
Rural Innovation Fund Guidelines

Program Objectives

The Rural Innovation Fund will assist rural communities to plan for and adapt to change. It will support initiatives that allow communities to consider their challenges and opportunities; identify their desired future; and develop and carry out plans to build healthy, vibrant communities. The Fund recognizes the need for rural communities to be supported as they seek ways to create their own solutions to such pressures as shifting demographics, inadequate infrastructure, and a changing economy.

The Fund will give priority to proposals which address challenges and opportunities using innovative approaches across sectors (demographic, economic, social and environmental). It will support community initiatives that focus on

- community plans (Community Counts, Vital Signs, etc.) that identify the economic, social and environmental priorities of the community
- strategic initiatives that support the resiliency and sustainability of the community
- innovation (a new way of thinking, approaching or addressing issues)
- training and learning opportunities to support community plans
- action plans and initiatives that strengthen and build on resources within the community that provide for viability into the future

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered for a grant from the **Rural Innovation Fund**, applicants must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant organization must either be registered as a charitable organization under the Canada Customs and Revenue Act or be sponsored by an organization which is registered as a charitable organization;¹
- The program/service for which funding is sought needs to have a goal of enhancing leadership within rural communities.

Funding Limitations

- The program/service must be targeted at rural areas of Nova Scotia².
- The Foundation will not provide funding:
 - for projects or programs already started
 - to cover deficits
 - to retire debt
 - for annual fundraising or to supplement ongoing, core operating costs of an existing organization
 - for direct grants to individuals

¹ The sponsoring organization has responsibility for ensuring the project takes place and will be accountable for the grant received from the Foundation.

² This excludes the urban areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality (Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford) and Sydney

- for capital projects (unless they are an integral part of the services) and cannot include land or maintenance work to existing facilities
- for organizations which discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, country of origin, sexual orientation, level of ability or any of the prohibitive grounds covered by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.
- for projects which conflict with any current Provincial funding programs
- for projects which may have a negative impact on existing businesses and services
- for projects which have recurrent cost implications
- for projects which deliver human services as a part of an organization's ongoing operations.

Priority Criteria

Those applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of collaboration within the community
- Evidence of an innovative approach that combines perspectives (ie. social, economic and environmental)
- Evidence of inclusion of a wide cross-section of the community
- Evidence of potential for building leadership and community capacity
- Evidence of potential for partnership development
- Evidence that the project has implications for future community development

Grants Available

Grant are available in the range of \$5000 to \$50,000 for the one-year period of September 2012 and September 2013. Projects will be approved for a one-year period. The Rural Innovation Fund has \$140,120 for disbursement in this final year of the granting program.

Deadline

Noon, June 15, 2012

Submission Details

Inquiries may be directed to: Jayne Hunter, 1.800.255.5203

The application is a word document which can be filled in online.

To submit, save the document and attach to an email to marie.david@nsc.ca.

The first page which includes the signature can be faxed (902-897-4020), scanned or mailed (PO Box 1516, Truro NS B2N 5V2).

Do not include additional attachments or information not requested on the form.