

Capacity Grant Program Information Manual

Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development

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Available in alternate formats:

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Video Relay Calls welcome

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Introduction

The Disability Policy Office (DPO) works closely with all government departments and agencies, as well as persons with disabilities and community partners, to develop policies and programs that include persons with disabilities and that are barrier-free.

DPO is accepting applications from non-profit, community-based organizations, incorporated municipalities, including Indigenous community governments and organizations, for the Capacity Grant program. Applications will be accepted for work that will provide deliverables that prevent and remove barriers to inclusion in the province within GNL's five strategic directions. These Capacity Grants are crucial to enable persons with disabilities to become fully engaged in their community and to lead transformative change towards more independence, self-management and genuine community inclusion. The enduring legacy of a capacity grant will be its impact over the long term and how it has affected the lives of persons with disabilities.

Background

Nearly one in four Newfoundlanders and Labradorians experience barriers. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to preventing and removing barriers. Barriers are more than bricks and mortar. They include anything that prevents persons with disabilities from participating in activities that are available to the public or hinders their ability to participate in society on an equal basis.

Diversity and inclusion are about recognizing the inherent value and individuality of every human being. The ability of individuals to exercise and claim the rights and responsibilities in society is key to inclusion. When true citizenship exists, all individuals can participate in society.

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and promotes respect for their inherent dignity.

The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** guarantees persons with disabilities equal benefit and protection before and under the law. Our provincial legislation, The **Human Rights Act, 2010**, states that it is a human rights violation to discriminate on the basis of disability.

The **Accessible Canada Act** is intended to improve accessibility and promote inclusion for everyone in Canada. This act is focused on creating communities, workplaces and services that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers.

The [Accessibility Act NL](#) is enabling legislation that allows the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to improve accessibility in the province by identifying, preventing and removing barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from full participation in society.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has five strategic directions to identify, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion:

1. Creating a Positive Image of Disability;
2. Moving Forward Together: Nothing about Us Without Us;
3. Strengthening Disability-Related Supports;
4. Delivering Services with Dignity, Fairness and Respect; and,
5. Accessibility for All in the Built Environment.

The vision is that Newfoundland and Labrador will be an inclusive and accessible province where persons with disabilities have the equitable opportunities and choices.

Capacity Grant Program

The Capacity Grant Program helps to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the province through the prevention and removal of barriers. This application-based program provides grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible projects. Applications in excess of \$50,000 may be considered and are dependent upon the significance to the identification, prevention and removal of barriers. The awarding of funds based on merit and availability, pending Government annual budget process, with the intention of enabling persons with disabilities to:

- Become fully engaged in their communities; and,
- Lead transformative change towards independence, autonomy, self-management, self-determination, and genuine inclusion in society and community.

DPO will support as many projects as possible with this grant. Successful applicants will plan and execute all activities to ensure successful delivery of the project as outlined in their application, and will collaborate with the DPO and relevant community and government stakeholders.

Applicants must demonstrate how their project is aligned within the province's vision and addresses the prevention or removal of barriers. Current government inclusion priorities are outlined in our Five Strategic Directions.

Five Strategic Directions

Applications will be considered in the following areas:

- **Build a Positive Image of Disability**
 - Goals include:
 - Promote a positive and respectful image of disability;
 - Build public understanding of barriers experienced by persons with disabilities;
 - Increase knowledge within private public and non-profit sectors about creating barrier free environments; and,
 - Increase knowledge and acceptance of the rights of persons with disabilities.

- **Engage Persons with Disabilities in Decision-Making**
 - Goals include:
 - Incorporate expertise and knowledge of people with personal experience of disability into government policies, programs and services;
 - Support the capacity of community organizations of and for persons with disabilities to engage with government on policy directions; and,
 - Support planning processes at local, community, regional and provincial levels to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

- **Increase Access to Disability-Related Supports**
 - Goals Include:
 - Reduce financial costs associated with having a disability for individuals and their families;
 - Incorporate flexibility into programs and services for families and individuals;
 - Improve access to disability-related supports including personal supports and assistive technologies; and,
 - Build knowledge of disability-related supports throughout the province.

- **Deliver Services with Dignity, Fairness and Support**
 - Goals Include:

- Facilitate public and private sector provision of services to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;
 - Increase knowledge of disability-related supports and ways to remove barriers amongst providers;
 - Deliver timely and accurate information about Provincial Government programs and services; and,
 - Incorporate inclusion and disability perspectives into existing and future policy frameworks.
- **Increase Accessibility in the Built Environment**
 - Goals include:
 - Maximize accessibility of existing buildings and facilities and new buildings and facilities where there is public access;
 - Increase options for accessible housing within public and private sectors and promote visibility and universal design throughout the province;
 - Increase accessible and affordable transportation options throughout the province; and,
 - Incorporate Universal Design principles into policy, procedures and legislation.

Eligible Projects

Applicants must:

- Identify how the project meets one or more of the five strategic directions of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to identify, prevent and remove barriers;
- Design the work to include a cross-disability perspective;
- Develop a project plan including objectives, scope of work, and deliverables;
- Manage all human resource and financial requirements related to the project;
- Work collaboratively with DPO on the deliverables of the project;
- Submit a final report outlining achievements, materials developed where relevant, and a financial report. Refer to Annex A; and,
- To demonstrate alignment with the program objectives standardized reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed using a scoring matrix and are evaluated by an internal selection committee. The committee will review and assess:

- If applicants follow one or more of the Five Strategic Directions for the removal and prevention of barriers to accessibility;
- The organization's ability to successfully complete the project with deliverables/outcomes/results; and,
- If there is cross disability perspective integrated in the project

Note:

- All projects must meet provincial, federal and municipal regulations, as applicable, including buildings accessibility, fire and life safety, development control and any others that may be required.
- This Grant is for one-year projects that improve long-term capacity to address one or more of the five provincial strategic directions.
- These grants will be conditional on budget availability. Preference will be given to projects that cannot be supported under other CSSD grant programs.

Please refer to the CSSD Grants webpage (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/cssd/grants/capacity-grant-program/>) to determine which grants are most applicable to your project.

Application Requirements

Applications should clearly outline:

1. Project goal;
2. Timelines;
3. Scope of work;
4. Detailed budget;
5. Organization's provincial incorporation number
6. Proof of good standing with Companies and Deeds (CADO), if applicable;
7. Other monthly or in-kind contributions towards the project, if any;

8. Most recent Annual General Meeting minutes with associated financial statement. Financial statements should be signed by two directors with signing authority; and,
9. A final report will be required with deliverables, a final detailed budget and account of all expenses. Further information will be provided by DPO upon approval of application.

Deadline Submission of Applications

Please submit by **June 2, 2023** to the attention of:

Disability Policy Office
Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P. O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Email: CSSDGrantPrograms@gov.nl.ca

For more information please contact:

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