

Funding Programs for Municipalities

Prepared By: The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Please Note: This is not an exhaustive list of funding programs; however, it does include key programs available to municipalities at the time it was created. If you have a funding program update, please forward it to: info@nsfm.ca

Last Updated: November 1, 2021

Social Infrastructure and Healthy Communities

Sport and Recreation Funding

Organization and Program Name: Active Communities Fund - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

Description: Supporting community-wide initiative to encourage less-structured physical activity and movement.

Funding range: Up to 75% of eligible costs to a \$5000.00 limit. Initiatives that span more communities may be eligible for more.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Community Recreation Capital Grant- Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

Description: Assists in the development of small scale indoor and outdoor capital recreations projects.

Funding range: Less than \$25,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Recreation Facility Development Grant - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: Assists community groups, municipalities and other 'not-for-profit' organizations to develop facilities in order to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation.

Funding range: One-third of total capital cost of the project to a maximum of \$150,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Gender Equity Capacity Building Support Fund - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: Create supportive organizational policies, and practices, to increase the engagement of diverse women and girls in sport, and recreation as coaches, leaders, and participants.

Funding range: Up to 100% of approved project costs.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Recreation Community Development Grant- Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: 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.

Funding Range: 50-75% of project costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Planning Assistance Program - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage:

Description: Assists community organizations and municipalities in obtaining professional assistance in planning, designing, and researching proposed and existing sport and recreation facilities.

Funding Range: Up to 50% of total cost of project to a maximum of \$10,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Rink Revitalization Program - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: Assists community groups, municipalities, and other 'not-for-profit' organizations who operate rinks to invest in the revitalization or upgrading of capital infrastructure to support sustainability of the facility.

Funding Range: Up to one-third of the total capital cost of the project to a maximum of \$150,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Emergency Management

Organization and Program Name: The Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) - Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Description: Financial help to fire departments and ground search and rescue organizations, including hazardous materials (HAZMAT) organizations. The funding is for equipment that's used directly in response to a fire or emergency.

Funding range: Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Physician Recruitment

Organization and Program Name: Culture Innovation Fund - Healthy Communities Stream: Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: Helps community leaders and innovators attract and embrace physicians and their families through projects and initiatives that use creativity and diverse culture.

Funding range: 75% of total eligible costs up to a \$25,000 maximum.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Accessibility

Organization and Program Name: Community ACCESS-Ability Program - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: Cost-shared grants to community groups and municipalities for accessibility related capital improvements.

Funding range: Up to 66.6% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Senior Citizens

Organization and Program Name: Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care - Age-friendly communities grant.

Description: Provides funding for community -wide efforts to create age-friendly environments and promote healthy aging. It also supports initiatives that will positively impact the lives of older adults in Nova Scotia.

Funding range: Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 depending on scale of project

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Recycling and Waste Diversion

Organization and Program Name: Municipal Efficiency Fund - Divert NS

Description: Support for increasing efficiency in the municipal solid waste-resource management system of Nova Scotia. The fund will support municipalities in researching, developing and implementing efficiency projects.

Funding Range: Minimum of 50% of project costs as determined by the committee.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Municipal Adoption Fund - Divert NS

Description: Support municipalities/waste management regions in adopting an established program that diverts waste-resources. Projects should advance waste diversion programs in Nova Scotia by implementing established best practices and proven ideas.

Funding Range: Minimum of 50% of project costs as determined by the committee.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Innovation and Economic Development**Organization and Program Name:** Beautification and Streetscaping Program - Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Description: Funding to beautify, improve or maintain property that the municipality owns or leases.

Funding range: Program may fund up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$25,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Community Works Program - Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Description: The program supports municipalities with funding for employment opportunities for students, unemployed individuals and others who contribute to their communities.

Funding range: The CWP will consider up to 50% or a maximum of \$25,000.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Culture Innovation Fund - Healthy Communities Stream, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: The Culture Innovation Fund's Healthy Communities Stream helps community leaders and innovators attract and embrace physicians and their families through projects and initiatives that use creativity and our diverse culture.

Funding range: Maximum of \$15,000; matching funding or partnerships not necessarily required.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Trails Engineering Assistance Grant Program - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: This program is designed to provide trail builders and managers with funding for professional engineering expertise. This could include planning and design work of bridges or other large structures.

Funding range: At the request of the organization, an initial payment (normally 80% of the approved amount) may be made at the start of the project. Final payments will be made upon completion of the initiative and submission of a final report.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Building Vibrant Communities Grant - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: The grant supports building the capacity of community organizations and encourages collaboration

Funding range: 5,000 – 50,000

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Invest Nova Scotia Fund

Description: The Invest Nova Scotia Fund provides economic incentives to projects that have a demonstrated economic benefit to our province. The fund empowers sectors, communities, and organizations to become more competitive through innovation and collaboration.

Funding range: The minimum \$250,000 and the maximum amount \$3 million.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Sustainability/Active Transit

Organization and Program Name: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - Infrastructure Canada

Description: Through bilateral agreements with provinces and territories, Infrastructure Canada will provide over \$35 billion in funding under five streams:

- \$20.1 billion for public transit;
- \$9.2 billion for green infrastructure;
- \$2 billion for wide-ranging infrastructure needs in rural and northern communities;
- \$1.3 billion for community, cultural and recreational infrastructure; and
- \$3 billion for a COVID-19 resilience stream.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Smart Cities Challenge - Infrastructure Canada

Description: This is a Canada-wide competition to encourage communities (including municipalities) to address local issues through innovation, data and connected technology.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program - Infrastructure Canada

Description: This program aims to build more community buildings and improve existing ones by making them more energy efficient and resilient, accessible and higher performing.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund - Infrastructure Canada

Description: This fund aims to make communities more resilient by investing in large-scale infrastructure projects, including natural infrastructure, so they may better manage risks from natural hazards, such as floods.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Municipal Asset Management Program - Infrastructure Canada

Description: The Municipal Asset Management Program, delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, offers funding, training and resources to help municipalities make informed infrastructure investment decisions based on sound asset management practices.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program - Infrastructure Canada

Description: The Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program, delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, provides funding, training and resources to help municipalities adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) - Infrastructure Canada (administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing)

Description: The Canada Community-Building Fund, formerly the Gas Tax Fund, provides municipalities with a permanent, predictable and indexed source of long-term funding, enabling construction and

rehabilitation of core public infrastructure across 18 different project categories, including roads and bridges, public transit, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and recreational facilities.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Provincial Capital Assistance Program - Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Description: The Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) helps cover the cost of high-priority municipal infrastructure projects, such as resource management, water supply and wastewater treatment projects.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program - Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Description: The Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIP) helps municipalities invest in infrastructure that reduces flood risks and community vulnerability

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Community Trails Leadership Fund - Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage

Description: This program offers funding for municipalities to provide training and educational opportunities for volunteers and the professionals who support the development of their trails.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Trails Expansion Grant Program - Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage

Description: The Trail Expansion Grant program supports the development new trails, and the expansion and upgrading of existing trails.

Funding range: Provides one-third of the total capital cost of a project, up to a maximum of \$150,000

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Trails Engineering Assistance Grant Program - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Description: This program is designed to provide trail builders and managers with funding for professional engineering expertise. This could include planning and design work of bridges or other large structures.

Funding range: At the request of the organization, an initial payment (normally 80% of the approved amount) may be made at the start of the project. Final payments will be made upon completion of the initiative and submission of a final report.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Low Carbon Communities Funding Program - Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

Description: The Low Carbon Communities Funding Program provides support for buildings, electricity, transportation, and other projects that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Funding can be used for community planning, feasibility studies, learning by doing, education and innovative solutions.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Connect2 Program - Nova Scotia Department of Public Works

Description: The Connect2 Program supports community projects in:

- Active transportation infrastructure and design (grants of up to \$100,000 are available)
- Clean fleets and shared mobility (grants of up to \$75,000 are available)
- Community building and engagement

Contact: connect2@novascotia.ca

Organization and Program Name: Community Efficiency Financing Program - Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Description: The Community Efficiency Financing Program will fund municipal programs that finance energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy in residential homes.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Green Municipal Funds - Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Description: The Green Municipal Funds (GMF) offers grants and loans for municipal environmental projects for: Plans and studies; Pilot projects; and Capital projects.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Small Business Energy Solutions - Efficiency Nova Scotia

Description: Municipal buildings and facilities using less than 350,000 kWh annually (which represents electricity bills typically under \$3,000 monthly) are eligible for this program. Recently, the program expanded to include non-electric retrofits, which allows for the installation of heat pumps in municipal buildings. For many smaller municipalities, all of their facilities (with the exception of water and wastewater treatment facilities, arenas and indoor pools) will likely qualify for this program.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Business Energy Rebates - Efficiency Nova Scotia

Description: Rebates are available for a variety of measures to make municipal operations more efficient, including lighting, heating, pumps and variable frequency drives for facilities using over 350,000 kWh of electricity annually.

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Organization and Program Name: Custom Solutions - Efficiency Nova Scotia

Description: This program has three components that target electricity savings, typically identified through engineered studies or models:

- Custom Retrofit: Funding towards the cost of a feasibility study on a proposed retrofit; in some circumstances, this program can be used to incentivize net-metered solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for municipalities
- Building Optimization: Funding for a study to review how a building's control system is functioning and whether savings may be achieved by modifying hours of operation or temperature setbacks
- New Construction: Funding for half of the cost of an energy model (up to \$15,000) to be completed during the building's design phase

Website: [Funding application and more information.](#)

Municipalities should consider signing up for *FCM Connect* to receive all new program announcements: <https://fcm.ca/en/resources/tool-sign-up-fcm-connect>