



Community Grants

2026-27

Overview

Over 80 applications received through two grant streams: innovation and food sovereignty

31 projects selected for funding through the following focus/cohorts:

- Innovation
- Food Sovereignty
- Indigenous Projects
- Community Markets



Process for Grant Selection





Innovation Grants

1-year funding cycle

13 projects



Cape North Food Sharing Initiative

Context:

The initiative emerged as part of community discussions about food access and affordability: community members voiced key concerns about the lack of access to affordable and quality fresh produce year-round.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to roll out a series of Square Roots markets through rural and remote areas of Cape Breton.

Equity lens:

A remote rural community in the northern part of Cape Breton Island.

Potential Impact:

Increased community access to fresh affordable produce, increased community connections and sharing of food.





Community Vibes

Context:

Discussions were held in the community, facilitated by Community Vibes to identify areas of need where community members were willing to share skills to promote self-sufficiency and resilience. Food growing was identified as a priority theme.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource a community tool library and skills development workshops for growing food on the South Shore.

Equity lens:

Rural community of Riverport and surrounding areas along the South Shore.

Potential Impact:

Increased knowledge, skills and access to tools to strengthen community-led growing and food production.





Food Web

Context:

Food Web conducted consultations with food entrepreneurs across Nova Scotia and found that limited access to affordable, part-time commercial kitchen space was reported as a significant barrier to new businesses getting started.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource a match-making program that connects new community food businesses with affordable commercial kitchen rentals.

Equity lens:

Priority focus on entrepreneurs from equity-deserving communities, including newcomers, women, and individuals with limited access to capital.

Potential Impact:

Immediate kitchen access and a more enabling environment for food entrepreneurship in various locations across Nova Scotia.



Hope Blooms

**Context:**

During peak season, Hope Blooms urban farm produces surplus produce, which can result in preventable waste. Community engagement sessions highlighted interest in preservation for winter month use.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource a collaborative project with community partners to transform surplus garden produce into cultural frozen meals.

Equity lens:

African Nova Scotian community, immigrant and newcomer populations living in the North End of Halifax Peninsula.

Potential Impact:

Community access to cultural food year-round, strengthened partnerships with community partner organizations throughout the north end of Halifax.



Island Food Network

Context:

Through the network's engagement with various community-based programs across the island, the need for support around board governance, decision-making, volunteer and fund management, declining infrastructure was identified.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource a capacity-building coaching program for small rural community groups that are running community food programs.

Equity lens:

Community groups serving rural and remote areas across Cape Breton Island.

Potential Impact:

Increased community capacity to effectively and sustainably operate essential community food programs in rural and remote communities.



Langford Heritage Community Council

Context:

Community discussions led by LHCC identified an opportunity to reclaim a former small baseball field to increase local community access to fresh produce.

Proposal:

\$6,000 to resource transformation of a seasonally flooded field into an orchard and berry production space.

Equity lens:

Rural historic African-Nova Scotian community.

Potential Impact:

Increased access to community-grown fruit, increased community control of local food system.



Mulgrave Road Theatre

Context:

Mulgrave Road Theatre engaged in a series of weekly community discussions with Guysborough residents about food insecurity and the idea of an arts- based project emerged from discussion.

Proposal:

\$23,000 to resource a series of community theatre workshops to explore food insecurity and identify community-led solutions.

Equity lens:

Rural community with limited access to affordable food.

Potential Impact:

Increased community capacity to understand and identify community solutions to food insecurity.



RISA Youth

Context:

RISA supports Nova Scotian youth in supportive housing. Through conversations with resident youth, the need for a food program to support youth transitioning out of RISA housing into independent living was identified.

Proposal:

\$23,665 to resource a food independence pathway program for youth, addressing barriers to food access, meal-prep kits and move-out starter kits.

Equity lens:

Youth 16-24 years experiencing housing instability throughout the HRM region.

Potential Impact:

Increased independence for participants, a food independence pathway program that can be replicated across other youth-serving organizations.





The Grainery Food Co-operative

Context:

The Grainery has received queries from community groups outside of HRM about how to start up a food co-op and mentorship for new food co-ops.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource co-op development and piloting of a starter kit to expand the Grainery's community cooperative model beyond HRM.

Equity lens:

Priority focus on rural communities living in food apartheid located in the Annapolis Valley.

Potential Impact:

Expansion of affordable food access through community-owned and community-operated non-profit cooperatives.





The POSSE Project

Context:

POSSE provides support and education to vulnerable, marginalized, youth, Indigenous communities.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource development of 10 cultural food baskets (food items, recipes, other items needed) to be distributed to families and elders of Sipekne'katik First Nation.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

Increased access to cultural food, a mechanism in place for community to learn from elders about cultural food.



Truro Middle School



Context:

The idea for this project emerged from ongoing conversations with students about food, health, and the environment, alongside increasing awareness of food insecurity within the community.

Proposal:

\$4,700 to resource a land-based wild food learning program for middle school students to strengthen their knowledge of food security and food sovereignty.

Equity lens:

Truro Middle School has a large African Nova Scotian and Indigenous student population.

Potential Impact:

A model to address gaps in food literacy, student connection to nature, and culturally inclusive environmental education.



Ummah Society



Context:

Ummah Society has a strategic commitment to community-driven economic empowerment, and ongoing conversations with community has signalled high demand for affordable halal meals from a trusted source.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource an Aunties cooking program with youth to develop affordable cultural/halal community meals.

Equity lens:

Muslim, African, Asian and Arab communities in Halifax.

Potential Impact:

Increased community access to affordable cultural meals, skills development for youth, employment income for racialized women leads.





Weymouth Falls
Community Land Trust

Weymouth Falls Community Land Trust

Context:

Weymouth Falls CLT conducted community consultations in December 2025 as part of a community-led energy planning process. Food security emerged as a major theme and issue.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource a year-long process to develop an African Nova Scotian food security plan for the communities of Weymouth Falls, Southville, Hassett and Danvers.

Equity lens:

16% of the population identify as Black: seven times the provincial average.

Potential Impact:

A roadmap and community-informed plan to increase African Nova Scotian food security across the region.





Food Sovereignty Grants

2-year funding cycle

8 projects

Amherst Food Bank

Context:

Amherst Food Bank engaged clients who voiced interest in knowledge and skills development related to growing and processing fresh vegetables and fruit.

Proposal:

\$15,000 to resource a 2-year initiative to expand an existing community garden into a food forest for produce distribution to food bank clients.

Equity lens:

Rural community with barriers to accessing affordable food.

Potential Impact:

Increase in community skills to grow fresh vegetables and fruit, increased food bank access to fresh local produce to distribute to community.



Cape Breton Food Hub

Context:

New farmers in Cape Breton are struggling to access land, and at the same time, there is a decline in active farms as older farmers retire.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year to resource a 2-year farmland matching program for retiring farmers and new farmers.

Equity lens:

Rural communities, new farmers with barriers to accessing land.

Potential Impact:

Increased access to land for new farmers, support for farm succession, transfer of knowledge to next generation of food producers, promotion of food sovereignty principles



Evangeline Hub

Context:

Community members have expressed interest in expanding long-term growing infrastructure beyond seasonal gardening to create predictable, multi-year food sources that reduce reliance on external systems.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year to resource a 2-year perennial garden development and workshop-series on land owned by the hub.

Equity lens:

Rural community with transportation barriers and limited access to fresh food.

Potential Impact:

Permanent community food infrastructure , increased rural food autonomy , a model for integrating mental wellness and food sovereignty.





Membertou 55 Plus Society

Context:

Membertou 55 Plus Society engaged community members through surveys and an in-person consultation to identify learning interests, skills to share and barriers to participation in food sovereignty activities.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to support hand-on learning of cultural teachings from Elders and traditional ecological knowledge keepers.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

Knowledge sharing across community, increased access to traditional and locally accessible foods.



Nourish Nova Scotia

Context:

Consultation with Indigenous youth identified priorities which includes more cultural teachings, intergenerational mentorship, and clearer employment pathways.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to run an Indigenous-led initiative to support youth training, cultural foodways and land-based learning led by Elders and knowledge keepers

Equity lens:

Urban Indigenous youth in Halifax.

Potential Impact:

Increased cultural connections, skills development and strengthened networking.





Portapique Market Cooperative

Context:

Portapique Market engaged community and found a strong interest in expanding local food production and developing food processing skills.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year to resource a 2-year community workshop series focused on practical hands-on learning about backyard growing, canning, preservation, seed saving.

Equity lens:

A rural food desert, with limited public transportation.

Potential Impact:

A safe, accessible entry point for connection, short term food access and long-term community resilience.



Sunnyville Community Association

Context:

The community has an aging grower community and identified a community interest in building intergenerational connections and collective responsibility and strengthening community ties through local food production.

Proposal:

\$10,000 per year to connect elder growers with youth from local high schools to build outdoor accessible garden areas for the community. The space will be for growing and harvesting local food, story sharing and knowledge exchange.

Equity lens:

African Nova Scotian community.

Potential Impact:

Intergenerational knowledge sharing, skill development, and stronger community connections.



Weymouth Waterfront Development Committee

Context:

Weymouth Community Garden was established to help address increasing demand at a local foodbank. Over time, the garden fell into disuse due to accessibility challenges.

Proposal:

\$13,000 to reestablish the community garden with community garden plots and follow sustainable organic farming practices.

Equity lens:

Rural community with limited access to affordable food and poor public transit.

Potential Impact:

Strengthened community connections, promotion of food sovereignty and and creation of opportunities for intergenerational knowledge sharing.



Whitney Pier Boys and Girls Club

Context:

Through community consultation, Whitney Pier BGC identified a need for youth to learn practical food skills that support independence and resilience while navigating cultural identity and belonging.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to expand an existing garden and greenhouse into a youth-governed program that combines food production, cooking sessions, and cultural learning opportunities.

Equity lens:

A culturally diverse population with deep African Nova Scotian roots, longstanding immigrant communities and Indigenous connections.

Potential Impact:

Increased youth participation in food sovereignty activities ,intergenerational knowledge transfer and preservation of food culture.

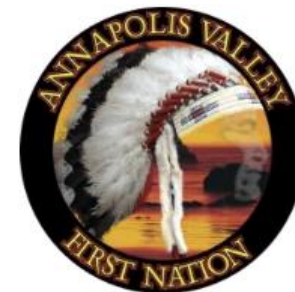




Indigenous Stream Grants

1-year & 2-year funding cycles

5 projects



Annapolis Valley First Nation

Context:

The Annapolis Valley First Nation is actively rebuilding community-controlled food systems through greenhouse production, cultural harvesting, community meals and food access programs.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to develop a program focused on access to traditional/cultural foods, traditionally harvested game meat, fish and shellfish. Community members will access food through a community distribution model.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

Increased access to traditional foods, knowledge sharing on traditional harvesting skills.





M'ikmaw Native Friendship Centre

Context:

Through ongoing engagement with program participants, barriers around food access was highlighted, particularly for seniors and people living with disabilities.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to establish a home-delivery DIY meal program with cooking instructions for Indigenous seniors and people living with mobility barriers.

Equity lens:

Indigenous senior community, Indigenous community members living with a disability.

Potential Impact:

Immediate barrier-free access to food and self-sufficiency for participants, learnings and insight into potential to expand cultural food offerings.





Pictou Landing First Nation

Context:

Food security and food sovereignty have been a concern in community for many years. In 2025, the community started a community gardening program, which was very popular and increased local access to seasonal produce.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to hire a dedicated community gardener to maintain the community garden, engage volunteers and make fresh seasonal produce available to community members.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

Increased community access to seasonal produce from the gardens, skills development in growing produce for volunteers.



Ulnooweg Education Centre

Context:

Ulnooweg's agriculture team delivers community-driven programming focused on skills development, food security and capacity building, particularly for Indigenous youth and families.

Proposal:

\$25,000 to resource development of a community-accessible storefront as a food security and learning hub.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

A dedicated space to support community programming and learning in an accessible, dignified and community-centred way.



Wasoqopa'q First Nation



Context:

Community members have expressed a strong desire to learn how to grow, harvest and preserve their own food but have not had access to land-based learning opportunities, tools and mentorship.

Proposal:

\$20,000 per year for 2 years to develop a community garden and food preservation program, connecting youth to experienced gardeners for knowledge exchange. Community workshops will be run on produce preservation, canning and storage.

Equity lens:

Indigenous community.

Potential Impact:

Intergenerational learning and knowledge exchange about growing and preserving food, increased community access to seasonal produce.





Community Market Grants

1-year funding cycle

3 projects

Enactus NSCC

Context:

In 2025, a student group at the NSCC Dartmouth campus piloted the Fair Share market to increase affordable food access to students. Feedback has signalled high interest in the student community to continue the market.

Proposal:

\$20,000 to resource an extension and expansion of the Fair Share student-led affordable market at NSCC's Dartmouth campus

Equity lens:

Diverse youth population with limited access to affordable food.

Potential Impact:

Increased student access to affordable food.



One North End

Context:

Consultation with community members has flagged high interest in community-based food programming that brings locally grown food into trusted neighbourhood spaces.

Proposal:

\$20,000 to resource a roll-out of an affordable pop-up produce markets in Beechville, Preston Township and North End Halifax.

Equity lens:

African Nova Scotian community members.

Potential Impact:

Increased community access to affordable produce, paid skills development for youth leaders, strengthened connections between African Nova Scotian communities and local farmers.





Square Roots Fairview & Clayton Park

Context:

Square Roots Fairview and Clayton Park currently serves two diverse communities with affordable produce. Communities have signalled interest in access to expanded offerings through the markets.

Proposal:

\$10,000 to resource expansion of markets to include additional and non-perishable items.

Equity lens:

Culturally diverse communities in the Halifax region.

Potential Impact:

Increased community access to affordable non-perishable items.





Questions?

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