



Healing Pathways
COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANTS



Healing Pathways Community Fund for Grief, Loss, and Emotional Wellness

1. What is the Community Fund for Grief, Loss, and Emotional Well-Being?

As part of the Nova Scotia Community Grief and Emotional Wellness Model, Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association (NSHPCA) distributes funding provided by the Government of Nova Scotia to support eligible partnerships and organizations in developing and implementing community-based initiatives that strengthen grief, bereavement, and emotional wellness supports and respond to local community needs.

2. What is the purpose of this funding?

- To support not-for-profit organizations in Nova Scotia in developing and enhancing grief, bereavement, and emotional wellness supports.
- To enable and encourage community-led initiatives that respond to local needs and provide meaningful programs, services, and supports.
- To strengthen the availability and long-term sustainability of resources and strategies that improve access to grief, bereavement, and emotional wellness supports across the province.

3. Who can apply and how to partner?

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be registered not-for-profit organizations or registered charities that are based and operating in Nova Scotia.

- Partnerships are encouraged and may involve community groups, individuals, schools, health organizations, workplaces, or other community-based organizations. Individuals or groups with project ideas are encouraged to collaborate with an eligible not-for-profit organization or charity, which must serve as the lead applicant and funding recipient. For



projects involving partnerships, a formal partnership agreement must be in place before the application is submitted.

- Organizations proposing projects that serve specific communities or populations must demonstrate meaningful engagement with those communities in identifying and addressing local needs, priorities, and concerns. Engagement plans should reflect cultural awareness, respect, equity, and accountability. Letters of support from community members, partner organizations, or other partners are strongly encouraged to demonstrate community involvement and support.

4. What initiatives qualify for funding?

People experience grief and loss in different ways, and there is no single approach that works for everyone.

Funding is available for projects and initiatives that support individuals, families, and communities experiencing grief, loss, or bereavement. Proposed activities should aim to strengthen emotional well-being, build resilience, and improve access to meaningful supports and resources.

Examples of community-level projects or initiatives might include, but are not limited to:

- Training in supportive grief and loss for community leaders and workers (Train the Trainer approach)
- Community events (e.g. webinars, workshops, healing circles, cultural ceremonial activities, learning events, conferences, etc.)
- Volunteer training
- After-school programs
- Art therapy and equipment
- Individual and group programs for grief and bereavement support, mindfulness, emotional well-being
- Lecture series with experts on grief, loss, bereavement, or positive mental outlook
- Library resources and/or acquisition of grief and bereavement tools (e.g. books, digital assets, music resources, self-reflection, or meditation training programs, etc.)
- Music therapy equipment and tools
- Outdoor activities aimed to restore emotional health such as a structured walk or hiking program; youth adventure programs; community and skill building



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- Play therapy and equipment
 - Pet therapy services
 - Peer outreach programs

Projects and initiatives may support anyone living in Nova Scotia who is affected by grief, loss or stress impacting their emotional well-being, across all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

5. What kinds of project expenses are eligible?

Applicants should consider the total cost of implementing the project, and identify which expenses are eligible based on the expenses below:

- **Project-specific equipment, materials and supplies** (e.g. art supplies, safety gear, toolkits, educational materials)
- **Project-specific software or other technology** (e.g. licenses for design software, project management tools, tablets for participants)
- **Project-specific staffing** (e.g. project coordinator, facilitators, cultural advisors include hours or timeframes and rates of remuneration)
- **Project-specific rent or mortgage** (e.g. rental of venue or space used exclusively for the project)
- **Project-specific utilities** (e.g. electricity, internet, heating for the project location if applicable)
- **Project-specific travel and meeting expenses** (e.g. mileage, accommodations, food for community consultations or outreach events)
- **Other project-related costs** (e.g. accessibility services, insurance, printing, translation services)
- **Subtotal Direct Project Expenses:** General or administrative expenses (up to 10% of project expenses) (e.g. organizational overhead directly tied to project delivery)

6. Will Healing Pathways Community Funding pay partial expenses for existing or planned projects?

Healing Pathways Community Funding is primarily intended to support new, standalone, community-based initiatives. However, previously funded projects may reapply for an additional funding cycle when there is a clear opportunity to build on their success. This may include expanding to a new community or location, reaching additional populations, strengthening



activities or making improvements based on evaluation findings, participant feedback or lessons learned. Applicants must demonstrate the project's effectiveness and explain how additional funding would strengthen, expand or advance the work.

Funding may also support a specific component of a larger project when that component aligns with the program's goals and requirements. Applicants must clearly describe the activities to be funded, the expected outcomes and the anticipated impact.

Funding is not intended to provide ongoing operational support or sustain a project indefinitely. Multi-year funding is not available.

7. What kinds of project expenses are ineligible?

- Organizational budget deficiencies
- Capital loans (Money borrowed to pay for major purchases or long-term projects, such as building improvements, renovations, or large equipment)
- Projects with other government funding including grants
- Entertainment fees, alcohol, sponsorships, contests, gifts, and souvenirs
- Interest expenses incurred on operating loans
- Legal challenges, costs, and settlements
- Mortgage financing unless specifically related to the project
- Loan financing
- Administrative funding
- Professional organization fees paid on behalf of staff for membership in professional organizations
- New Organization operational startup costs

8. Funding Availability and Project Length

The level of funding will vary from project to project, based on the nature of the proposed activities. Applicants can request to up \$50,000.

Project expenses must be incurred before September 29, 2028.



9. Application Process

Applicants must submit a formal application to be considered for community funding. The application should include the following:

- **Completed and signed application form** through online portal.
- **Completed Budget Template** – Submit a detailed project budget outlining how requested funds will be used. Provide sufficient detail for each budget item, including how costs were calculated. For example, staffing costs or use of consultant should include, hourly rate, number of hours, benefit costs and total cost. Detailed budget information helps reviewers understand project activities and assess the proposed budget.
 - All project expenses must be spent by September 29, 2028.
- The following documents must be included with your application. Incomplete applications or applications missing required supporting documents may not be considered for funding:
 - **Financial Statements** – Submit your organization's most recently approved annual financial statements. These should show your organization's income (revenue), expenses, assets, and liabilities (audited financial statements preferred).
 - **Quotes for Capital Projects** – If your project includes construction, renovations, or the purchase of major equipment or structures, **please provide quotes from at least two suppliers or contractors**. If you are only able to obtain one quote, explain why a second quote was not available.
 - **Quotes for Purchases Over \$5,000** – If your project includes buying goods or services that cost more than \$5,000, please provide quotes from at least two suppliers or service providers. If you can only provide one quote, explain why a second quote was not available.
 - If organizations have questions or need support to meet the requirements above, they are encouraged to contact funding@nshpca.ca.
- **Project Overview** – Provide a detailed description of your project or initiative. Include what you plan to do, the goals of the project, key activities, why the project is needed (including any supporting information or evidence), and the results you expect to achieve. Please provide as much detail as possible.
- **Expected Outcomes** – Clearly describe what your project aims to achieve, the difference it will make in your community and how you will know. Applicants must identify the short-term, medium-term, and long-term results they expect, including who will benefit, the number of people or communities that may be reached, and the positive



impact the project will have. Successful applicants will be required to report on their progress and share the results and impact of their project compared to the outcomes identified in their application. In the final report the total number of people impacted will be a required element in the report.

- **Timeline** – Provide a clear timeline for your project, including when activities will begin and end. Include key steps, important dates, and milestones that show how you plan to complete the project.
- **Impact Assessment** – Explain how your project will benefit the community and support grief, bereavement, and emotional wellness. Describe how the project will help individuals, families, or communities experiencing loss and contribute to overall emotional well-being. Applicants should also explain how they will measure and evaluate the impact of their project, such as through participant feedback, surveys, attendance numbers, testimonials, outcomes tracking, or other methods that show the difference the project has made.

Applications can be submitted through the online portal. A fillable PDF can be requested if needed by contacting funding@nshpca.ca.

10. Application Schedule:

Applications must be received no later than **November 13th, 2026**. Applications received after that date and time will not be accepted. The timelines anticipated are:

Activity	Date
Funding Guidelines Posted on Website	August 24, 2026
Communicate schedule of webinars/ information sessions	Early September
Webinars/Information Sessions	September 17, 2026
Application opens	September 28, 2026
Applications Close	November 13, 2026
Staff Review and Preparation	November 16- December, 2026
	January 4- February 26, 2027



Community Funding Subcommittee Review	
Staff prepare letters of agreement and communication	The week of March 1, 2027
Letters of agreement distributed to successful applicants and non-successful notified	The week of March 8, 2027
Due date for successful applicants to sign formal letter of agreement	March 19, 2027
Distribution of funds to successful applicants	By March 31, 2027
Mid Project Update Due	January 29, 2028
Final Report Due	September 29, 2028

11. Applicant Review and Evaluation Criteria

Once the application due date has passed, NSHPCA will review all submitted applications and select projects for funding based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting	What Reviewers Will Assess
Community Need and Alignment	/25	The project clearly responds to an identified community need related to grief, loss, and emotional wellness (aligned with Level 1 and Level 2 supports in the Nova Scotia Community Grief and Emotional Wellness Model). Applicants should explain the need, who is impacted, and how the need was identified. Evidence may include community feedback, surveys, research, data, partnerships, or other supporting information
Community Impact and Long-Term Benefit	/15	The project demonstrates how it will create meaningful benefits for individuals, families, or communities. Applicants should describe expected outcomes, who will benefit, the number of people reached, how success will be measured, and how benefits may continue beyond the funding period.



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Accessibility and Public Benefit	/5	The project is accessible, affordable, inclusive, and provides a clear benefit to the community. Applicants should describe how they will reduce barriers and ensure people can participate.
Innovation and Approach	/5	The project demonstrates a creative, new, or improved approach to addressing community grief, loss, and emotional wellness needs. Applicants should explain what makes their approach unique or how it improves existing supports.

Applicants may be contacted for additional information or clarification during the review process. We also welcome applicants to reach out to us if they need clarity during the application process.

12. Post-Grant Reporting and Evaluation

A mid-project update will be due on January 29, 2028. The update must describe whether the project and budget are on track and highlight any early learnings, successes, challenges, or necessary adjustments.

Upon completion of the project, successful recipients will be required to submit a final report by September 29, 2028, detailing any unspent funds, along with the measured outcomes achieved from the project. Unspent funds over \$50 must be returned to NSHPCA at the time of the final report.

Funding recipients that do not complete the post-grant outcomes reporting form will not be considered for future funding.

13. Confidentiality and Privacy

Applicants consent to the release of the organization's name, project title, and the amount of support received under NSHPCA's *Community Funding Guidelines*. Organizations may also be asked for photos or quotes which successful applicants are encouraged however, not required to share.

Applicants must also commit to creating their own policy to protect participant data and privacy under the [Personal Health Protection and Privacy Act](#) of Nova Scotia.



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For more information, please contact:

Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association- Healing Pathways

funding@nshpca.ca



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Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a minimum or maximum amount of funding that we can apply for?

The maximum that any applicant organization can apply for is \$50, 000. There is no minimum amount of funding, however we expect that most requests will fall between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

My project has already been started. We would like to request funding to continue the program for another year. Is my project eligible?

Yes, it may be eligible. If a project has already started, the application must demonstrate its effectiveness and clearly explain how additional funding would build on its success and move the project to the next level. However, the project would not be eligible if it is already funded by an organization that receives funding from the Government of Nova Scotia.

My project has already received partial funding from a municipal grant or other source. Can we apply for the balance of our total project costs?

The Healing Pathways Community Funding Grant is intended to support, standalone, community-based initiatives. However, we may consider funding a distinct component of a larger initiative if it aligns with the grant's goals and eligibility criteria. The component must have clearly defined goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes that can be directly attributed to the grant funding.

Projects or components that have received funding from the Government of Nova Scotia are not eligible.

Our organization received funding from Healing Pathways before, can we apply again?

Yes. Projects previously supported through Healing Pathways Community Funding may reapply for an additional funding cycle. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the project's value to the community and explain how further funding will strengthen or advance the work. This funding is not intended to provide ongoing operational support.

Organizations that have previously received Healing Pathways Community Funding may also apply for funding for a different project.