

HALIFAX

Finance & Asset Management Grants & Contributions



Grants and Contributions

Portfolio...

- **Community Grants Program – Today's focus**
- Tax Exemption For Non-Profit Organizations
- AO50 Disposal of Surplus Real Property – Assigned to the Community Interest Category
- Community Museums Grant Program
- Grants & Contributions – Interdepartmental Support (e.g. grants awarded through a contribution agreement).

Community Grants Program Overview

- Annual Program: accepts applications January 1st to March 31st from eligible non-profit societies, cooperatives, charities, or those incorporated under an Act of Legislation or Parliament
- One time project specific grants > \$5,000 program or > \$25,000 for capital projects (properties & large equipment)
- Funding Categories: Affordable Housing, Community Arts, Community Histories, Diversity & Inclusion, Emergency Assistance & Public Safety, Environment & Climate Change, Leisure, Recreation
- Application process: applications screened for eligibility, recommendations based on project merit relative to other sector applicants, and initial sector allocation of program budget.
- Awards: Possible outcomes include approved, declined, amended, referred back to Grants Committee.
- Final report from grant recipient due by fiscal year end (March 31st)

Community Grants Program: Highlights of the Redesign

Methodology

- Profile of Nova Scotia's nonprofit and charitable sector.
- Internal scan of municipal grant program Administrative Orders.
- Interviews with staff who administer other municipal grant programs.
- Jurisdictional scan of comparable grant programs.
- Analysis of Community Grants Program applicants between 2018 - 2021.
- Program participant/public survey

Main Program Revisions

Simplification	Clarification	Navigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Guidebook, application, and reporting form.✓ Funding category descriptions.✓ Flexibility of application deadlines (i.e., weekend, holidays, global pandemic).✓ Return of unspent funds. (>\$50)✓ Reduced reporting default penalty (up to 3 years).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Priority outcomes for each category.✓ Eligibility of unregistered groups as co-applicants.✓ Amended eligibility of leasehold improvements to public property (provincial, federal) conditional upon cost-share – excludes municipal property.✓ Registration “default” explained (revoked or suspended).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ New web address (halifax.ca/grants).✓ Continue digital meetings.✓ Reinstating in-person meetings.✓ Communications plan.

Program Focus & Evaluation Highlights

The program's focus supports volunteer organizations that are largely self-funded and/or those with limited access to government funding whose programs enhance public access (inclusive, affordable, location). The program's scoring matrix has been simplified.

Tier One: Gross annual revenue Under \$50,000 – paid staff ?

Tier Two: Gross annual revenue Under \$250,000 - paid staff ?

Tier Three: Gross annual revenue OVER \$250,000 - paid staff ?

Criteria	Description	Wt.
Category Priority	Does the project directly address a funding priority for this funding category?	/ 5
Financial Need	Demonstrated inability to self-fund. Limited access to government or other funding.	/ 5
Public Benefit	Accessible, affordable, inclusive	/ 5
Volunteer Support	Support volunteers in the development and/or delivery of a program or service serving residents	/ 5
Total		/ 20