



# Healing Pathways

Community Funding Grants

## Funding Guidelines (English)



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## Healing Pathways Community Fund for Grief, Loss, and Emotional Wellness Province Wide

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

In January 2024, following recommendations from the Mass Casualty Commission, the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association (NSHPCA) was chosen to collaborate with the Nova Scotia government, local communities, and Nova Scotia Health to create and implement grief, bereavement, and emotional wellness services across the province.

With the initial support of a two-year funding commitment from the Province of Nova Scotia and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the NSHPCA launched the Healing Pathways Community Fund. The NSHPCA was tasked with distributing funds over two phases to support eligible groups and organizations in developing and implementing community-based initiatives that align with the objectives of the Nova Scotia Community Grief Response Strategy and address local needs.

In September 2025, with the support of the Government of Nova Scotia, the NSHPCA will launch Phase Three of the application process, making approximately \$700,000 available to eligible registered nonprofit groups and organizations throughout Nova Scotia.

### 2. What is the purpose of this funding?

- To provide direct financial support to the communities in Nova Scotia impacted by the April 2020 Mass Casualty Event and other situations across the province that have caused grief, loss, and stress, in alignment with the objectives of the Public Health Agency of Canada's funding of the Response to Mass Casualty Commission Report recommendations;



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- To enable and encourage the development of community-level initiatives, which will provide necessary services and supports to Nova Scotians in the areas of grief, loss, bereavement, and emotional well-being; and
  - To support the availability of effective and long-lasting resources and strategies in communities that will enable broad public access to such services and supports.

### 3. Who can apply for funding?

To be eligible for community funding, applicants must be:

- Registered not-for-profit organization or charity based and operating in Nova Scotia.
- We also welcome partnerships between not-for-profit organization and/or charities and community-based groups, individuals, schools, health organizations, or workplaces.
  - o Anyone with a good idea is encouraged to partner with a not-for-profit organization or charity for the purposes of submitting a project funding request.
  - o The non-profit organization or registered charity must be the lead applicant for the purposes of this funding. The community-based group must have signed a formal partnership agreement with the lead applicant prior to applying for this funding.
- Organizations working with specific populations are expected to share clear plans for community engagement. This includes outlining how they will include the community in identifying and addressing any unique needs, priorities, or concerns that may arise within the communities they are engaging.
  - o These plans should demonstrate cultural awareness, respect, and a commitment to equity and accountability in collaboration.
  - o Letters of support are strongly encouraged from members of the community.

### 4. What initiatives qualify for funding?

People experience grief and loss in many ways. Not all supportive approaches will work for everyone.



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Applicants are encouraged to develop projects or initiatives that have a clear focus on supporting those that are experiencing grief, loss, and bereavement, and which aims to restore them to emotional well-being.

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
- Development of digital assets and online information resources
- After-school programs
- Family-centred activities such as healing circles, sweats, cultural ceremonial activities
- Art therapy and equipment
- Creation of physical spaces (indoor/outdoor) such as therapeutic gardens or project huts
- 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
- Play therapy and equipment
- Pet therapy services
- Peer outreach programs
- Supportive exercise programs

Projects and initiatives may focus on supporting any or all of:

- Those directly or indirectly affected by the Mass Casualty event of April 2020, or other events that have caused grief, loss and stress including:
  - Young children
  - School age children



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- o Youth
  - o Adults
  - o Parents and families
  - o Seniors
  - o First responders
  - o People with disabilities
  - o Diverse cultural communities
  - o Newcomers
  - o Others

#### 5. What kinds of project expenses are eligible?

\*\* Projects serving Nova Scotia communities will be funded in this phase of funding \*\*

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

- Project materials and supplies necessary for project implementation (such as but not limited to construction materials, art supplies, technology tools, etc.)
- Personnel costs associated with project execution (such as but not limited to salaries for project coordinators, consultants, or contractors directly involved with the project).
- Marketing and outreach to promote the project and engage the community (such as printing flyers, social media advertising, website development, advertising, etc.)
- Event expenses if the project involves organizing events for the community (such as venue rental, catering, transportation, permits, etc.)
- Training and capacity building (such as training workshops, sessions or capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of project staff and leadership, volunteers, or community members)
- Travel and accommodation costs related to project implementation if the project involves bringing in external speakers, participants, or organizers.
- General administrative and operating costs – Up to 10% of the project value may be allocated to administrative and operating costs of the organization applying for funding (such as office supplies, telecommunications, office utilities, office rent, etc.).



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

Healing Pathways Community Funding is primarily intended to support standalone, new community-based initiatives. However, funding may be considered for a distinct component of a larger initiative provided it aligns with the grant's goals and criteria, and its objectives, outcomes, and impact can be clearly defined and attributed to the funded portion.

## 7. What kinds of project expenses are ineligible?

- Partial project funding (funding may be considered for a clearly defined component of a larger initiative that aligns with the grant's goals and criteria).
- Projects or initiatives already underway
- Organizational budget deficiencies
- Capital loans
- Costs covered by other government funding
- 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 start up 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 March 31, 2027.

## 9. Application Process

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

2026-2027 Community Funding Policy (page 5)

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- Completed and signed application form either through online form or printed (electronic signature accepted)
  - Completed budget template -- A detailed project budget outlining how the requested funds will be used. Please include detailed examples.
    - o All project expenses must be spent by March 31, 2027.
  - The following must be included with application:
    - o Financial statements- The Applicant Organization must include the approved annual financial statements from the past year. These should outline revenues, expenses, assets, and liabilities.
    - o Quotes for capital projects- Capital projects (such as building a project hut or other construction project) must include quotes from at least 2 providers. If only one quote is provided, please explain why an additional quote was not included.
    - o Quotes for other purchases over \$5,000, Projects that plan to obtain services or goods greater than \$5,000 must include quotes from at least 2 providers. If only one quote is provided, please explain why an additional quote was not included.
    - o If organizations have questions or need support to meet the requirements above, they are encouraged to contact [funding@nshpca.ca](mailto:funding@nshpca.ca).
  - Project overview: An overview of the project or initiative, including its primary objectives, key activities, rationale or evidence, and anticipated outcomes should be described in as much detail as possible.
  - Expected Outcomes: Applicants will be required to state the expected short, medium, and long-term outcomes for their project or initiative. Successful applicants will also be required to report on their progress or achievements toward the expected outcomes.
  - Timeline: A proposed timeline for project implementation, including key milestones and deadlines.
  - Impact assessment: An explanation of how the project will benefit the community and contribute to our organization's mission and values.

Applications can be submitted through the online form or fillable PDF form accessed through the NSHPCA website.

## 10. Application Schedule:



Applications must be received no later than November 14, 2025. Applications received after that date and time will not be accepted. The timelines anticipated are:

| Activity  | Date                            |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Coming Soon- Advertising  | June 30,2025                    |
| Funding Guidelines Posted on Website  | June 30,2025                    |
| Communicate schedule of webinars/ information sessions                                | Early September                 |
| Webinars/Information Sessions   | September 15-19, 2025           |
| <b>Application opens</b>  | <b>September 29, 2025</b>       |
| Potential additional webinar/information session                                      | <b>Week of October 27, 2025</b> |
| <b>Applications Close</b>   | <b>November 14, 2025</b>        |
| Staff Review and Preparation  | November 17- December19, 2025   |
| Community Funding Subcommittee Review   | January 5- February 27, 2026    |
| Staff prepare letters of agreement and communication                                  | The week of March 2, 2026       |
| Letters of agreement distributed to successful applicants and non-successful notified | The week of March 9, 2026       |
| Due date for successful applicants to sign formal letter of agreement                 | March 20, 2026                  |
|   |                                 |



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|--|-------------------|
| Distribution of funds to successful applicants   | By March 31, 2026 |
| Project reporting due from successful applicants | March 31, 2027    |

### 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 |
|--|-----------|
| <p>Response to Identified Community Need<br/>           Projects will be prioritized that propose community-level supports and services related to grief, loss, and emotional wellness (defined as Level 1 and Level 2 in the NS Community Grief Model).</p> <p>If the organization uses evidence-informed practices or has performed research or surveys that identify a specific need in the community that your project is responding to, you should include it in the grant application for consideration.</p> | / 25      |



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|---|------|
| <p>Enduring Impact<br/>Projects that expect to have a long-lasting impact will be prioritized. Make sure your application clearly describes how your project will have a long-lasting positive impact on the community.</p> | / 15 |
| <p>Public benefit<br/>Accessible, affordable, and inclusive to the general public.</p>  | / 5  |
| <p>Uniqueness and innovation<br/>Projects that demonstrate creativity and uniqueness in addressing community needs will be prioritized</p>  | / 5  |
| Total   | / 50 |

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

Upon completion of the project, successful recipients will be required to submit a final report by March 31, 2027, 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.



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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.

For more information, please contact:

Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association- Healing Pathways

[funding@nshpca.ca](mailto: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?

No. The Healing Pathways Community Funding grant is intended to support new community initiatives that begin in 2026.

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 community-based initiatives that are standalone, new projects. However, we will consider initiatives that may be a component of a larger initiative that aligns with the goals and criteria of the grant, and goals, objectives, and outcomes can clearly be measured and attributed to the component funded.

Our organization received funding from Healing Pathways Round 1, can we apply again?

Not for the same project. This funding is for new projects that have not already received funding support from Healing Pathways. However, your organization is welcome to apply for new projects.