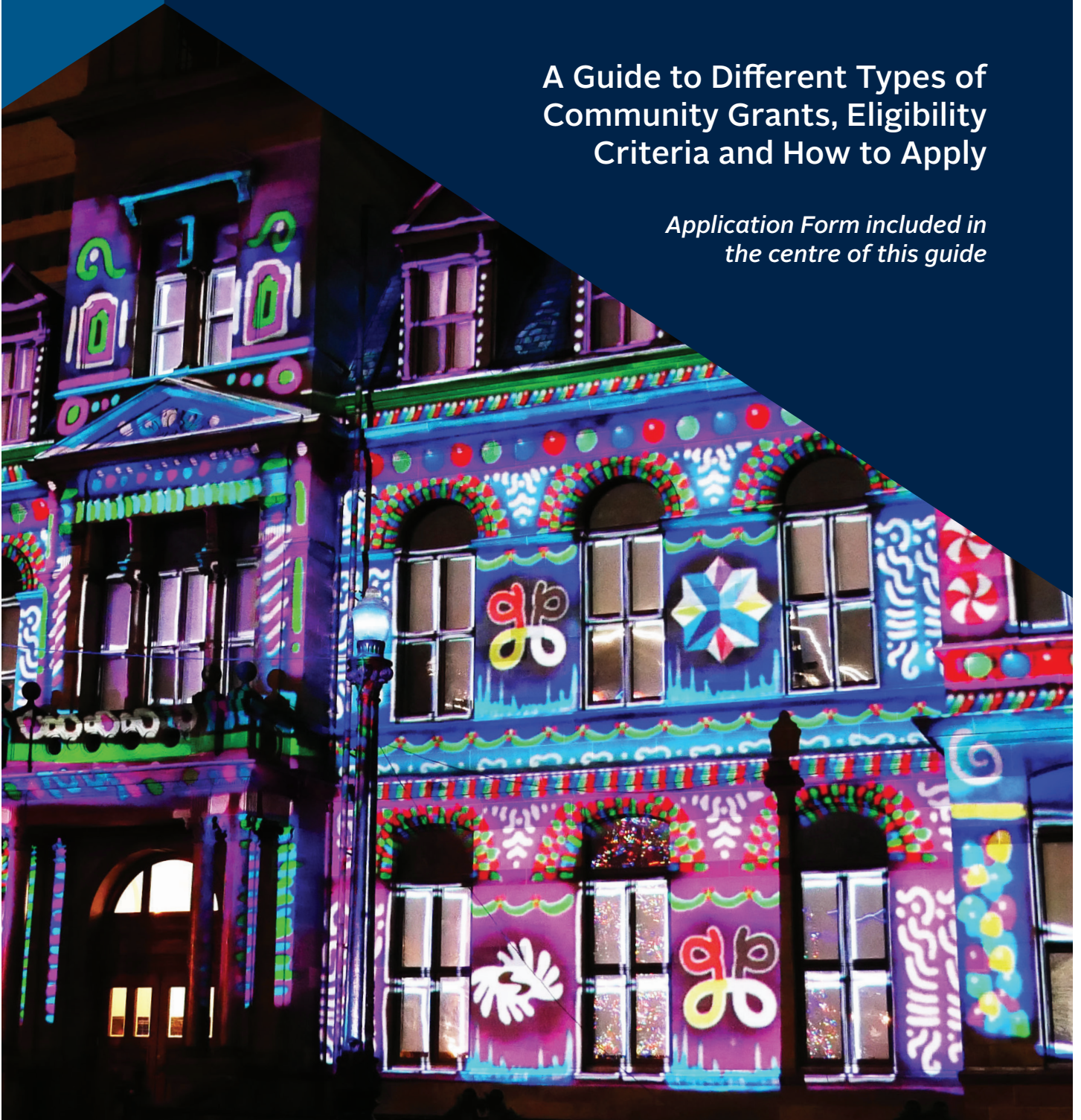


HALIFAX

Community Grants Program 2021–2022

A Guide to Different Types of
Community Grants, Eligibility
Criteria and How to Apply

*Application Form included in
the centre of this guide*



The following is a brief overview of some of the awards granted by Regional Council in 2020. *(more on the inside back cover)*



1. La Cooperative Radio Halifax Metro (OUI 98.5 FM)—Regional

Arts & Crafts—Incorporated in 2003, the cooperative is a community radio station specializing in French language programming. To strengthen the viability of the society the Board of Directors has initiated a plan to modernize technical capabilities, reduce operating costs, and enable home-based programming. A grant of \$5,000 was awarded towards professional fees to implement technical upgrades to enhance OUI 98.5 FM broadcast capacity. *(Image provided by Valentin Alfano).*



2. Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society—Middle Musquodoboit

Environment—The Society was established under an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1909 for the purpose of promoting the agricultural heritage of the area and is widely recognized for its annual Halifax County Exhibition. A capital grant of \$25,000 was awarded towards demolition and replacement of one building that has been used for the Halifax County Exhibition's food-related competitions and displays, food preparation, and rentals. *(Image provided by Sheila Fisher).*



3. Brunswick Street United Church and Brunswick Street Mission—Halifax

Emergency Assistance—The Church works with the Brunswick Street Mission, a registered Charity who offers support to people struggling with poverty. For example, a hot breakfast to tax filing, clothing bank, and trustee program. A grant of \$5,000 will allow the Church and Mission to improve the space, creating multi-purpose areas to allow programs to focus on offering dignity (a warm inviting safe space) to any and all who walk through the doors. *(Image provided Brunswick Street Mission).*

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Application Form is in the centre of this document.

Introduction

The *Community Grants Program* awards project-specific cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located within the Halifax Regional Municipality. The program is primarily developmental with a focus on support to volunteer-led initiatives and organizational capacity-building.

The *Community Grants Program* has one (1) application intake per year. The program opens for applications in January and the annual application deadline is March 31st. Late applications (those received or post-marked after March 31st) will not be considered.

This *Community Grants Program Guidebook* and final report form are posted online at: www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants. The web page also has copies of previous recommendation reports so that applicants new to the program can see the number and type of project awarded a grant, the value of awards, and any conditions applied to funding.

Groups who have not previously applied to the program are encouraged to contact Grants & Contributions staff to confirm the eligibility of your organization, project, and the expense(s) for which you are requesting a grant. Any applicant can request assistance prior to March 31st but due to the volume of applications staff may be unable to accept requests for meetings in the last two weeks of March: inquiries by telephone and email will be accommodated within two (2) business days. Submissions cannot be revised after the call for applications closes on March 31st. However, all applicants have the option to withdraw an application and apply again in a subsequent year.

For general inquiries or assistance with completing an application please contact the Grants & Contributions office at 902.490.7310 or email: nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.

General Instructions

Please use the following checklist to ensure that your submission is complete.

Step 1.

- ☐ Confirm your organization is eligible for funding.

Step 2.

- ☐ Select either a project grant or capital grant based on the type of project. **Only one application will be accepted per year for either a project grant or a capital grant, not both.**

Step 3.

- ☐ Select a funding category.
- ☐ Confirm that your project is eligible.
- ☐ Confirm that the expense is eligible for a grant. See the list of eligible expenses for project and capital grants listed on pages 5 and 7. A list of ineligible expenses is included on page 13.

Step 4.

- ☐ Complete the application form and include an itemized financial statement for the prior year and a list of the current Board of Directors. The form is included in the center of this guidebook; additional copies available upon request, email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.
- ☐ You may wish to include a cover letter to briefly describe your organization and/or the project you are undertaking.
- ☐ The application form must be signed by two (2) *different* members of the organization, one of which must be a member of the Board of Directors.
- ☐ Check that your application is complete and arrange delivery either by mail, courier, or in person drop-off at an HRM Customer Service Centre. Keep a receipt to prove date of courier or drop-off.

HRM will provide you with the following:

- ☐ A letter confirming receipt of your application (April).
 - ☐ Written notification of an award, the amount and conditions of funding, and a final report form (usually June but subject to the timing of the annual budget approval and volume of applications).
- OR
- ☐ Written notification that your application has been declined funding and a brief explanation. You can request further feedback by contacting the Grants & Contributions office.

Step 1: Eligibility of an Organization

Registration: applicants must be a registered non-profit organization or charity:

- a society incorporated under the *Societies Act* (1989);
- a non-profit association incorporated under the *Co-operative Associations Act* (1989);
- a non-profit incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* (2009);
- a non-profit incorporated under an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature; or
- a charity registered under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*.

The organization must be registered for at least one (1) year prior to the *Community Grants Program* application deadline of March 31st. Your **registration must be current:** organizations whose registration has expired, in default or revoked are ineligible for consideration.

Joint applications from two or more eligible non-profit organizations are acceptable but the maximum value of grant remains the same.

The following organizations are ineligible for a grant under the *Community Grants Program*.

- Public and private schools or colleges; post-secondary institutions; a government agency, board or commission.
- Organizations located outside the geographic boundary of the municipality.
- Commerce, business, industry, or sole proprietorships.
- Grants are not awarded to individuals or unregistered groups.

Applicants may be disqualified if the applicant organization has not met their obligations with respect to the Municipality, for example overdue payment of real property tax, a fee, fine or rent, or non-compliance with the terms and conditions of a grant or contribution (for example, an overdue final report for a previous award).

Late applications will be declined.

Membership-Based Housing Cooperatives: eligible housing cooperatives must be incorporated under the *Cooperative Associations Act*, Chapter 7, Section 61 sub-clauses (A) to (F) as a membership-based non-profit. Capital grants will not be issued to organizations wherein the membership has an equity position (for example, individual shares or dividends, revenue-sharing from the proceeds of sale, individual ownership).

Religious and Faith-Based Organizations: With the exception of registered heritage property, the *Community Grants Program* does not fund repairs to places of worship or burial grounds, congregational activities, or programs and services that further or promote a religious or spiritual practice. However, a non-denominational or inter-faith program or service delivered by a religious organization and their affiliates may be considered in accordance with a funding category's priority outcomes. For example, a food bank, emergency feeding program (e.g. "soup kitchen") or shelter for the homeless, a campground, sport or recreational facility open to the public, or a hall made available to the broader community for programs, meetings, and special events. Grants may also be awarded towards the restoration of a registered heritage property (building or land).

Step 2: Select the Type of Grant

The *Community Grants Program* does not fund recurring operating expenses or any portion of an operating expense assigned to a project, for example, a percentage of overhead or staff time.

The program does not award multi-year awards but eligible organizations may make application to the program in successive years.

Awards may be issued in an amount lower than requested.

Not all applications will be funded.

There are two types of grant:

1. Project grant: up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Projects that are modest in scale and/or expense and enhance an existing program or service, or the development of a new program or service. Examples include the purchase of specialized equipment, web site development, or marketing. The evaluation process looks for a public benefit, an inability to self-fund (incremental impact of grant) and the applicant's ability to maintain the program or service (sustainability).

Competing quotes are not required for grant requests of up to \$5,000 but your application will be stronger if you provide documentation to support the value of the amount requested. For example, a quote or estimate, manufacturer's warranty, or price list(s) from different suppliers.

The maximum value of grant towards professional fees is \$5,000. If a grant or portion thereof is towards payment of professional fees, describe the selection process and include the individual or company's qualifications and relevant experience.

2. Capital grant: up to a maximum of \$25,000.

Large-scale property-related projects or expensive/specialized equipment (the individual item costs over \$5,000). Preference may be given to remediate a safety issue, to meet building code, by-law or licensing requirements, or for environmental remediation (for example, a replacement well or septic system). The evaluation process looks at the public benefit, an applicant's ability to cost-share (cash, reserve or investments, loan, any increase in earned revenue resulting from a property acquisition or capital improvement) and how the expenditure(s) improves program or service delivery.

Note: capital grants are not awarded for the purchase of multiple items of modest value. If 'cost' is simply a function of the quantity of items purchased (each item costing less than \$5,000) the application will be considered under a project grant of up to \$5,000.

The amount of a grant requested towards a capital project must be supported by **competing quotes**. Qualified trades should be considered when required by law or insurance.

If you have selected only one supplier this should be explained in the grant application (for example, highly specialized equipment with only one supplier located in Nova Scotia). Applications without quotes will be considered incomplete.

Eligible Expenditures—Project Grant

The following is a list of expenses typically supported under the *Community Grants Program* project grant category:

- non-recurring project-specific professional fees of a licensed individual, qualified tradesperson or specialist;
- technical studies and plans (for example, marketing, feasibility study, program evaluation, conservation plan, exhibit design, building condition report);
- valuation appraisal of real property—(excludes municipal property), artefact, original work of art;
- adaptive aids;
- purchase of safety equipment;
- equipment lending/rental program for the public (access is not restricted by membership or affiliation);
- equipment costing under \$5,000 per item (individual items costing over \$5,000 per item may be considered under a Capital Grant application, see pages 4 and 7).
- minor repairs (preventive maintenance/inspections are considered a recurring operating cost);
- project-specific facility or equipment rental;
- project or organizational marketing (for example, print advertisement, brochure, poster, radio or television broadcast, display banner, web site development or upgrade, custom computer database, mobile application, portable display stand or booth)—excludes recurring advertising;
- small construction projects and landscaping;
- permanent or temporary exhibition or display, interpretation panel, monument or marker including professional fees for conservation;
- commission of original works (literary, visual or performing arts, traditional or contemporary craft);
- community-based applied research (for example, oral history, photography, film, archival documents, artefact, environmental survey or mapping);
- non-commercial self-publishing or recording (for example, a map, guide, book, program, exhibit catalogue, or cd).

See page 13 for ineligible expenses.

Project grant applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

Project Grant: Evaluation Criteria and Weighted Scoring

Criteria	Description	Points
Funding Impact	Demonstrated inability to self-fund; project cannot proceed without municipal funds. Limited access to public or private sector funding. Expands or enhances current program or service. Other government funding* including municipal.	25
Public Benefit	Public access. Affordability. Inclusion.	30
Organizational Capacity	Viability. Volunteer-led. Applicant demonstrates ability to sustain program or service.	25
Program Funding Priority	Project aligns with priorities of funding category.	20
Total		100 pts

*Other government funding includes recurring legislated tax exemption or discretionary municipal tax relief, government operating grants or contribution agreements, or a rent subsidy.

Applicants that demonstrate effort in applying to other funding sources (for example, foundations, corporate, a financial institution, or a rebate program) and those that are largely self-funded in addition to their project-specific fundraising may score higher than those that apply exclusively to HRM.

Eligible applications are evaluated using a standard scoring process. A minimum score of 50/100 is the standard benchmark for project funding. An applicant's score is not published in reports to the Grants Committee or Regional Council but feedback is available upon request.

Eligible Expenditures—Capital Grants

Capital grants are awarded towards the purchase of an item costing over \$5,000 and towards large-scale improvements to property (land, buildings, underground infrastructure such as water and sewer systems). Competing quotes must be included to support the value of grant requested.

The following is a list of expenses typically supported under the *Community Grants Program* capital grant category:

- contribution towards the purchase of non-municipal real property including a down-payment on a pre-approved mortgage;
- vehicle purchase (for example a van, bus, snowmobile, ride-on-mower, trailer) - excludes employment-related car, a vehicle for personal use, or vehicle lease;
- construction or expansion of a building or amenity (for example, a wharf, bridge, playground, park, boardwalk, greenhouse)—applicant must be the property owner;
- capital improvements: a permanent structural replacement or alteration that maintains the value and utility of an existing building or infrastructure and extends the useful life of the property (includes, roof, exterior walls, exterior doors and windows, foundation, structural weight-bearing beams);
- replacement or upgrade to a heating or ventilation system, electrical system, well or septic;
- large or specialized equipment item costing over \$5,000 per unit;
- commission of an original work or the purchase of a work or artefact of social, historical or cultural significance costing over \$5,000 (for example, a sculpture): an independent appraisal of value should be included with the application;
- large-scale site beautification or “greening” (for example, re-forestation, environmental stabilization or remediation of environmental contamination);
- exterior painting is a lower priority funding outcome and usually awarded for registered heritage property wherein the ‘authentic’ color and finish is integral to protection and/or heritage interpretation;
- a repair or upgrade to a parking lot is a lower priority funding outcome and is typically declined, exceptions may be made for a community-owned park-and-ride facility or accessibility upgrade;
- interior renovations (interior doors, ceilings, floors, stairs, cabinetry, moldings etc) are a lower priority.

Note: Accessibility upgrades (for example, wheelchair ramp, washroom, adaptive equipment) for persons with a disability are funded under the Diversity and Inclusion category.

See page 13 for ineligible expenses.

Capital grant applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

Capital Grant: Evaluation Criteria and Weighted Scoring

Criteria	Description	Points
Funding Impact	Demonstrated inability to self-fund; project cannot proceed without municipal funds. Limited access to public or private sector funding. Leverages applicant's cost-share. Expands or enhances current program or service. Other government funding*, including municipal.	20
Public Benefit	Public access. Affordability. Inclusion.	50
Public Safety or Regulatory Compliance	Building code, environmental remediation, fire safety, heritage protection, emergency preparedness,	10
Program Funding Priority	Project aligns with priorities of funding category.	20
Total		100 pts

*Other government funding includes recurring tax exemption under legislation or discretionary municipal tax relief, government grants, cash grants or contribution agreements, rent subsidy, less than market value property sale, a government loan or loan guarantee.

Applicants that demonstrate effort in applying to other funding sources (for example, foundations, corporate, a financial institution, or rebate program) and those that are largely self-funded in addition to their own project-specific fundraising may score higher than those that apply exclusively to HRM.

Eligible applications are evaluated using a standard scoring process. A minimum score of 50/100 is the standard benchmark for project funding. An applicant's score is not published in reports to the Grants Committee or Regional Council but feedback is available upon request.

The following is a list of expenses NOT supported under the *Community Grants Program*:



Municipal Community Grants Program, Application Form 2021

Application Deadline: March 31st, 2021

1. Name of Applicant Organization:	2. Contact Person: Telephone: Email:
3. Mailing Address:	4. Civic Address (if different from #3):
5. NS Registered Joint Stock Number:	6. Federal Charity Number:
7. Other: Name of Act under which the organization is incorporated as a non-profit OR registration number for a not-for-profit corporation under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporation Act (Industry Canada)	

Please include the following information with your application.

- ☐ Select type of application: **Capital Grant** OR **Project Grant**.
- ☐ Proof of current registration as a non-profit organization certificate number from the Registrar of Joint Stocks, federal charitable registration number through Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, or not-for-profit corporation under Industry Canada. Applicants must be registered for a minimum of one (1) year as of date of March 31.
- ☐ An accurate updated list of members of the Board of Directors with name, address, telephone number and email address.
- ☐ A recent annual financial statement that contains a complete and itemized list of all annual revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities.
- ☐ Project location if different from the address listed above in boxes 3 or 4.
- ☐ Grant category you are applying to; a complete list of eligible activities is included in the Municipal Community Grants Program Guide. Copies of the Guide are available from Municipal Customer Services Centres or by calling 311.
- ☐ Competing (2 or more) quotes to support a capital grant request are mandatory—submissions without quotes are incomplete and may be deemed ineligible for funding.

Time-frame: The review process usually takes 3 months

Application for Community Grant 2021

8. Check only one:

☐ Application for a Capital Grant OR ☐ Application for a Project Grant

9. Check only one grant category:

☐ Arts and Crafts ☐ Diversity and Inclusion ☐ Environment
☐ Emergency Assistance and Neighbourhood Safety ☐ History ☐ Leisure
☐ Recreation ☐ Housing

10. Amount of Grant Requested:

\$

See Guidebook for maximum value of grant.

11. Other municipal assistance: property tax, rent subsidy, grant, in-kind, etc.

12. Have you applied to other funding agencies for this project? Please list name and amount:

13. Describe the specific project that you are going to do (attach additional information if required):

14. Describe the people this project aims to serve (how will the public benefit?):

15. How will you measure the “success” of your project? (attach additional information as required):

The following is a project budget (not your entire organizational budget).

Project Budget			
Estimated Project Funding		Estimated Project Costs	
Type of Project Income	\$ Amount	Type of Project Expense	\$ Amount
Municipal Grant Requested	\$		\$
Other Municipal Assistance	\$		\$
Provincial Assistance	\$		\$
Federal Assistance	\$		\$
\$ Share of Project Budget from your Organization	\$		\$
Project Income (fees, rental, admission, etc.)	\$		\$
Other	\$		\$
Other	\$		\$
Other	\$		\$
Total Estimated Income for the Project	\$	Total Estimated Cost of the Project	\$
Note: if \$ are not confirmed mark with an *		Difference between income and expenses: \$	

Competing quotes (a minimum of 2) must be provided for a request for a Capital Grant. If applying for a Project Grant the amount should be supported by, for example, a quote, an estimate, or price list. Do not include in-kind expenses in your project budget.

Board of Directors—Please attach complete list (if more than five persons).

Name	Position	Address	Telephone

Authorization

This application must be signed by two members of the organization; at least one of which must be a member of the Board of Directors.

Application Prepared By: _____
Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

Board Authorization: _____
Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

Applications signed by only one person will be declined as incomplete.

Persons providing false, incomplete or misleading information may, at the municipality's discretion, be required to reimburse a financial award, and may be deemed ineligible for future grants and contributions. Questions, please contact Municipal Grants and Contributions at 902.490.7310.

Remember the Deadline for Applications is on or before March 31st, 2021.

Mail your application and any supporting materials to:

**Halifax Regional Municipality
c/o Municipal Community Grants Program
40 Alderney Drive, 5th Floor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5**

Applications post-marked March 31st will be accepted.

Or drop-off the application at any Municipal Customer Service Centre.

- Alderney Gate, 1st Floor, 40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth
- The Village at Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd Floor, Halifax
- Musquodoboit Harbour, Hwy 107 & East Petpeswick Road, Musquodoboit Harbour

Or e-mail nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

In accordance with Section 485 of the Municipal Government Act, any personal information collected in this application will only be used and disclosed by municipal staff for internal purposes relating to the Municipal Community Grants Program. If the application is to be disclosed externally to the municipality, the personal information—addresses and telephone numbers of the Board of Directors—will be severed unless the address and telephone number is business related. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of this personal information please contact the Access & Privacy Office at 902.490.4390 or accessandprivacy@halifax.ca

Although we are unable to fund all applications received we appreciate the interest of community groups in our program and recognize the valuable contribution made by volunteers to the quality of life in the region.

Expenses NOT Eligible for Funding: Project or Capital

- recurring core operating expenses (for example, utilities, rent, salary, wage, insurance, telecommunications, instructor or perpetual care);
- items for personal ownership (for example, personal clothing or uniforms, equipment, vehicle);
- bursary, honoraria, gift, prize, award or certificate, scholarship, souvenir, trophy or bursary;
- school-based or academic programs;
- research for academic or commercial purposes, personal genealogical research;
- conference, trade show, banquet, award ceremony, reunion, meeting, instructional or professional development workshop, tournament, religious or memorial service;
- promotion of a religious or political doctrine;
- consumables (for example, medication, food, beverages, fuel, travel, office supplies);
- commercial publishing or sales (including profit-sharing);
- admission or membership fees;
- general fund-raising campaign or related event;
- international aid;
- interior decorating or cleaning;
- medical services, therapeutic counselling, supervision, personal representation, training or accreditation, or personal legal representation;
- leasehold improvements to private or government-owned property (including municipal) - applicant must be the owner of the building or land;
- pre-paid or retroactive expenses;
- festivals and events;
- costs associated with the purchase or lease of a surplus municipal property including feasibility study or survey, the preparation of a submission to HRM, the purchase price or closing costs, the Purchaser's due diligence (inspections, testing etc.) or legal fees as per Section 17, Schedule 1 of Administrative Order 50.

Except for an equipment loan program, grants towards the purchase of small items for example, toys, books, office or sports equipment, computer software and accessories, household fixtures or furnishings, small tools, seeds or annual plant material, are lower priority funding outcomes and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If your anticipated expense is not included in this list, please contact Grants & Contributions staff for clarification at 902.490.7310 or nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.

Step 3: Select a Funding Category

An application can be made to any of the funding categories regardless of your organization's mandate, but only one application per year (one category for a project or capital grant). For example, an environmental organization might apply for funding to support a community art project or a community museum might apply for playground equipment.

Select the funding category that fits your project. If the project combines elements from several categories contact Grants & Contributions for assistance at 902.490.7310.

The funding categories in this guide are presented in alphabetical order only: there is no priority assigned to any category.

1. Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts category focuses on projects that advance arts-based community engagement with a focus on development opportunities for non-professional and pre-professional organizations and art projects undertaken by non-profit organizations whose mandate is not arts-based. Funding supports non-commercial initiatives including art as a leisure pursuit, projects that preserve or present the region's cultural traditions and identities, contemporary interpretation or innovative presentation techniques, or an issue-based participatory art-making process.

Priority outcomes.

- Participatory projects, including those undertaken by organizations whose mandate is not arts-based.
- Introductory or developmental production or presentation projects undertaken by a non-professional or pre-professional art or craft organization.
- A project, program or service that fosters cultural identity and self-representation.
- Temporary or permanent public art installations.
- Preservation of a traditional craft or contemporary practices.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

For professional arts funding see <http://halifax.ca/grants>.

2. Diversity and Inclusion

The **Diversity** sub-category encompasses organizations and projects serving individuals and families who face financial, linguistic or attitudinal barriers to full participation in community activities including but not limited to race, ethnicity, poverty, age, or sexual orientation.

Priority outcomes.

- Translation of written materials or signage.
- Initiatives that present the municipality as a hospitable community to immigrants, refugees and migrants.
- Programs or services serving distinct ethno-cultural or socio-cultural communities of interest.
- Opportunities for participation and self-representation.

The **Inclusion** sub-category promotes efforts to enhance the ability of persons with a physical or cognitive impairment to obtain information or a service and/or engage in an activity typically available to members of the public.

Priority outcomes.

- Conversion of written materials or signage.
- Accessibility upgrades or adaptive aids for persons with a disability.
- Community-based, self-directed initiatives and self-representation.

Although preference may be given to an organization whose mandate is serving persons with a disability or joint/collaborative submissions, grants have been awarded to specialized services whose users face barriers to participation. For example, grants to community-based rural transit organizations have been funded under this category based on (i) limited access to public transit or commercial taxi services, (ii) lower income users, and (iii) demonstrated ridership by seniors and persons with a disability.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

The *Community Grants Program* does not fund scholastic or vocational training (for example, educational upgrading, literacy, vocational skills).

3. Environment

The Environment category includes small-scale recycling and environmental monitoring projects, public education, protection or remediation of land or waterways, protection of wildlife habitat and endangered species, and community gardens. Funding towards establishing or upgrading a community garden may give preference to projects that support a community feeding program, for example a breakfast and/or afterschool feeding program, food bank, community kitchen, or child/youth programming.

Priority outcomes.

- Protection or restoration of the region's natural habitat to maintain or restore biodiversity.
- Protection of endangered species.
- Environmental remediation.
- Public education and interpretation.
- Recycling and diversion programs.
- Animal Control.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

4. Emergency Assistance and Neighbourhood Safety

The **Emergency Assistance** sub-category supports volunteers in providing aid to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or temporarily displaced, and emergency feeding programs (eg. a food bank or “soup kitchen”). The term “emergency assistance” does not refer to an organization’s financial status (a deficit or debt, uninsured loss, etc.)

Priority outcomes.

- Overnight/short-stay shelter for homeless persons, victims of domestic abuse, or post-incarceration housing. Second stage or tertiary housing is funded under the Housing category, see page 17.
- Community food banks/feeding program.
- Peer support services and non-medical crisis intervention (for example, a help line).

The **Neighbourhood Safety** category supports the participation of residents in public safety initiatives that include, for example, efforts to reduce vandalism, pedestrian safety, illegal dumping or litter/graffiti, and EMO comfort centres recognized by Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Services. Funding to comfort centres

supports only *incremental* costs necessary to meet the standards required by HRM's EMO division, for example, a generator/hook-up, potable water, conversion to propane appliances, heating and cooling systems.

Applications for a comfort centre must provide proof from Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Services of registration as a recognized municipal comfort centre and the facility rating at the time of application.

Failure to provide documentation with the application form may result in ineligibility. Priority will be given to rural areas, particularly where there is no HRM facility that could serve as a comfort centre. For information on registration contact the EMO office of Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency at 902.490.5530.

Priority outcomes.

- Crime prevention.
- Fire prevention.
- Emergency preparedness.
- Comfort centres located in communities with limited access (ie. only one entry and exit road) and no municipal facility.

The scale of initiative is a factor in the evaluation of submissions. Preference may be given to projects that engage/serve an entire neighbourhood or geographic community, or a “community of interest”, as compared to property-related upgrades (eg. a security system, exterior lighting).

Applications may be strengthened by the inclusion of statistics or a demonstration of the problem, for example, a photograph of an illegal dump-site.

The Emergency Assistance and Neighbourhood Safety category does not fund health promotion or medical projects.

5. History

The History category includes community-based research, collections, and public presentation aimed at enhancing awareness of the region's physical and social development and distinct cultural identities. Conservation projects for registered heritage property or an historically significant artefact are also funded under this category.

Priority outcomes.

- Opportunities for self-representation.
- Inclusion of diverse geographic and demographic communities of interest.
- Authentic preservation of heritage or historical assets (buildings, sites, artefacts). Registered heritage property: Applicants requesting a grant towards restoration of a registered heritage property must include approval from a municipal heritage planner at the time of application. **Failure to provide this documentation with the application form may result in ineligibility. For approval please contact: 902.490.4844 or mortonj@halifax.ca or 902.490.4663 or mcgreals@halifax.ca.**
- Innovative presentation and interpretation techniques including web-based and digital.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

6. Housing

The Housing category supports accommodations for persons in need of secure, appropriate, and affordable housing options. This category includes transitional (“second stage”), supportive and independent housing but excludes private home ownership. Temporary shelter for homeless persons and emergency short-stay accommodations are funded under the Emergency Assistance sub-category. See page 15.

Priority outcomes.

- Supportive housing for persons unable to secure appropriate accommodation in the open market (for example, persons with a disability, mental health consumers, seniors, youth).
- Expansion of affordable housing options.
- Neighbourhood integration and sensitive design.
- Code compliance and/or fire safety.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

7. Leisure

The Leisure category supports community-owned and operated venues, programs and services that encourage social interaction through largely passive recreational activities and opportunities for social gatherings (meetings, civic celebrations, communal meals, games and non-competitive or self-directed fitness activities, music, social dance, crafts, film screenings). For example, a community hall, seniors club, social club, or a hobby club. The term “hobby club” includes groups formed by people who share a common interest in a leisure pursuit such as, model-making, collecting, singing, atv or snowmobile clubs, angling etc. Both the venue and programming tends to be volunteer-based.

Priority outcomes.

- Public access is advertised and the facility is open to non-members (or membership fees are nominal and primarily enable participation in committees or Board decision-making).
- Enhancements to accommodate non-professional art-making, performances or exhibitions and other leisure activities.
- Inclusive programming for a range of abilities and ages.

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

Note: Organizations seeking facility accessibility upgrades or adaptive equipment for persons with a disability should make application under the Diversity and Inclusion category.

8. Recreation

The Recreation category focuses on facilities, programs and services that promote physical fitness (including outdoor education) and opportunities for broad-based participation (affordability). For example, a community-owned and operated park, playground, sports field or court, or a campground.

Priority outcomes.

- Community-based recreation amenities in under-served communities.
- Entry level and developmental programs.
- Physical activity for children and youth.
- Affordability initiatives (free or low- cost programs or amenities for the public, equipment loan).

Preference may be given to applicants not in receipt of federal, provincial or municipal government funding.

Note: Organizations seeking facility accessibility upgrades or adaptive equipment for persons with a disability should make application under the Diversity & Inclusion category.

Step 4: Submit Application

Application must be made using the program application form provided in this guide.

A cover letter, financial information, quotes and any additional materials should be attached to the form. If including a cover letter to describe your organization's aims and/or a project, you might refer to previous grants reports to see how an applicant organization and project are described. Past reports are posted at: www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants

A copy of your prior year's financial statement must be included. This financial information should be itemized to show all sources of revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities. Please do not submit extracts.

Applicants must disclose if they have or intend to apply to another municipal funding program or any other form of municipal assistance (for example, tax relief, less than market value rent, Capital District Fund). If funding from another source is not confirmed at the time of making application note this on the application form.

Application forms must be signed by two (2) people, one of which must be a member of the Board of Directors.

Incomplete applications may be denied consideration.

Applications must be post-marked or dated (courier or drop-off delivery) on or before March 31.

Applications will not be accepted by fax or email.

Applications should be mailed to:

Community Grants Program
HRM Finance & Asset Management
PO Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Applications delivered by courier should be directed to:

Community Grants Program
HRM Finance & Asset Management
5th Floor, Alderney Gate
40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Applications may be dropped off at any HRM Customer Service Centre.

For the address of a centre near you see: <https://www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy: Applicants are advised that any records created or held by the municipality can be requested under Freedom of Information legislation. Extracts from an application may also be cited in a public report. Applicants will be notified by HRM should a FOIPOP request be received in relation to their grant application.

Responsibility of Grant Recipient

Payment: you will receive written notification to confirm if a grant has been awarded and if so the amount and any conditions applied to how the grant must be used. Grants may be issued in full, in instalments, or held-back pending confirmation that specific requirements have been met (for example, financing, approvals or permits).

Inability to proceed: if the funded project cannot be completed as planned, or cannot be undertaken, please contact the Grants & Contributions office for guidance (902.490.7310). In some cases, an extension may be permitted and the funds carried forward to the next fiscal year. If an extension is approved, the term of an extension will be for 12 months and confirmed in writing.

Refund of grant balance: in some cases it is necessary to refund all or a portion of a grant. A cheque payable to Halifax Regional Municipality may be sent to the Grants & Contributions office.

Refund of ineligible expenditures: your letter of notification will specify the value of grant and the expenditures supported by the grant. Misappropriation of funds may result in a request to repay the grant to the municipality and/or suspension of eligibility for future consideration.

Mandatory final report: organizations in receipt of an award under the *Community Grants Program* must submit a final report on or before March 31st. A reporting form will be included with your letter of notification and grant payment(s). Failure to report may result in suspension of eligibility. A report is sent annually to the Grants Committee listing organizations in default. Eligibility is reinstated once the documentation has been received and the expenditures are compliant with the terms of funding. Grant recipients are encouraged to include a photograph or sample with their final report. Photographs may be used in a future program guide and/or posted on the HRM web site.

Acknowledgement: for guidance on acknowledgements or use of the Halifax Regional Municipality logo contact Grants & Contributions at: nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.

For assistance with reporting please contact the Grants & Contributions office at 902.490.7310.

Other Municipal Assistance

The following municipal grant programs may be (i) open to all non-profit organizations and charities, or (ii) limited to a defined type of organization. Readers should refer to the applicable program policy for eligibility criteria and the web site address for program-specific application forms and supplementary materials.

Community / Non-profit Resources

The following is a link to information on a variety of grant and contribution programs offered by Halifax Regional Municipality.

<http://halifax.ca/grants>

District Activity / Capital Fund—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Modest project-specific grants to non-profit organizations and charities for small-scale events and projects. Capital grants may assist property-related and equipment purchases for amenities serving the public, for example, a park, playground, or community hall. Award amounts vary subject to budget capacity.

<https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-16/district-activity-district-capital-funds>

Celebrating Volunteerism

Volunteer Conference—Parks and Recreation

An annual two-day conference in the Fall (November) provides an opportunity to network with peers from across the region, attend instructional workshops, and gather information on programs and services targeting the volunteer sector.

www.halifax.ca/index.php/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-conference

Volunteer Awards—Parks and Recreation

An annual program of awards recognizing exceptional volunteers in three categories: (i) youth, (ii) adult, or (iii) community group.

www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards-halifax

Notes:



1. Petpeswick Yacht Club—East Petpeswick

Inclusion—Founded in 1966, the society own and operate a sailing club on Petpeswick Inlet with wharfs, moorings, learn-to-sail lessons, kayaking, paddle boarding, a boat launch and small beach. In order to increase accessibility and address safety issues the Club was awarded a grant of \$2,097 to enhance accessibility and fire safety. *(Image provided by Patricia Samson).*



2. Shubenacadie Canal Commission—Dartmouth/Regional

Recreation—The Commission is a registered Canadian charity that provides stewardship of Shubenacadie Park, owned by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. The park contains numerous walking trails as well as access to the Shubenacadie Canal for recreational purposes. A grant of \$5,000 was awarded towards the construction of a fully accessible public wharf. *(Image provided by the Shubenacadie Canal Commission).*



3. Meaghers Grant Volunteer Fire Department—Meaghers Grant

Leisure—Incorporated in 1990 to provide volunteer firefighting services for the area, the society continues to support emergency services through renting the fire station portion of the premises to HRM Fire & Emergency Services (Station #36). The hall annexed to the fire station is open to the community for special events, leisure activities, meetings and room rentals. Outdoor amenities include a playground, tennis court and basketball pad. A capital grant of \$10,000 was awarded towards the cost of replacing the facility's siding and associated exterior repairs.



Halifax Regional Municipality
Grants and Contributions
2021