

The Government of Nova Scotia recognizes the important role community-based organizations play in advancing equity, anti-racism, inclusion, and the safety of underrepresented and underserved communities.

The Office of Equity and Anti-Racism (OEA) provides funding to community-based organizations across Nova Scotia that align with the goals of [the Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy](#). Funding supports organizations to strengthen capacity, advance equity and anti-racism, and implement community-led initiatives.

In 2026-27 the OEA Grants Program includes three funding streams:

- **[Community Network Grant](#) (more info on page 5)**
Supports community-led projects that advance equity and anti-racism and address systemic hate, inequity and racism.
2026–27 funding allocation: \$360,000
Maximum funding per organization: \$40,000
- **[2SLGBTQIA+ Community Impact Grant](#) (more info on page 6)**
Provides funding to strengthen the capacity, sustainability and community impact of organizations serving 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
2026–27 funding allocation: \$135,000
Maximum funding per organization: \$25,000
- **[Faith-Based Community Safety Grant \(Pilot\)](#) (more info on page 7)**
Pilot funding supports faith-based communities experiencing hate-motivated incidents and discrimination to enhance community safety.
2026–27 funding allocation: \$100,000
Maximum funding per organization: \$5,000

Organizations may apply to all funding streams that align with their mandate and the purpose of their proposed activities. The deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (ADT).

For questions and assistance with applications, please email OEAengagement@novascotia.ca

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Organizations

Organizations must have a primary mandate or sustained focus that is substantially connected to the purpose of the applicable funding stream.

Only registered non-profit organizations or charities are eligible, including:

- 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).

Project Eligibility

- Projects that have already received OEA funding are not eligible for additional funding. Projects may focus on:
 - Awareness and education
 - Capacity building
 - Community building, support, and advocacy
 - Systemic change, research, and policy development
 - Innovative community-led solutions
 - Safety and security

Eligible Expenses

Funding may be used for:

- Time-limited projects and initiatives
- Design, creation, or expansion of programs and services
- Program and service delivery costs
- Time-limited operating expenses (e.g., staff salaries, rent, utilities).
- Technology, software, and communication tools
- Strategic planning or board development
- Safety and security expenses

Ineligible Expenses

Funding cannot be used for:

- Fundraising events or activities that generate revenue
- Costs and expenses incurred prior to the application deadline
- Cultural events not clearly linked to the objectives of the funding program
- Political or partisan activities (activities must be free from affiliation, bias, designation or support regarding any single political party)
- Costs already fully covered by another funding source
- Direct financial support for individuals

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed based on the information provided. A committee of Government of Nova Scotia representatives will consider:

- **Eligibility and alignment with the funding stream:** How clearly the proposed project supports the purpose of the fund and advances equity and anti-racism.
- **Project feasibility:** Whether the project has clear and achievable activities, timelines, deliverables, and a realistic budget.
- **Community benefit and engagement:** Demonstrated community need, and the potential benefit of the project for underrepresented or underserved Nova Scotians and how meaningfully these communities are involved in the project.
- **Geographic and organizational representation:** Additional consideration will be given to organizations that serve rural communities and to organizations that have not previously received Government of Nova Scotia funding. This helps support geographic representation and provide newer organizations with less experience applying for government grants with an equitable opportunity to receive funding.

Funding decisions will consider the overall strength of each application, the range of projects proposed, and the amount of funding available.

Reporting Requirements

Organizations that receive funding must:

- Submit a final project and financial report within 30 days of the project end date.
- Register with and contribute to OEA's [Community Network Site](#). Contributions may include sharing project information, resources, upcoming events and engagement opportunities, updates and outcomes.

Terms of Funding

- Payment will be issued to the organization named on the application. Payments cannot be made to individuals.
- Funds must be used for the activities described in the approved application.
 - Any significant changes to the project must receive prior approval from OEA, including changes to timelines, locations, activities, or project scope
- If the project does not proceed after funding has been issued, the recipient must return the funds to OEA.
- Funding recipients are subject to provincial audit requirements. All accounting records and supporting documentation must be held for a period of three (3) years following date of final payment from the Province of Nova Scotia.

Submitting Applications

Applications must be submitted through the online application portal by **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (ADT)**.

If the online portal is not accessible or does not meet your needs, please contact us at oeaengagement@novascotia.ca to discuss alternative application arrangements.

Community Network Grant

Purpose

The Community Network Grant supports community-based organizations to undertake projects that align with the goals of Nova Scotia's [Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy](#) and address systemic hate, inequity, and racism.

The organization and project must have a primary mandate and/or objectives and a clear purpose related to addressing systemic hate, inequity, and racism.

Maximum funding per organization: \$40,000

Examples of Eligible Activities and Projects

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Anti-racism education and public awareness campaigns.
- Community-led workshops, forums, or dialogues that address hate, discrimination, and systemic barriers.
- Research projects that identify inequities and inform policy or systems change.
- Development of community resources, toolkits, or educational materials.
- Leadership development programs for equity-deserving communities.
- Initiatives that strengthen collaboration and networking among community organizations.
- Projects that increase access to services, opportunities, or supports for underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Community-based advocacy initiatives that address systemic inequities.

2SLGBTQIA+ Community Impact Grant

Purpose

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Impact Grant provides funding to strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and community impact of organizations serving 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Nova Scotia. Organizations must have a primary mandate or sustained focus on serving 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Nova Scotia.

Funding may support organizational stability, capacity building, and long-term community impact.

Maximum funding per organization: \$25,000

Examples of Eligible Activities and Projects

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Staff salaries that support organizational operations and service delivery.
- Strategic planning, governance development, or board training.
- Development or expansion of programs and services for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- Volunteer recruitment, training, and retention initiatives.
- Community outreach and engagement activities.
- Technology, software, and communication tools that strengthen organizational capacity.
- Partnership and network-building initiatives.
- Evaluation, planning, and organizational development activities that support long-term sustainability.
- Projects that improve access to supports, services, or community connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and communities.

Faith-Based Community Safety Grant (Pilot)

Purpose

Through this one-year pilot, the Faith-Based Community Safety Grant helps faith-based communities experiencing hate, discrimination, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of identity-based harm by enhancing safety, and strengthening organizational and community capacity. This pilot is offering a single round of funding.

Maximum funding per organization: \$5,000

Funding may support initiatives that:

- Prevent and respond to hate motivated incidents, discrimination, antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of religious identity-based harm.
- Strengthen organizational and community capacity and preparedness for safety and security, including improvements to physical safety and security.
- Promote Intercultural and interfaith understanding.

Examples of Eligible Activities and Projects

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Security assessments and safety planning.
- Installation or enhancement of safety and security equipment, such as cameras, lighting, locks, alarms, or access-control systems.
- Development of emergency response procedures and incident reporting protocols.
- Training related to safety, de-escalation, incident response, or hate crime awareness, bystander intervention and incident response
- Technical assistance and grant-writing support related to accessing federal and other safety funding programs.

Grants Overview

GRANT	ELIGIBLE	NOT ELIGIBLE	IMPACT CRITERIA	EXAMPLE INITATIVES
Community Network Grant	- Time-limited projects and initiatives - Design, creation, or expansion of programs and services - Program and service delivery costs - Time-limited operating expenses (e.g., staff salaries, rent, utilities). - Technology, software, and communication tools - Strategic planning or board development - Security and safety expenses	- Fundraising events or activities that generate revenue - Costs and expenses incurred prior to the application deadline - Cultural events not clearly linked to the objectives of the funding program - Political or partisan activities - Costs already fully covered by another funding source - Direct financial support for individuals	Supports community-based organizations to undertake projects that align with the goals of Nova Scotia's Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy and address systemic hate, inequity, and racism.	- Anti-racism education and public awareness campaigns. - Community-led workshops, forums, or dialogues that address hate, discrimination, and systemic barriers. - Research projects that identify inequities and inform policy or systems change. - Development of community resources, toolkits, or educational materials. - Leadership development programs for equity-deserving communities. - Initiatives that strengthen collaboration and networking among community organizations. - Projects that increase access to services, opportunities, or supports for underrepresented and underserved communities. - Community-based advocacy initiatives that address systemic inequities.
2SLGBTQIA+ Community Impact Grant			Provides funding to strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and community impact of organizations serving 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Nova Scotia.	- Staff salaries that support organizational operations and service delivery. - Strategic planning, governance development, or board training. - Development or expansion of programs and services for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. - Volunteer recruitment, training, and retention initiatives. - Community outreach and engagement activities. - Technology, software, and communication tools that strengthen organizational capacity. - Partnership and network-building initiatives. - Evaluation, planning, and organizational development activities that support long-term sustainability. - Projects that improve access to supports, services, or community connection for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and communities.
Faith-Based Community Safety Grant			Helps faith-based communities experiencing hate, discrimination, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of identity-based harm by enhancing safety, and strengthening organizational and community capacity.	- Security assessments and safety planning. - Installation or enhancement of safety and security equipment, such as cameras, lighting, locks, alarms, or access-control systems. - Development of emergency response procedures and incident reporting protocols. - Training related to safety, de-escalation, incident response, or hate crime awareness, bystander intervention and incident response - Technical assistance and grant-writing support related to accessing federal and other safety funding programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Community Network?

The Community Network was created to provide a virtual space to better connect communities with each other and with government for meaningful, sustained dialogue. It is one part of government's efforts to engage with, and support underrepresented and underserved communities, and was a requirement established in the [*Dismantling Racism and Hate Act*](#).

2. Are these grants all the same?

No. OEA has three distinct funding streams. The Community Network Grant, 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Impact Grant, and the pilot Faith-Based Community Safety Grant are using a coordinated application and review process. Each grant has its own purpose, eligibility requirements, assessment criteria and funding allocation.

There is significant overlap between the communities served by the three programs. A single application reduces duplication for organizations and makes the application and review process more efficient.

3. What types of activities and projects may be funded?

Projects and activities supported through OEA grant programs may include:

- **Awareness and Education:** Activities that increase knowledge, understanding, and dialogue about equity, anti-racism, inclusion, community safety, or the experiences of underrepresented communities.
- **Capacity Building:** Activities that strengthen organizational sustainability, governance, leadership, strategic planning, volunteer development, staff training, or community capacity.
- **Community Building, Support, and Advocacy:** Activities that foster belonging, strengthen community connections, provide supports and resources, or advance advocacy and community engagement, or improve community safety and access to safe, inclusive spaces
- **Research, Policy, and Systems Change:** Activities that identify barriers, gather community insights, conduct research, inform policy development, or contribute to institutional and systemic change.
- **Innovative Community-Led Solutions:** Creative or emerging approaches that support the goals of the funding stream and respond to identified community needs.
- **Safety and Security:** Installation or enhancement of safety and security, such as security assessments and safety planning, cameras, lighting, locks, alarms, or access-control systems.

4. Are municipalities, schools, post-secondary institutions, and hospitals eligible?

No, Community Network Grants are for community-based organizations with a primary-mandate relating to equity and anti-racism. Public bodies and other levels of government may qualify for other grants and/or are already in receipt of operating funding from the provincial government.

5. If I apply once, can I be considered for more than one grant?

For 2026–27, one application provides access to all funding opportunities. However, each funding stream has separate objectives and assessment criteria, and OEA will assess the application against the applicable program criteria. Organizations may apply to all funding streams that align with their mandate and the purpose of their proposed activities.

6. When do I need to do the project by?

No specified timeline but the expectation is projects have clear start and end dates and are not indefinite in nature.

7. When will the funds be released?

The funds will be released before end of fiscal (March 31, 2027).

8. Who are the communities of focus for these grants?

OEA grants support organizations and activities that advance equity, address systemic barriers, respond to hate and discrimination, strengthen community safety, or support communities that experience inequity or exclusion.

Depending on the funding stream, this may include work with:

- Mi'kmaq and Indigenous communities.
- African Nova Scotian communities and people of African descent.
- 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- Persons with disabilities.
- Newcomers and refugees.
- Religious and faith-based communities.

9. Why do rural organizations receive additional points in the scoring criteria during evaluations?

Rural community-based organizations will receive additional points in the scoring for Community Network Grants to address the unique challenges they face. These areas typically have fewer resources and face greater obstacles in accessing funding. By providing extra points, our grant program aims to ensure that rural community-based organizations have an equitable chance.

10. If my project has received other external funding, can I still apply?

You can apply for the Community Network Grants even if your project has received other funding. In your application, you are **required** to provide details of all funding that your project has received to date (including sources and amounts). Your application should clearly demonstrate why additional funding is required. If you have any specific questions or need further clarification on how existing funding may affect your application, please contact us.

11. If my project received a Community Network Grant in previous years, can I still apply?

No, the Community Network Grant is intended to support a wide range of emerging community projects. Previously successful projects are not eligible to receive funding again.

Organizations that have previously received a Community Network Grant are eligible to apply for funding for a different project.

12. What are the organization's obligations regarding records for review or audit by the Province of Nova Scotia?

The organization shall make such books and records available to the Province of Nova Scotia for review or audit within ten (10) days following receipt of a request from the Province of Nova Scotia to do so. The organization agrees that it shall retain all such books and records and make them available for review or audit by the Province of Nova Scotia for a period of three (3) years after the date of final payment by the Province of Nova Scotia. Any review or audit by the Province of Nova Scotia shall be carried out by the Province of Nova Scotia at the Province's expense.

For further inquiries and case-specific questions, please email oeaengagement@novascotia.ca.