NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND (NCMF)

Inspiring neighbourhood connections through community led projects.

What do you inspire?

2016
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Neighbourhood Community Matching Fund - Small Projects

What is the Neighbourhood Community Matching Fund (NCMF)?

The Neighbourhood Community Matching Fund is a matching fund program that helps to inspire Burlington residents to improve, build and strengthen Burlington neighbourhoods to improve the quality of life for everyone. The goal of the program is set out to:

- Improve, build and strengthen Burlington Neighbourhoods
- Create a greater sense of belonging
- Foster individual well-being and community pride
- Inspire residents to become more actively involved in the community to strengthen Burlington neighbourhoods and community.
- Build stronger relationships

With the support of the City of Burlington, the Neighbourhood Community Matching Fund allows neighborhood and community groups to initiate, manage and implement projects that make a difference to the neighborhood or community group. The projects are initiated, planned and implemented by community members in partnership with the City of Burlington. Approved projects receive up to 50 per cent of the funding for the project from the city. The neighbourhood or community group would match this funding with an equal contribution made up through any combination of volunteer hours, donated service, donated materials and supplies or other funds raised, such as cash donations.

What types of projects will be considered?

Each project will be inspired by the unique needs and goals of the local residents or community groups. Here are a few ideas for types of projects that may be eligible for the matching program.

- Enhance a park or playground
- Create a mural or structure
- Plant a community garden
- Host a neighborhood event or street party
- Protect or restore an natural resource
- Create an art project
- Organize a neighbourhood recognition program
- Co-ordinate a community workshop
Funding amount – how much is granted?

**Up to $5,000**: A maximum of $5,000 may be granted to match the equivalent contribution the neighbourhood community group makes up through a combination of any of the following:

- Volunteer time
- Donated services
- Donated materials and supplies
- Other funds raised

Money and resources from other City of Burlington Departments funds and/or services can be listed but not counted as part of the group’s match.

When is the application deadline?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Notice of Decisions</th>
<th>Agreements Signed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1:</td>
<td>April 29, 2016</td>
<td>Within 5 weeks/ by June 6</td>
<td>1 month from award notification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does it work?

**Step 1**: Form a committee. Your committee may be comprised of community members, or an already formed not-for-profit, community interest or informal/grassroots neighbourhood group.

**Step 2**: Show that your group has actively sought involvement from residents in your neighbourhood.

**Step 3**: Show that there is strong support for your project.

**Step 4**: Be open to partnerships with other groups to leverage funding or resources

**Step 5**: Develop a budget and show how you will match the value of the grant you are requesting. Your matching amount can be reached through volunteer hours, donations, goods and services, in addition to cash.

**Step 6**: Apply for the grant by providing the information required.
Step 7: A review team evaluates and approves or declines the project, based on criteria and guidelines and overall feasibility.

Step 8: Approved projects are given a listing of project condition that may be needed to complete and support the project’s success. Examples include city building codes, insurance and permits.

Step 9: A project manager from the city is assigned to work with community neighbourhood groups.

Step 10: The City will provide up to $5,000 to match an equal contribution the neighbourhood group makes up and can include volunteer hours, donated service, materials, supplies; other funds raised (cash).

Step 11: Applicants have one full year (365 days) from the date of the signed agreement to complete, celebrate and submit a final report on the project.

What are the criteria and guidelines?

1. CRITERIA: THE PROJECT SUBMISSION MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS

- Open and inclusive to the entire community
- Within the City of Burlington
- On lands owned or managed by the City of Burlington or on lands that are accessible to public.
- One-time funding request
- be able to satisfy insurance requirements
- Adhere to municipal, provincial and federal regulatory compliance standards (i.e.: standards for playgrounds, building codes, etc.)
- Clearly demonstrate:
  - Neighbourhood community support
  - Neighbourhood community benefit
  - Community matching effort
  - How the project will be completed within one year

2. OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Insurance:

- It is necessary for groups to provide proof of and maintain third party liability insurance throughout the project in the amount of not less than $2 million before the funds will be
released by the City. Some projects may require special insurance due to the risk exposure involved (i.e. Pyrotechnics) and would be subject to a review in order to make sure adequate insurance coverage is in place.

- Applicants that don’t have insurance to support the project will be able to apply for insurance protection through the city.
- The funds provided by the city for the project can be used to cover the cost of insurance for the project.

**Neighbourhood Community Support:** As the project will impact people beyond those in the applicant group, the support from the neighbourhood must be demonstrated at the application stage. Accordingly, applicants must submit a **minimum** of three (3) letters of support or a pledge sheet from outside the applicant group with signatures and contact information for the proposed project. Letters can be from local community or neighbourhood groups, businesses or residents living in the neighborhood impacted by the project.

**Letter of Agreement:** By submitting an application, the applicants acknowledge and agree that in the event of being awarded city funding from the NCMF, the applicant will comply with any requirements set out in the funding guidelines accompanying their application. Upon project approval, applicants will be required to sign a letter of agreement outlining these details and any additional requirements that may need to be met to support the project (i.e.: adherence to specific building codes, insurance, by-laws, etc.).

**Reporting Requirements:** All NCMF recipients must submit a final report describing the project outcomes and successes and verifying the project expenses and resources. A financial statement of expenditures and copies of receipts must be submitted within 90 days of project completion. Successful applicants are encouraged to submit stories and photos of their activities to be shared as part of the project celebrations.

**NOTE:** A successful applicant can only have one project operating at any one time.

**3. PROJECTS WILL BE DESIGNED TO:**

- Inspire community connections
- Enhance playability, walkability or connectivity within neighbourhoods
- Improve parks, playgrounds or green areas
- Advance arts and culture in the community
- Promote and encourage beautification, cleanliness and naturalization
- Create places for community to gather (bumping places).
- Improve safety
4. FUNDS CANNOT BE USED TO:

- Replicate an existing public or private project or fund projects that are already in the planning stages or will be implemented by another public or private group.
- Maintain existing programs, service or events.
- Reimburse organizations operating expenses, not directly linked to the awarded project.
- Pay for expenses or financial commitments made prior to grant approval.
- Cover alcohol, tobacco or gambling expenses.
- Support fundraising for the project. Funds must go to the project directly.
- Fund projects on private property.
- Purchase land or buildings.
- Pay for travel or accommodation expenses.
- Replace lost funding or cover gaps from other funding sources.
- Pay for marketing or advertising.

Who can apply?

ELIGIBILITY:

The NCMF is available to:

- Any informal, unofficial or formal community based organizations, not-for-profit, grassroots groups and schools.
- Business groups may apply in partnership with a community group as a sponsor.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Individual persons.
- Projects that received funds through the city’s budget process or any other of the city’s grant programs.
- For profit companies. Note: They can sponsor a project or apply in partnership with a not-for-profit organization.
- Organizations outside of City of Burlington limits.
- Government agencies.
- Political groups including Ward Councillors.
## How can I apply?

Applicants must complete the NCMF application form and submit it on-line. The form is divided into sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO Applicant Information</th>
<th>WHAT Project Description and Information</th>
<th>HOW MUCH Budget Worksheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Name of neighbourhood community organizations. If the applicant is an ad-hoc group of residents, 2 persons must also be documented as the project leads and must be from different families. b. Contact Information.</td>
<td>a. Project goal, expected outcomes and value benefits to the community if the project is approved and completed. b. Project origin. What inspired the idea? c. Project location, neighbourhood or area. d. Neighbourhood or community support for the project. e. Neighbourhood or community engagement, involvement and participation. f. Demonstrate that it meets the criteria. g. Benefit to your group.</td>
<td>a. Precise amount of funding that is being sought by the applicant (cannot exceed $5,000). b. Summary of budget for how funds will be used. c. Summary of neighbourhood match contributions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is considered for matching?

There are four types of contributions that applicants can present to match the NCMF. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>Valued at Burlington’s living wage/hour. Individuals can contribute time to a project in many ways, including serving on the project committee, implementing steps from the work plan, attending community meetings, leading the group. Volunteer time spent on planning, fundraising, design and organization will be tallied beginning on the application approval date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Professional Services</td>
<td>Donated professional services must be relevant to the project and proportionate to its needs. Examples include a web designer, graphic designer, photographer, landscape architect, printer, etc. Donors must document the hourly value of their professional services on their letterhead. Services are valued at 50 per cent of the services customary rate. An individual or business that will be compensated for any project-related work cannot also pledge their time as a volunteer nor donate other goods or services to the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Materials and Supplies</td>
<td>All donated materials and supplies, such as food, paper, flowers, wood, paint, tools, trees, lumber, etc., are valued at their retail prices. Borrowed equipment can also be considered as part of the match, valued at the standard rental fee. Donors of the materials and supplies must provide documentation on their letterhead of the value of the match.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Donations</td>
<td>Cash donations can be secured from fundraising events, individuals, foundations, businesses and the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How are applications evaluated?

Each application will be evaluated based on key criteria:

1. The request meets all criteria for funding.
2. The overall feasibility of the project.
3. Tangible benefits and outcomes from the project.
4. Neighbourhood letters of support and/or pledge sheets.
5. A realistic budget that clearly outlines the neighbourhood/community match. The match should clearly reflect the neighbourhood or community group’s capacity to contribute to the project.

6. Comprehensive workplan that is ready for implementation.

**Step 1:** A feasibility committee will meet to review all applications to ensure that applicant submissions can be accomplished. This will help to make sure that there are no issues related to the City of Burlington’s by-laws, policies and legislative or contractual guidelines and procedures. The feasibility committee will be made up of employees from:

- Parks and Recreation department
- Culture division
- Festivals and Events Office
- Community Development division
- Finance department
- Capital Works department
- By-Law
- Planning and
- Other subject matter experts as deemed necessary for the feasibility review process.

**Step 2:** All applications that are deemed feasible will proceed to the evaluation stage. Project applications will be evaluated and scored independently by each member of the review committee. Scores will be added together to receive an overall combined score and ranked from highest to lowest. Projects with the highest ranking will be awarded funding based on the annual funding available. All applications will be told whether they are receiving funding or not.

The annual funding available for the NCMF is dependent on budget approval on an annual basis. Unsuccessful applications that do not receive funding in any given year are encouraged to reapply in subsequent year(s). All applications will be evaluated and ranked against the project submissions received within each application period (see timelines section above).
**How are funds dispersed?**

All projects will require a funding letter of agreement between the Applicant and the City of Burlington. Awarded groups will need to fulfill conditions to support regulatory compliance for projects.

Funding will be paid on an installment basis with 50 per cent of the approved amount issued after the agreement is signed and the balance upon substantial completion of the project. The city will work with successful applicants on a case-by-case basis to determine the timing of the payment for their project.