



2021 Guidelines

Program Dates:

Beginning of Application Period: May 1, 2021

End of Application Period: June 1, 2021

Grant Completion Date: July 31, 2022

Program Objective:

RCFofNS Community Sparks Grants are small matching grants for climate change related projects throughout Nova Scotia. The grants are designed to support innovative, community-based action and to promote environmentally sustainable, socially supportive, and economically thriving communities.

Program Eligibility Criteria:

To be considered for this grant, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The grantee(s) must be a resident of Nova Scotia and have some direct connection to the rural community (*1) in which the project takes place. Youth grant recipients must be between the ages of 13 and 25.
- Grantees should be associated with a sponsoring organization which can receive the funds (*2). The sponsor organization must be a qualified Donee, that is an organization that is able to issue an “official donation receipt” for Canadian Income Tax purposes.

(*1) This excludes the urban areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality (Halifax, Bedford and Dartmouth) and Sydney.

(*2) The Sponsoring Organization has the responsibility for ensuring the project takes place and will be accountable for the grant received from RCFofNS. In some cases, the sponsoring organization will provide the community-based match of the funds but that is not a requirement to be a sponsor.

- Grantees must be able to provide a 50% match from community-based or local sources to qualify for matching funds from the RCFofNS Community Sparks Fund.
- Grantees will be available for two regional or virtual workshops, one for training and the other for showcasing their funded project. Dates for these workshops will be announced later.

Assessing Grant Impact & Promotion

- RCFofNS highlights the impact of its granting programs through ‘vital conversations’ with grantees, both in person (where possible) and/or by virtual means (livestreaming, webpage, Twitter & Facebook).
- The final report will be in the form of a short presentation showcasing the project which will be presented or displayed at the same workshop as the ‘vital conversation’. A short final report questionnaire or video will also be required.
- Grantees must agree to their name and the organization’s voice, image and story being used by RCFofNS to highlight and promote Community Sparks and the work of RCFofNS. Youth under 18 years of age must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian to participate in these vital conversations and promotional activities. In addition, there is the option for youth to agree to be contacted by other youth participants in the program.

Funding Limitations:

- The program/service that is the focus of the project must be directed toward a rural area of Nova Scotia.
- RCFofNS Community Sparks grants will not provide funding to cover deficits or to retire debt. Priority areas/Criteria: RCFofNS Community Sparks grants are intended to be the ‘spark’ between idea and action for projects on climate change. Creative and innovative ideas are encouraged. Applications must include a plan specifying how the project will involve working with the people, resources, and natural environment of your community.

Projects which show leadership, meet a demonstrated need, raise public awareness on climate change issues and promote racial, economic or gender equity are particularly encouraged.

The project context should be elaborated. For example, some interests are as follows:



- Food and Water
- Connections between Climate Change and Health
- Clean Energy Production and the Reduction of Emissions
- The Ocean
- Carbon Sequestration Through Conservation and Restoration
- Clean Growth
- Eco-tourism

Grants Available:

Except in specific unusual circumstances, maximum matches are \$5000 for general projects and \$2000 for youth grants. Grants should be completed by July 31, 2022.

Documentation and Communication:

Participants are encouraged to document all stages of their projects via social media or other methods, and to stay in contact with the project training cohort and foundation staff if they need assistance. We will be organizing a public event at the end of the project period to showcase Community Sparks Projects. We welcome photographs of your organization or activities for RCFofNS's communications tools, including use on the website, annual report, or articles. We respect your privacy and will not sell, give, or distribute your information. Grant recipients are encouraged to acknowledge, where possible, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCFofNS) as the funding source.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2021 at noon

Please ensure the following information is included in your online application:

1. Project Title:

2. Project Contact Information.

1. Lead contact – Grantees must designate a single individual as the lead contact and provide RCFofNS with their address, telephone, and email address.
2. List names and ages (for youth grants) and residence of all people expected to be working on the project. In instances when group members are not members of the



community where this project is to occur, their connection to the grant must be established.

3. Please specifically note if the project is proposed for a MITACS matching grant.

3. Sponsoring Agency Information. Applications must specify the name of qualified donee organization and individual (including contact information) who can confirm their eligibility and willingness to receive funds for the project and to transfer those funds to the grantee(s.)

4. Project Description: A brief description of the project (1 page maximum), including a project title. Please touch on our primary objectives as described in our guidelines: “We are interested in seeing your creative and innovative ideas, your own plans for how to work with the people, resources and natural environment of your community. Projects which show leadership, meet a demonstrated need, raise public awareness on climate change issues and promote racial, economic or gender equity are particularly encouraged.”

5. Budget: Please describe specifically what you hope to spend this matching grant money on and provide a budget for your project. If you have not already raised the full 50% match from community sources, please indicate plans for doing so. In some cases, community matches can be in the form of in-kind contributions such as materials, or professional services.

6. Conditions of acceptance:

- Grantees agree to raise 50% of their budget from community sources.
- Grantees are asked to be available for two regional meetings, one for orientation and the other for showcasing the project at a vital conversation. Dates for these workshops will be announced later.
- Your organization agrees to allow RCFofNS to respectfully share your granting story as part of our communications strategy.

Grants must not discriminate based on race, colour, religion, gender, country of origin, sexual orientation, level of ability or any of the prohibited grounds covered by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

