applications that:

- Have clear objectives and a measurement plan
- Are evidence-based or evidence-informed
- Include a detailed budget and have secured funding from other sources for the project
- Specifically address project sustainability post-funding
- Identify community impact and specify the number or increased number of individuals helped through the project

BMO

<https://our-impact.bmo.com/our-practices/community-giving/application-guidelines/>

BMO funds a range of projects that speak to their priorities: collaboration, learning, and innovation. In Canada, BMO only donates to non-profit organizations that are registered charities. Program funding must re-apply annually.

Catherine Donnelly Foundation

<http://catherinedonnellyfoundation.org/grants.html>

Adult Education for Social Change Initiatives

The Foundation will consider applications that focus on the adult education and learning needs of new Canadians and marginalized populations and in particular, those that seek to address the most pressing contemporary problems and concerns of these groups.

Environment Initiatives

The Foundation will consider applications that aim to catalyze a significant increase in public support for fast and deep-reaching climate change solutions. Priority will be given to broad integrated approaches linking disparate initiatives, enhancing public engagement, and integrating marginalized sectors of the population into climate change dialogues and movements. Of particular interest is a desire to engage with and support Indigenous-led climate justice movements.

Housing Initiatives

The Foundation will consider applications for projects that address homelessness and the scandalous lack of affordable housing through research, policy development, capacity building and advocacy within the sector. We want to hear from groups engaged in collective efforts to examine and craft solutions for the root causes of Canada's housing crisis. We particularly want to support innovative and cutting edge projects that give priority to Indigenous Peoples and to newcomer/refugee/immigrant communities.

CIBC Foundation

<https://www.cibc.com/en/about-cibc/corporate-responsibility/community-and-sponsorship/funding-guidelines.html>

Focus Areas:

Championing inclusive communities

- Projects increasing access to education and employment outcomes for underserved communities, with a focus on reskilling, upskilling, and addressing the digital divide
- Healthy active living, education & enrichment, and help for high needs kids supporting children 13 and under

Supporting cancer initiatives

- Cancer research, treatment, screening and diagnosis
- Wellness, survivorship and patient support programs

Investing in financial education

- Financial education resources and learning opportunities

Requests are reviewed annually between March and October.

Change Lab Action Research Initiative

<https://actionresearch.ca/>

CLARI is a cross-province, multi-post-secondary education partnership designed to support Nova Scotia communities with academic and research expertise, designated spaces and communications technology to address social and economic challenges.

CUA Community Investment Grant Program

<https://www.cua.com/Home/InOurCommunity/CommunityInvestmentGrantProgram/>

CUA's Community Investment Grant Program supports programs and initiatives that improve the health and well-being of Nova Scotians, enhancing communities and health outcomes in the areas of financial health, mental health, food security, sport or physical fitness. Non-profit organizations and community associations are eligible for grants between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to invest in a one-time purchase, program or initiative that would otherwise not be possible, enhancing their impact on clients and communities.

The Community Investment Grant Program typically launches in January of each year, with grants being awarded in March.

Grants that Support Healthy School Communities

<https://sites.google.com/view/avrce-healthyschoolcommunities/hsc-resources/grants?authuser=0>

School Health Promoters have compiled a list of grant opportunities that may be helpful to Nova Scotian schools and Regional Centres for Education in search of funding sources for Health Promoting Schools initiatives.

Funding opportunities are listed under one of the following headings:

- Environment
- General
- Healthy Eating
- Mental Health
- Physical Activity & Outdoor Education
- Trails
- Local Funding Opportunities

Heritage Gas

Heritage Gas supports a variety of charitable and community organizations in Nova Scotia. Organizations and initiatives supported include Junior Achievement of NS,

Mental Health Foundation of NS, Children's Wish Foundation, YMCA, Feed Nova Scotia, Brigadoon Children's Camp, CNIB, Nova Scotia SPCA, Easter Seals NS, and United Way. For further information, call 1-877-836-7427.

Innoweave

<https://www.innoweave.ca/en/about/grants>

Innoweave provides funding to help organizations access the coaching they need to implement a new approach. All organizations that have attended an Innoweave workshop are eligible to apply for Innoweave Implementation Funding.

ivari Healthy Steps Program

<https://ivari.ca/about-us/in-the-news/ivaris-healthy-steps-program-2017/>

ivari's Healthy Steps Program supports organizations that help teach children (18 and under) skills that empower them to develop healthy habits, particularly through active living, healthy eating, and health education. Selected applicants will be invited to present to the employee-run Charitable Giving Committee

Max Bell Foundation

<https://maxbell.org/>

Max Bell Foundation supports Canadian charities in the areas of education, environment, and health and wellness. They are particularly interested in identifying practical, effective, and efficient approaches to improving wellness, especially among those most vulnerable.

The McCain Foundation

<https://mccainfoundation.org/>

The McCain Foundation funds five areas: arts and culture; community services; health and wellness; education; and environment.

The McLean Foundation

<http://www.mcleanfoundation.ca/>

Grants made by the Foundation are restricted to organizations which are recognized by Canada Revenue Agency as "charitable organizations" and which are able to provide a registration number. They endeavor to maintain a flexible policy, with particular emphasis on projects showing promise of general social benefit but which may initially lack broad public appeal.

To apply you must be a Charitable Organization with a valid CRA#, An Indigenous Band with a valid Indigenous Band #, or a municipality. A wide range of projects Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Medavie Health Foundation

<https://www.medaviebc.ca/en/community/medavie-health-foundation>

Applications are accepted year-round. Medavie Health Foundation is focused on developing partnerships and supporting programs in three core cause areas:

- Adolescent mental health – with a focus on mental resiliency
- Post-traumatic stress – with a focus on intervention and recovery
- Healthy living – with a focus on prevention and self-Management

Mental Health NS Community Grants

<https://www.mentalhealthns.ca/grants>

This funding will be made available to support individuals and organizations province-wide to undertake programs or services that will benefit the mental health of individuals throughout Nova Scotia.

Mi'kmaq Cultural Activities Program

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/mikmaq-cultural-activities-program>

The Mi'kmaq Cultural Activities Program will foster Mi'kmaq artistic and community cultural development. This panel-reviewed application-based program will support Mi'kmaq community groups and organizations to promote and preserve Mi'kmaq culture and heritage.

New Horizons

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/new-horizons-seniors-community-based.html>

Community based grants Projects for regular grants (up to \$25,000) must meet at least 1 of the following program objectives:

- promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations
- engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others
- expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse
- supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors
- providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and programs for seniors

If your proposed project is requesting capital assistance, you must choose 2 program objectives

NS Department of Municipal Affairs

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/municipal-affairs>

The Department of Municipal Affairs provides programs, grants and funding to municipalities and community groups. The department provides services and guidance

to municipalities, towns and villages in many areas including safety and security, budget planning and finance, and policy and program development.

Peter Gilgan Foundation

<https://petergilganfoundation.org/grant-program/>
Peter Gilgan provides funding in three priority areas.

Priority areas:

- Children, Youth & Families
- Environment & Sustainability
- International Development

The Peter Gilgan Foundation accepts applications for project grants, capacity-building grants, and general operating grants to registered Canadian charities that employ at least one paid staff member and request between \$5,000 and \$100,000 a year.

R Howard Webster Foundation

<https://www.rhowardwebsterfoundation.ca/>
The R. Howard Webster Foundation makes grants to outstanding Canadian charitable organizations offering unique and inspiring programs or projects for the benefit, improvement and development of Canadian society. Areas of interest:

- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Environment
- Medical
- Social Services

The R. Howard Webster Foundation only makes grants, subject to funding restrictions, to qualified donees under the Income Tax Act Canada.

RBC Future Launch – Commitment to Youth

<https://www.rbc.com/community-social-impact/apply-for-funding/future-launch-guidelines.html>

Targets young people in their transitional years, specifically ages 15-29. Focuses on one or more of our solution areas (providing equitable access to work-integrated learning experiences, building long-term sustainable partnerships to address the skills gap, harnessing the knowledge and goodwill of Canadians using social media, mentorships and other resources to guide young people to opportunities).

RBC Youth Mental Well-Being Project

<https://www.rbc.com/community-social-impact/apply-for-funding/youth-mental-wellbeing-guidelines.html>

We fund programs that address youth and family's immediate need to access mental health services, a critical area identified by parents, youth and experts in the field.

We have chosen to focus our funding on two areas where we believe our support can make the biggest difference: [Navigation Programs](#) and [Technology-based Solutions](#).

Rising Youth

<https://www.risingyouth.ca/>

#RisingYouth is a program led by TakingITGlobal to help young people nationwide who are inspired with ideas and ready to take action through youth-led community service grants. The funding program is available to Canadian citizens, permanent residents or people who have been granted refugee status in Canada. In the context of the program, "youth" refers to individuals who are between the ages of 15 to 30 years old during the year of their participation in the program. The primary impact of the project must be focused in Canada.

Scotiabank

<https://www.scotiabank.com/ca/en/about/responsibility-impact/scotiarise.html>

Scotiabank funds programs in three areas:

- ***Increasing high school graduation and post-secondary participation:*** Helping disadvantaged youth to increase their employment prospects, life opportunities and full participation in the economy.
- ***Helping newcomers feel at home faster:*** Fast-tracking the way to meaningful employment in order to support their contribution to the prosperity and social fabric of their communities.
- ***Removing barriers to career advancement for disadvantaged groups:*** Helping to enable their full inclusion and financial success.

The Sobeys Foundation

<https://sobeyfoundation.com/en/projects-we-fund/community/>

The Sobeys Foundation funds projects that engage community and demonstrate measurable improvements to the quality of life for the greatest number of people. A registered CRA number is required to be considered for funding. They support organizations that can demonstrate their ability to sustain the program or project for which funding is sought, beyond the period of Foundation support.

The Sobeys Foundation supports programs and projects with a measurable vision for improving the lives of individuals through the areas of: Health, Education and Community. We seek partnerships in areas where funding is intended to directly benefit the lives of the projects and programs end users.

Sport Hosting

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/sport-hosting>

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage recognizes the benefits of hosting sport events and provides supports to Provincial Sport Organizations through the Sport Hosting Program.

TD Friends of the Environment

<https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/funding/fe-f-grant/>

The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. Eligible projects include schoolyard greening, park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives.

United Way

United Way funds a wide variety of community-based programs. Funding is decided upon and distributed by local branches.

United Way Halifax

<https://www.unitedwayhalifax.ca/about-us/funding-opportunities/>

United Way Lunenburg County

<https://www.lunenburgcounty.unitedway.ca/how-we-help/granting-process/>

United Way Cape Breton

<http://www.unitedwaycapebreton.com/>

United Way Colchester County

<http://www.colchester.unitedway.ca/what-we-do/>

United Way Pictou County

<http://pictoucountyunitedway.ca/>

WholeKids Foundation Garden Grant \$2000 Deadline October annually

[Whole Kids Foundation | Garden Grant Program](#)

The WholeKids Garden Grant program, schools and non-profit organizations turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity and support classroom curriculum.

Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Grants – Variable Deadline Fall Annually

[Roots & Shoots - Jane Goodall : Jane Goodall](#)

Use the funding to support a youth-led action project that makes the community better for animals, people and the environment.

Other local sources of funding include municipalities and recreation departments.

We recommend calling yours to see if there is a fit with your work.