

2026–27 Grant Guidelines

Read these guidelines before completing the application.

Application deadline: November 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Atlantic time

Email the completed application and required documents to
agefriendly@novascotia.ca.

Late or incomplete applications will not be assessed.

Grant overview

The Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Grant supports community-based initiatives that promote healthy aging and help older adults stay active, healthy, connected and engaged in their communities, and foster diverse and engaged communities.

The grant is administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care.

Who can apply

Eligible applicants are:

- registered not-for-profit community organizations based in Nova Scotia, with an active Registry of Joint Stock Companies number or Canada Revenue Agency charitable registration number;
- local governments, including municipalities and Mi'kmaq Band Councils;
- universities and not-for-profit post-secondary institutions based in Nova Scotia; and
- schools applying through their Regional Centre for Education or the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

Businesses and individuals are not eligible.

Applications will not be considered until any overdue AFC final reports from previous years have been submitted.

What the grant supports

The grant offers two funding options: **project funding** and **planning funding**.

Project funding

Project funding supports organizations that are ready to deliver:

- **a new activity, program or service** that benefits older adults;
- **a meaningful expansion** of an existing activity, program or service; or
- **work that strengthens an organization's or community's ability to support older adults**, such as training, outreach or practical resources.

Projects should help older adults participate in community life, build social connections, stay active, learn, access programs and services, or live safely and independently.

Examples of projects we may fund:

Projects may focus on one or more of the following:

- **Social, recreational and wellness activities** that help older adults stay active and connected.
- **Intergenerational activities** that bring older and younger people together to build relationships and share skills and experiences.
- **Physical activity and healthy eating** programs that support strength, mobility, balance and healthy living.
- **Community meals** that include social, recreational or educational activities.
- **Digital literacy, legal information, health or safety education** that helps older adults build knowledge and confidence.
- **Transportation, outreach or organized visiting programs** that improve access to programs, services and community life.
- **Training, tools and practical resources** that strengthen an organization's or community's ability to support older adults.
- **Other initiatives** that meet the purpose of the grant, even if they are not listed above.

These examples are intended as a guide and are not intended to limit eligible initiatives.

Project funding does not support an organization's regular operations or the continuation of an existing program or activity without meaningful changes.

Planning funding

Planning funding supports organizations and communities that are not yet ready to deliver a project but need to better understand the needs of older adults, engage the community and develop a plan for future action.

Planning funding may support activities such as:

- engaging older adults and community partners to identify local needs, priorities and opportunities;
- conducting research, needs assessments or identifying gaps in services, programs or supports for older adults;
- exploring practical and sustainable ways to help older adults remain active, connected, healthy and independent;
- developing recommendations, priorities or age-friendly community plans; and
- other planning activities that strengthen a community's ability to support older adults.

Planning initiatives must:

- include an active local government partner;
- meaningfully engage older adults throughout the planning process; and
- involve relevant community organizations, service providers and other partners.

How much funding is available

Project grants: Most projects receive a grant of up to \$10,000.

Projects may receive up to \$20,000 for large-scale, more complex or provincial initiatives where the scope of work justifies the higher amount. Applications requesting \$10,000 or more must provide a project plan and identify partner organizations.

Planning grants: Funding is available for up to \$25,000 with the specific amount determined based on the scope and scale of the project in consultation with SLTC. A minimum of 10% contribution (cash or in-kind) is required.

Funding options chart

Funding amount	Choose this option when	Your application should include
Project funding Less than \$10,000	Deliver activities now. You are ready to deliver a new activity or meaningfully expand an existing activity that will benefit older adults. Examples include intergenerational activities, physical activity, healthy eating, digital skills and activities that improve access to transportation. Meaningful expansion: The proposal adds a new activity, reaches a new group or community, improves accessibility or significantly increases the work. Funding is not available simply to continue or repeat an existing program.	Complete Part A only. Provide information appropriate for a smaller project: a clear community need; a brief description of the activities, who will benefit and expected participation; a basic timeline and reasonable budget; and simple ways to know whether the project was successful.
Project funding \$10,000 to \$20,000	Deliver activities now. You are ready to deliver a larger or more extensive project. The amount requested must be supported by the project's reach, activities and reasonable costs. Serving more than one community does not automatically qualify a project for additional funding.	Complete Parts A and B. Include the information required for a smaller project, plus a detailed project plan and timeline; partner organizations, their roles and letters confirming their involvement; a stronger explanation of the project's reach and scope; a detailed budget; and clearer measures of success.

Funding amount	Choose this option when	Your application should include
Planning funding Up to \$25,000	Plan before taking action. Your community needs to understand an issue, consult older adults and partners, explore possible solutions or develop a plan before delivering a project or making broader changes. Planning may include a needs assessment, research, community engagement, analysis of gaps and barriers, or development of an age-friendly community plan or roadmap.	Complete Parts A and B. Include a clear planning question or community issue; an active local government partner; a plan to engage older adults and other community partners; a work plan, timeline and expected deliverables; a contribution of at least 10% of the total cost through cash, donated goods or services, or volunteer time; and an explanation of how the findings will guide future action. SLTC may contact the applicant during review to discuss the proposed scope, budget or funding amount.

There is **one application form** for all funding options. **Everyone completes Part A.**

- Applicants requesting **less than \$10,000** for a project stop at the end of **Part A**.
- Applicants requesting **\$10,000 to \$20,000** for a project and all **planning** applicants also **complete Part B**.

Priorities for both project and planning funding

Strong initiatives:

- respond to a clear community need;
- involve older adults in shaping the work;
- reduce barriers to participation;
- are affordable, accessible and inclusive; and
- demonstrate meaningful benefits for older adults and their communities.

Priority consideration

Applications that meaningfully involve and benefit underserved or equity-deserving older adults may receive priority consideration. This includes Acadian and Francophone, African Nova Scotian, immigrant, newcomer, refugee, Mi'kmaq and Indigenous, racialized and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, as well as older adults living with low income, disabilities or cognitive impairment.

Applicants should explain how the initiative has been informed by the people it is intended to benefit and how barriers to participation will be reduced. Simply identifying a population without explaining how it will be involved or benefit will not result in priority consideration.

Budget information

Budgets should be reasonable and reflect the scope of the proposed work. All costs must be directly related to the approved activities. Budgets are reviewed based on the proposed activities, scope of the work and available funding. Some requested costs may not be funded.

Eligible costs

Funding may cover reasonable costs necessary to complete the approved work, including:

- Personnel: temporary staff, additional hours for existing staff, and required employer costs (such as CPP and EI) directly related to the work.
- Professional services and honoraria: facilitators, instructors, consultants and other specialized expertise.
- Transportation and travel: reasonable transportation costs that help older adults participate, and necessary travel for staff, volunteers.
- Activities: venue rental, food, refreshments, instructor fees and other direct program delivery costs.
- Supplies and materials: activity supplies, food ingredients, educational materials, printing.
- Equipment and technology: essential equipment, short-term software licences, online meeting services, survey tools and other technology required for the work.
- Research and planning: needs assessments, surveys, data collection, community mapping, analysis, plan development, outreach, evaluation and sharing results.
- Project administration: bookkeeping, financial processing, scheduling, volunteer coordination and grant reporting directly related to the approved work.

Budget requirements

- Project administration costs must not exceed 10% of the AFC funding requested.
- Equipment costs must not exceed 20% of the AFC funding requested.
- Equipment must be essential to the approved work and cannot include furnishings, building improvements or other capital assets.
- Percentage limits are based on the amount requested from the AFC Grant, not the total cost of the project.

Ineligible costs

Funding does not cover:

- ongoing programs, regular operations or regular staff duties that would continue without the grant;
- general organizational or administrative costs not directly related to the approved work;
- costs incurred before funding approval;
- construction, renovations, repairs or upgrades to buildings or outdoor spaces;
- fundraising activities, alcohol, gifts, prizes or participation incentives;

How applications are assessed

All applications are assessed using the same areas below. The information expected will match the funding option, amount requested and scope of the work. A smaller project will not receive a lower assessment simply because it is less complex or reaches fewer people. Larger project requests and planning grants must provide the additional information described in the funding options table above.

Assessment area	What reviewers consider
Need and benefit	Whether the community need or issue is clear, who will benefit and how the work will help older adults. For planning grants, reviewers consider why the planning is needed and how it could lead to future action.
Older-adult and community involvement	How older adults helped identify the need or shape the work. Reviewers also consider whether the right partners are involved and whether their roles are clear. Planning grants must show meaningful involvement from a local government, older adults and other community partners.
Equity and access	Whether the applicant understands the financial, physical, cultural, sensory, language or geographic barriers older adults may face and has practical plans to reduce them. Planning grants should explain how community engagement will be inclusive and accessible.
Capacity, work plan and budget	Whether the organization has the people, experience and partnerships needed to complete the work. Reviewers consider whether the activities, timeline and costs are clear, realistic and appropriate for the amount requested. Larger project requests and planning grants are expected to provide more detailed work plans, budgets and partner information.

Assessment area	What reviewers consider
Results and lasting value	Whether the expected results are clear and reasonable for the amount requested and how the applicant will know whether the work was successful. Reviewers consider whether project benefits can continue or whether planning findings will be shared and used to guide future action.

Decisions

- **Meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding.** Applications are assessed competitively based on their strength and the funding available. Successful applicants may receive less than the amount requested.
- All applicants will be notified of the decision by email.

Expected timeline

Activity	Timeframe
Application opens	Oct 8, 2026
Application closes	Nov 19, 2026, 11:59 p.m. AST
Notification of outcome, grant agreements and distribution of funding	March 31, 2027

If your application is approved

- Approval letters confirm the funding amount and outline the terms and conditions.
- The application becomes the Agreement between your organization and SLTC.
- Begin project activities only after funding has been received. Applicants should plan project activities to begin **no earlier than April 2027**.
- Complete the approved work within one year of receiving funding.
- Acknowledge funding from the Province of Nova Scotia in project announcements, advertising, reports and products.

Recipient responsibilities

Final reporting

- Submit a final report and statement of expenditure using the template provided by SLTC, include key findings, results and any required supporting documents.
- Keep financial records and receipts and submit them if requested.
- Return any unspent funding if the project is cancelled or costs less than approved.

Final reporting timeline

Activity	Timeframe
End of grant activity	March 31, 2028
Submit final report with copies of receipts	May 31, 2028

- If additional time is needed, contact SLTC before the project end date to request an extension.
- Use the funding only for the approved activities and expenses. Ask SLTC for written approval before making major changes or reallocating funding.

Failure to submit the required final report may affect eligibility for future AFC funding.

How to apply

Complete the application form and submit it, along with any required supporting documents, by the application deadline.

Use the same application form for project or planning funding. The form tells you which parts to complete based on the funding option and amount requested.

Application form and current program information: novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant/

Questions or help: If you are unsure whether your organization, idea or costs are eligible or need another application format, email agefriendly@novascotia.ca.