

Introduction

Government is committed to supporting Nova Scotia's vulnerable families, seniors and youth. These are challenging times for everyone, and access to local, healthy food has never been more important. To make meaningful and lasting impacts, we need to harness the benefits of working collaboratively to improve food ecosystems. Producers, distributors and consumers all have a role to play.

Organizations rooted in their communities are often in the best position to know what people need and how to deliver it. These organizations are trusted and are therefore well-positioned to support those struggling with food insecurity.

Program Description

The **Local Food Security Initiatives** program supports projects that provide vulnerable Nova Scotians access to healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced/prepared food by:

- Supporting organizations to procure healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced/prepared food.
- Building the capacity of organization to harness the benefits of working collaboratively to increase the sustainability of food security programming.
- Supporting partnerships to create local food systems that plan together and remove barriers to sourcing healthy, culturally appropriate, and local food.
- Creating food ecosystems and supporting collaborations that convene, plan, or address barriers and challenges to acquiring healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced/prepared food by those who need it most.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the program manager to discuss their project prior to applying. Please contact CCTH.food@novascotia.ca or (902) 424-5793 to request a meeting.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Commitment

- Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage supports our communities to thrive by promoting active living, tourism, and Nova Scotia's diverse culture, heritage, and languages. We pride ourselves on helping to grow communities and organizations by providing programs and services that support these areas.

- We are committed to ensuring that our programs and services are free of discrimination and barriers, and we value equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA). By applying this lens and ensuring it is a core value in our programs and decision-making processes, we are taking steps to address the long-standing systemic barriers that impact many communities in our province.
- Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage is committed to advancing EDIA across Nova Scotia, and we support partners who share in this commitment.

Eligible Applicants

- Joint Stocks-registered Not-for-Profit Societies in good standing, OR
- Federally registered Charities or Not-for-Profit Corporations in good standing, OR
- Nova Scotian Mi'kmaw bands.

Eligible Costs

Include but are not limited to:

- Costs associated with bringing organizations together with the intention of building a network, collaborating on services, or developing joint project(s) (e.g. venue, facilitator).
- Sourcing and purchasing food to augment established food programs (min. 40% must be sourced locally and demonstrated through receipts)
- One-time purchase of equipment or software that will improve/increase an organization's ability to make, grow or distribute food

Ineligible Costs

- Projects where research is the only activity
- Projects where employment is the only cost
- Major renovations/capital improvements – for information on capital grants available through CCTH, please visit cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future

Project Contributions

Tier 1

- Applies to funding requests of \$10,000 or less.
- Applicants are *not* required to make a cash contribution.

Tier 2

- Applies to funding requests between \$10,001 to \$50,000.

- Applicants must contribute a **minimum of 25%** towards eligible project costs.
 - This must include at least 10% cash from the applicant organization.
- Applicants must have at least one collaborating partner with a demonstrated role in the project.

Tier 3

- Applies to funding requests between \$50,001-\$100,000:
- Applicants must contribute a **minimum of 25% cash** towards eligible project costs.
- Project must involve a minimum of 3 collaborating organizations.

How to Apply

Complete the PDF application found on the program website.

Requirements

Applicants are required to submit the following information:

- Project Overview
- Project Budget
- Applicable supporting documents (e.g. detailed letters of support, photos)

Project Overview Document

This document forms the core of your application. Please address the following areas:

1. Organizational Overview

Provide a brief description of your organization

2. Project Description

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project, including:

- Project objectives and activities
- Names and roles of key project personnel
- A high-level project timeline (dates may be estimated)

3. Program Alignment

Demonstrate how the proposed project supports one or more of the following program themes:

- Supporting organizations to procure healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced/prepared food.
- Building the capacity of organizations to harness the benefits of working collaboratively to increase the sustainability of food security programming.
- Supporting partnerships to create local food systems that plan together and remove barriers to sourcing healthy, culturally appropriate, and

local food.

- Creating food ecosystems and supporting collaborations that convene, plan, or address barriers and challenges to acquiring healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced/prepared food by those who need it most

4. Partnerships and Collaborations

Have you connected with other food groups in your region? If yes, provide the following for each:

- Name the organization
- Describe the nature and scope of the partnership
- Attach detailed letters of support, where available

5. Project Sustainability

Describe how this project will be able to continue without provincial funding beyond the period for which you are applying for this grant.

Project Budget

Applicants must submit a detailed project budget that includes the following components:

- Total Project Costs
- Revenues and Expenses

Funding contribution requirements correspond to the tier of funding requested:

Tier 1

- Applies to funding requests of \$10,000 or less.
- Applicants are not required to provide a cash or in-kind contribution.

Tier 2

- Applies to funding requests between \$10,001 and \$50,000.
- Applicants must provide a **minimum of 25%** of eligible project costs.
 - Of this amount, at least 10% of the total project cost must be a cash contribution from the applicant organization

Tier 3

- Applies to funding requests between \$50,001 and \$100,000
- Applicants must provide a **minimum of 25% cash** of eligible project costs.
- Applicants must have a minimum of three (3) collaborators.

Please Note:

- Applications must be completed in full.
- Relevant supporting materials—such as photos or letters of support—may be included.
- Completed application forms must be signed and dated.

- Applications may be submitted by email, in-person drop-off or by mail.
- A program officer may contact you using the information provided in your application. Please ensure all contact information is accurate and that listed contacts can be reached.

Application Deadlines and Activity Start/End Dates

Applications must be received no later than **11:59pm August 31, 2026**. Applications postmarked on the deadline date are acceptable

Application Assessment

Applications will be assessed based on the following considerations:

- Completeness of the application.
- Demonstration of how the proposed activity supports at least one of the program themes identified in the program description.
- Projects that include one or more of the following may be given higher priority
 - build upon existing community collaborations or project partners (support letters outlining partners' roles should be provided)
 - include equity deserving communities
 - gardens that demonstrate community buy-in, ensuring up-keep
 - is a new initiative

Conditions of Funding

- Approved applicants will receive a letter outlining the terms and conditions of funding. This letter must be signed and returned before funds can be issued.
- Payment will be issued to the applying organization only; payments cannot be made to individuals.
- Payment will be made at 100% of the approved funding amount.
- Funds must be used for the activity as described in the application.
- The department must be notified **in advance** of any changes to the project, including start and end dates, location, or any other significant modifications.
- If the project does not proceed after grant payment has been issued, the recipient must return the funds to the department.
- Organizations receiving funding must submit a **Final Report** within 30 days of the project end date. A reporting template will be provided.
- Funding recipients are subject to **provincial audit**. All receipts and financial records must be retained.

Please note: if the **final report** becomes overdue, no funds can be released for any subsequent grant approved through either the departmental or Arts Nova Scotia's programs until the overdue report has been received.

For more information:

Telephone: (902) 424-5793
E-mail: CCTH.food@novascotia.ca
Mailing Address: Communities Nova Scotia
Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism
& Heritage PO BOX 456, STN Central
1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Does your project need volunteers?

VolunteerNS.ca is a free searchable database that connects non-profits with skilled volunteers in Nova Scotia and nationwide. Volunteers can also easily search for opportunities, while organizations create profiles and receive support to fill vacancies, fostering community connections.



Visit: volunteersns.ca

Do you need help finding where to source local food and products?

Nova Scotia Loyal is a government program designed to make it easier to identify, purchase, and support local products.



Visit [Directory - Nova Scotia Loyal](#)