

FAQ

As part of our #EastCoastCUCares program, we are launching another year of our supporting initiative that helps Nova Scotia Build Back Together.

#EastCoastCUCares Grant Program supports programs and services that have a measurable social and environmental impact in local communities across Nova Scotia.

The #EastCoastCUCares Grant Program provides funding totaling up to **\$100,000 annually**. In addition to this program, East Coast Credit Union also supports approximately \$300,000 annually through other ongoing commitments.

Social enterprises and registered co-operatives operating under the following categories are encouraged to apply:

- Health and Wellness
- Community Development
- Climate Resilience

Is my organization eligible to apply for a grant?

Your organization is eligible to apply for the #EastCoastCUCares Grant Program if it is a:

- **Social Enterprise:** is defined as a revenue-generating businesses with a twist. Whether operated by a non-profit organization or by a for-profit company, a social enterprise has two goals: to achieve social, cultural, community economic and/or environmental outcomes; and, to earn revenue through the sale of goods and/or services.
- **Registered Co-operative:** a business legally incorporated under specific federal, provincial, or territorial co-operative acts that is owned by an association of people seeking to satisfy common needs, such as access to products or services, sale of products or services, or employment.

What types of organizations will be awarded grants?

East Coast Credit Union is focused on providing grants for organization's whose programs and services cover the following themes and their respective sub-categories:

Health and Wellness	Promotes physical and mental wellness: improving lifestyle factors that have a positive impact on physical and psychological wellbeing for individuals or a group of people. <i>Ex. An organization that provides financial assistance to women experiencing, or that have experienced, abuse so they can access therapy and support.</i>
	Supports services and opportunities for seniors: establishing care and support services for elderly individuals. <i>Ex. An organization that connects elderly people in the community.</i>

	<p>Removes barriers and addresses structural inequalities (ability, race and gender): uplifting marginalized communities (ex. Black, Indigenous, and other people of colour) and dismantling systems of oppression in organizations, institutions, governments or social groups.</p> <p><i>Ex. Addresses clean water issues in First Nations communities.</i></p>
<p>Community Development</p>	<p>Provides education and training to improve employability: ensuring that individuals have the skills and knowledge to support current and future businesses and industries.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that helps recent high-school graduates learn coding and software development.</i></p>
	<p>Develops entrepreneurial and digital skills: turning innovative and creative ideas into action with a focus on high-potential sectors such as agri-food and cleantech.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that is developing plant-based protein bars.</i></p>
	<p>Increases access to affordable housing: helping individuals find suitable, sustainable, and affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that advocates for increased access to affordable housing.</i></p>
	<p>Offers rural workforce opportunities: addresses the implications of rurality, particularly those associated with First Nations communities.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that helps people in rural communities find remote or work-from-home jobs.</i></p>
<p>Climate Resilience</p>	<p>Production and marketing of local products: purchasing items grown, produced, or manufactured within your community, province or region.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization selling locally sourced food delivery boxes.</i></p>
	<p>Innovates business models: adjusting a business model to create value for customers through the development of new revenue streams or distribution channels.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that rescues surplus and unsold food and transforms it into new food products that are redistributed to communities.</i></p>

	<p>Delivers climate education: learning in climate change, emissions, energy, waste, conservation, biodiversity, and Indigenous culture.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that aims to create a sustainability-driven curriculum for elementary school students.</i></p>
	<p>Improves energy efficiency: improving the performance of buildings, transportation and industry through energy consumption solutions that reduce emissions and save money (<i>only those not eligible for funding from Efficiency Nova Scotia or other rebate programs</i>).</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that supports community groups wanting to install reviewable energy or energy efficient upgrades.</i></p>
	<p>Supports conservation: protecting species, ecosystems and resources.</p> <p><i>Ex. An organization that protects turtles from road injuries.</i></p>

What organizations and projects are not eligible for this grant?

Those who are not eligible for grant funding under the #EastCoastCUCares Grant Program include: individuals and individual teams; government agencies; unincorporated groups; political organizations; registered charities and not-for-profits that do not have a revenue-generating social enterprise model; and for-profit enterprises. Religious groups that do not serve the wider community are also not eligible. Additionally, grants cannot be used to fund travel and administration.

How much money can I apply for?

You may apply for a ECCU-funded grant of:

- \$5,000
- \$10,000
- \$30,000

In your application, you will be required to select the grant you are applying for. Your grant funding amount will be influenced by the number of people impacted/served by your organization. Please note that East Coast Credit Union may re-allocate funding as needed, and you may receive a different funding amount.

What are the application steps?

This grant program has 2 application stages: Tier 1 (to assess eligibility) and Tier 2 (the full grant application).

1. **The Tier 1 application** - This section has been developed to screen applications for their eligibility for this program.
2. If your application meets the minimum eligibility criteria, you will receive an automatic notification of a successful application, thus directing you to the Tier 2 application.

If your application does not meet the minimum eligibility criteria, we thank you for your interest and ask that you consider reapplying next year if you meet the requirements for entry.

What do I do if my Tier 1 application has been approved?

If your Tier 1 application is approved, you will be asked to proceed to complete Tier 2 of the application.

Who will review my Tier 2 application and how long will this process take?

Shortlisted Applicants will be reviewed by East Coast Credit Union's Grant Selection Committee. Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive a notification or update on the status of their application.

What do I do if my application has NOT been approved?

Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to reconsider and review your application. We encourage you to reapply next year, providing that your organization meets our grant requirements.

I have received my grant. What do I do now?

Please begin your organization's programs and services as outlined in your application. Objectives and milestones should be developed within the indicated timeframe and any information around your programs and services should be recorded in-detail. Additionally, East Coast Credit Union requires all grant recipients to complete an Impact Report. A template will be provided to you to track and report on your impact throughout the project. For any questions, please contact our team at communityimpact@creditunion.ca. The Impact Reporting form must be completed within 12 months of receiving the grant funding, no later than December 1 of the following year.