

CFNS VISIONS Fund Expression of Interest Questions

Project/Program Details

About

The CFNS VISIONS (Visionary Initiatives Strengthening Inclusion & Opportunity in Nova Scotia) Fund was established by an anonymous donor to support initiatives that make Nova Scotia a better place to live and learn. The endowed fund will grant its earned interest in perpetuity, providing continuous and impactful support for the province.

The CFNS VISIONS Fund has two priorities:

1. Providing financial assistance to initiatives, programs, and projects that support individuals who have encountered significant challenges in life. This includes aid for underserved and under-resourced communities, as well as those facing issues such as health problems, food insecurity, housing instability, or other substantial needs as specified by the applicant.
2. Providing financial support to universities, colleges, or other non-traditional post-secondary organizations for innovative and creative educational programs or teaching methods across various disciplines, especially those supporting individuals who have encountered significant challenges in life.

Eligibility Criteria

- Projects must fit within the VISIONS funding priorities.
- Projects are to be delivered in the province of Nova Scotia.
- Applicants are to be a **qualified donee** as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), **other eligible group** as defined by the CRA, or have partnered with an eligible organization.
- Applications must come from the governing body of the applicant or be accompanied by a letter of permission from the qualified donee.
- Projects can be new or ongoing.

- Grants may be awarded for multi-year projects
- Grants will not be awarded for deficits, mortgages or to retire debt; retroactive funding; sectarian, religious or political purposes; annual fund drives; fundraising activities or sponsorships.
- Non-traditional post-secondary institutions include, but not limited to, adult education centres, certificate programs, work-based training (e.g., apprenticeships), and skills-based short courses (e.g., coding bootcamps). Priority will be given to those non-traditional programs that specifically support individuals facing significant challenges in life, such as those outlined in the first priority.

Grant Details

The CFNS VISIONS Fund has a total of \$460,000 available to grant in 2025. Of this, \$219,000 is already committed to multi-year grants awarded in 2024. This leaves **\$240,000** available for new projects in 2025, across both funding priorities.

- **Maximum Funding Request:** \$40,000
- **Multi-year funding requests accepted:** Yes
- **Expression of Interest (EOI) Open:** September 8, 2025
- **Expression of Interest Close:** October 3, 2025
- **Applications Open for Accepted EOIs:** October 8, 2025
- **Applications Close:** October 24, 2025
- **Notification of Success:** Early December 2025
- **Fund Disbursement:** December

PRIORITY 1

The following questions will appear on the Expression of Interest form for Priority 1. Please note that this is not the official application form. These questions are provided to help you prepare your responses in advance.

Organization Eligibility Check for Impact Grants

General information

Organization name

Organization legal name (if different from above)

Street Address

Do you have a different mailing address than above?

Yes/No

Eligibility Check

IMPORTANT

Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) administers the VISIONS Fund on behalf of the donor by making grants to qualified donees such as *registered charities, municipalities, and post-secondary institutions*. Please select the most appropriate organization type from the drop-down below. If your organization has registered charitable status, please select *registered charity* as your organization type.

In certain circumstances, CNFS may also grant to non-qualified donees such as registered non-profit organizations. If your organization does not fall into one of the categories listed above but is a registered non-profit organization, please select *registered non-profit* from the drop-down menu below.

Organization Type:

1. Registered Charity
 - a. Charitable registration number and charitable objective
2. Non-Profit Organization
 - a. Date of registration or incorporation (preference is for the organization to have been operational for a period of three years)
 - b. registry of joint stock companies ID
 - c. Charitable objective

- d. Financial reporting process
- e. Letter of support from a community member
- 3. Post-Secondary Institution
 - a. Charitable registration number
- 4. Municipality
- 5. Partnering with a Charity or other qualified donee
 - a. Charitable partner registration number
 - b. Partnership description
 - c. Letter of support or partnership agreement

Please note, expressions of interest will be reviewed and considered using multiple criteria. Decisions will be based on the content of your responses but also take into account the goal of achieving a balanced portfolio of projects that represent diverse causes, regions, and beneficiaries across Nova Scotia. As such, your program's alignment with the CFNS VISIONS Fund priorities may not be the only factor in determining which expressions of interest are accepted.

Organization Information

1. Organization Name
2. Organization Contact Name
3. Title or position held with the organization
4. Email
5. Phone
6. Website
7. Organization Mission (100 words)
8. How many full time staff does your organization currently have?
9. How many volunteers (including board members) does your organization currently have?

10. Which region is your organization submitting an Expression of Interest for?

All Nova Scotia
Annapolis Valley – Hants
Antigonish-Guysborough
Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Colchester
Cumberland
Pictou
Strait-Western Cape Breton
Rural Halifax Regional Municipality
Urban Halifax Regional Municipality
Lunenburg-Queens
Southwest Nova

11. Select the primary area of impact that your organization (and/or the project/program) aligns with.

Housing Security
Food Security
Education and Employment
Health, Wellbeing, and Safety
Social Inclusion and Access
Supports for Vulnerable People
Restorative Justice and Recovery
Economic Resilience (poverty alleviation/reduction)
Other

Organization

12. What is the goal your organization is focused on achieving and how are you well placed to achieve it?

~150 words

Project/Program Details

14. What are you proposing?

How will your funding request support individuals who have encountered significant challenges in life? ~150 words

16. What is the total amount you are requesting from VISIONS?
maximum \$30,000 per year

17. Are you requesting multi-year funding?
Yes/No

Community Context

18. Who is impacted?
~100 words

19. How are they involved in shaping this work?
~100 words

PRIORITY 2

The following questions will appear on the Expression of Interest form for Priority 2. Please note that this is not the official application form. These questions are provided to help you prepare your responses in advance.

Organization Information

1. Institution/Organization Name
2. Choose the best description of your institution/organization from the following options:
Recognized Post-Secondary Institution, Registered Charity, Registered Non-profit Org.
3. Institution/Organization Contact Name
4. Title or position held
5. Email
6. Phone
7. Website
8. Institution/Department/Organization Mission (100 words)
9. How many full time staff does your department/organization currently have?
10. How many volunteers (including board members) does your department/organization currently have?
11. Which region is your organization submitting an Expression of Interest for?

All Nova Scotia

Annapolis Valley – Hants

Antigonish-Guysborough

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Colchester

Cumberland

Pictou

Strait-Western Cape Breton

Rural Halifax Regional Municipality

Urban Halifax Regional Municipality

Lunenburg-Queens

Southwest Nova

Proposal Details

12. What are you proposing?

How is your educational program/teaching method innovative and creative? ~150 words

13. How is your educational program/teaching method innovative and creative?

~150 words

14. Does your proposal support individuals who have faced significant challenges in life?

Yes/No

15. If yes, please explain.

15. What is the total amount you are requesting from VISIONS?

maximum \$30,000 per year

16. Are you requesting multi-year funding?

Yes/No

Community Context

17. Who is impacted?

~100 words

18. How are they involved in shaping this work?

~100 words