

# **Accessibility Grant Guidelines**

Alternate formats available. Please call 1-888-729-6279 or email [CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca](mailto:CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca).

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## Purpose

The Accessibility Grant aims to improve accessibility and inclusion across Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). The Grant follows:

- the Nothing Without Us About Us principle
- the **Accessibility Act** (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/cssd/accessibility-act/>)
- the Provincial Government's commitment to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.

## Accessibility Project Criteria

Eligible projects will improve the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The maximum funding request is \$25,000. Priority will be given to capacity building projects, programs, or services that promote accessibility and inclusion beyond physical infrastructure.

Project applications should describe the proposed project, all projected costs, include written quotes as required, and any potential outcomes.

Two (2) or more applicants can collaborate on an accessibility project using one application that includes all required information on the partnership.

## Examples of capacity building projects include:

- Research projects that identify creative solutions and actions to address barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, including access to employment and disability related supports.
- Technology improvement or website development and updates that improve accessibility.
- Development and implementation of awareness sessions on disability or accessibility-related topics that aim to educate and find solutions to barriers.
- Project that promotes inclusivity in programs and services for people with disabilities, and considers social demographics such as gender identity, racial and ethnic identity, age, and marital status. For many persons with disabilities, there are multiple intersections between these demographic characteristics (intersectionality).
- Project that promotes intergenerational and equitable access for persons with disabilities to learn about indigenous cultures and related issues within society such as housing, transportation, employment, etc.

### **Examples of physical accessibility projects include:**

- Building/Repairing indoor accessibility features such as ramps, door openers, accessible washrooms, tactile features/lighting for way finding and sensory friendly equipment.
- Building/Repairing outdoor accessible features such as outdoor ramps, raised garden beds, playgrounds and paved walkways to areas that are accessible. This does not include public roads, curb cuts, and highways that are funded through municipalities or other departments.
- Providing disability related supports for accessible events and meetings such as real time captioning services, purchasing hearing assistive technologies, and sign language interpretation services.

**Important Note:** Stair lifts or platform lifts for buildings are not eligible because of the safety and accessibility concerns raised by the disability community in the province. As well, applications that are not focused on accessibility improvements, such as electrical work, heating and cooling systems, parking lot paving, sewage systems and incomplete accessible construction will not be accepted.

### **Who can Apply?**

- NL based nonprofit organizations (community, disability groups, churches, social enterprises)
- Municipalities and Local Service Districts
- Indigenous governments and groups

### **Who can Not Apply?**

- Provincial Government operated facilities
- Privately-owned corporations and agencies
- National and international based organizations who do not have an office or branch in NL.

### **Review Process**

Priority considerations will include:

- Capacity building projects.
- Projects that have collaboration/partnership between two or more organizations or municipalities.
- Projects that have a community or regional focus.

- Projects that are innovative, including the use of using technology to prevent barriers.
- Projects submitted by Indigenous organizations.

## **Application Scoring**

Applications will be reviewed and rated based on the eligibility criteria noted above.

Examples of high scoring projects include:

- Projects that are focused on capacity building and collaborative projects involving two or more organizations.
- Projects that identify employment gaps and solutions.
- Research projects aimed at improving accessibility in warming and emergency centers.
- Education programs to help people with disabilities learn new skills and improve their chances of employment.

Examples of low score projects include:

- Projects to build or repair a ramp in buildings that are in disrepair.
- Project to replace fire alarms but does not include visual fire alarms and other technology that aids in fire evacuation.
- Projects with unclear quotes.

## **Successful Applicants**

When the review process is complete, successful applicants will receive an email that will include an approval letter and contract. The successful applicant must sign and return contract to [CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca](mailto:CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca).

Funding will be awarded and paid in full when contract signed by applicant.

Applicants must complete their projects by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the same fiscal year. (i.e., successful applicants for 2024-25 have until March 31, 2025, to complete their project.

Successful applicants must also provide a written project summary or report, on or prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>, to Children, Seniors and Social Development at [CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca](mailto:CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca).

## **Unsuccessful Applicants**

When the review process is complete, unsuccessful applicants will receive an email advising of their non-approval status and will be encouraged to re-apply the next fiscal year.

## FAQ

### Filling in the Application:

1. Is the application available in alternate formats?  
Yes. Please contact [CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca](mailto:CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca) to request an alternate format.
2. Why is a contact person important?  
The contact person is required in the event that there are questions about your application.
3. I am partnering up with another organization/municipality. Do we need to submit two-applications?  
Only one application is required that states clearly the partners collaborating on this project. Please make sure you designate a contact person for the project.
4. How long should I expect to wait to hear if my project will receive funding?  
Timelines will depend on the number of applications submitted. All applicants are contacted when the review process is completed.
5. What do I need in my quote?
  - If your project is a renovation or repair project, please make sure the quote is from a contractor and includes supplies, quantity of supplies, labour and cost breakdown. Contractors will provide a detailed breakdown so you have a clear idea what the renovation or repair entails and includes their company logo and address. If you receive a quote that lacks details, please make sure you get the needed information before submitting the application.
  - If it is a capacity building project, the quote will include a cost breakdown including quotes from companies that you will contract for any materials, labour and services. If your project involves hiring a third party to teach, mentor, consult, etc., please ensure that you have estimate details including the full third party cost, travel and/or disability related supports.
6. Do I need a final report once my project is completed?  
Yes, a final report is required. You need to develop a report outlining project scope and outcomes and attach invoices.

### Common errors:

1. Errors related to contact information.
2. Missing project information. The application requires a clear project title, scope and outcome.

3. Missing estimates or a request for amounts that differ from the amount on the quote – Please make sure you fill in the requested amount that matches your quote or estimate.
4. Missing signature – Before you submit your application, please make sure you have appropriate signatures needed. This helps to validate your application for review.

## Resources

### Disability Organizations Network list

- Autism Society NL
- Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Cerebral Palsy Association NL
- CNIB –NL
- Coalition for Persons with Disabilities
- Easter Seals NL
- Empower NL
- Epilepsy NL
- Inclusion Canada NL
- Learning Disabilities Association NL
- Lifewise NL
- NL Association of the Deaf
- NL Brain Injury Association
- NL Down Syndrome Society
- NL Stuttering Association
- People First of Canada
- Schizophrenia Society NL
- Spinal Cord Injury NL
- Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada

### Other funding opportunities related to accessibility to consider:

- Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
  - Active NL fund <https://www.gov.nl.ca/tcar/>
- Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs
  - Accessible Communities Grant <https://www.gov.nl.ca/mpa/funding/>
- Federal funding opportunities
  - Enabling Accessibility Funding (EAF)  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html>

## **Final Report Template**

Project Title:

Project Description:

Project Outcomes:

Summary of Costs:

Copies of Invoices: