

Introduction

Government is committed to providing additional support to Nova Scotia's most vulnerable families, seniors and youth. This is a challenging time for everyone, and access to local, healthy food—as well as strong food literacy skills—has never been more important.

Program Description

The Community Food Access and Literacy (CFAL) Fund supports initiatives that:

- build upon grassroots knowledge on growing and cooking food
- provide opportunities for learning through classes or workshops where the focus is on food literacy, and for example, teach meal planning, nutrition, budgeting skills, and/or about growing food
- build and/or maintain community gardens to increase individual, family, and community access to fresh produce
- provide opportunities for intergenerational learning, and/or collaboration

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Supports & Infrastructure Team to discuss their project before applying:

CommunitiesNS@novascotia.ca or (902) 424-5793

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Commitment

- Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage supports our communities to thrive by promoting active living, tourism, and Nova Scotia's diverse culture, heritage, and languages. We pride ourselves in helping to grow communities and organizations by providing programs and services that support these areas.
- We are committed to ensuring that our programs and services are free of discrimination and barriers, and value equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA). By applying this lens and ensuring it is a core value in our programs and decision-making processes, we are taking steps to address the long-standing systemic barriers that impact many communities in our province.
- Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage is committed to advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility across Nova Scotia, and we support partners who share in this commitment.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered, Nova Scotia-based non-profit society/cooperative/charity in good standing
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities

Eligible Costs

Include but not limited to:

- Grocery purchase related to programming
- Soil, amendments, seeds, transplants
- Marketing
- Program supplies such as jars for canning, cooking equipment (small)
- Wood and supplies for building and maintaining garden beds

Ineligible Costs

- Fundraising events, capital building/development and major equipment purchases.
- Projects in which research is the primary focus.
- Projects that focus on meal or food hamper delivery services.
- Applications from individuals.
- Expenses or activities that occur prior to the deadline date.

Project Contributions

Tier 1

- Applies to funding requests of \$2,500 or less.
- Applicants are *not* required to provide a cash or in-kind contribution.

Tier 2

- Applies to funding requests between \$2,501 and \$5,000.
- Applicants must contribute a **minimum of 25%** towards eligible project costs.
 - This must include at least *10% in cash* from the applicant organization.
- Collaborations are encouraged.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted online.

Please note: the online form cannot be saved once started. Ensure all required documents are prepared in advance.

Requirements

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Project Overview
- Project Budget
- Applicable supporting documents (e.g. letters of support, photos)

Before beginning your online application, ensure you have addressed the following required information and have the necessary documents ready to upload:

1. Project Overview Document

This document forms the core of your application. Please address the following areas:

1. Organizational Overview

Provide a brief description of your organization

2. Project Description

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project, including:

- Project objectives and activities
- Names and roles of key project personnel
- A high-level project timeline (dates may be estimated)

3. Program Alignment

Demonstrate how the proposed project supports with one or more of the following program themes:

- Community Gardens and Food Access
- Food Literacy

4. Partnerships and Collaborations

Have you connected with other food groups in your region? If yes, for each collaboration, provide the following:

- Name the organization
- Describe the nature and scope of the partnership
- Attach letters of support, where available

5. Project Sustainability (if applicable)

If the project includes a garden or greenhouse, describe plans for ongoing maintenance and sustainability beyond the funding period.

2. Project Budget

Applicants must submit a **detailed project budget** that includes the following components:

- Total Project Costs
- Revenues and Expenses

Funding contribution requirements correspond to the tier of funding requested:

Tier 1

- Applies to funding requests of \$2,500 or less.
- Applicants are **not required** to provide a cash or in-kind contribution.

Tier 2

- Applies to funding requests between \$2,501 and \$5,000.
- Applicants must provide a **minimum of 25%** of eligible project costs.
 - Of this amount, at least **10% of the total project cost** must be a cash contribution from the applicant organization.

Please Note:

- Applications must be **completed in full**.
- Relevant supporting materials—such as photos or letters of support—may be included.
- Completed application forms must be **signed and dated**.
- Applications may be submitted **online** (*new*), by **email**, or by **mail**.
- A program officer may contact you using the information provided in your application. Please ensure all contact information is accurate and that listed contacts can be reached.

Application Deadlines and Activity Start/End Dates

Applications must be received no later than **11:59pm Wednesday, March 25, 2026**. Applications postmarked on the deadline date are acceptable.

Application Assessment

Applications will be assessed based on the following considerations:

- Completeness of the application.
- Demonstration of how the proposed activity supports at least one of the program themes identified in the program description.
- Projects that include one or more of the following may be given higher priority
 - build upon existing community collaborations or project partners (support letters outlining partners' roles should be provided)
 - include equity deserving communities
 - gardens that demonstrate community buy-in, ensuring up-keep
 - is a new initiative

Conditions of Funding

- Approved applicants will receive a letter outlining the terms and conditions of funding. This letter must be signed and returned before funds can be issued.
- Payment will be issued to the applying organization only; payments cannot be made to individuals.
- Payment will be made at 100% of the approved funding amount.
- Funds must be used for the activity as described in the application.
- The department must be notified **in advance** of any changes to the project, including start and end dates, location, or any other significant modifications.
- If the project does not proceed after grant payment has been issued, the recipient must return the funds to the department.
- Organizations receiving funding must submit a **Final Report** within 30 days of the project end date. A reporting template will be provided.
- Funding recipients are subject to **provincial audit**. All receipts and financial records must be retained.

Please note: if the **Final Report** becomes overdue, no funds can be released for any subsequent grant approved through either the departmental or Arts Nova Scotia's programs until the overdue report has been received.

For more information

Telephone: (902) 424-5793
E-mail: CommunitiesNS@novascotia.ca
Mailing Address: Communities Nova Scotia
Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage
PO BOX 456, STN Central
1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Does your project need volunteers?

VolunteerNS.ca, is a free searchable database that connects non-profits with skilled volunteers in Nova Scotia and nationwide. Volunteers can also easily search for opportunities, while organizations create profiles and receive support to fill vacancies, fostering community connections.

Visit: <https://www.volunteersns.ca/>



Resources

- [Urban Farms Everywhere – an implementation guide' by Common Roots Urban Farm \(PDF 6.3MB\)](#)
- [Food Literacy Resources – Nourish Nova Scotia](#)
- [Community Garden Funding Sources – Community Health Boards, NS Health](#)
- [Funding Resources to Support Healthy School Environments – Community Health Boards, NS Health](#)