

How to Apply



The Living Cities Canada Fund empowers community-based organizations, Indigenous governments, and municipalities to bring green infrastructure to life in ways that are equitable, abundant, and thriving. Whether your focus is on neighbourhood-scale transformation, small-scale demonstrations, policy change, or maintaining existing sites, there's a funding stream for you.

About this Guide

This resource explains how to apply for the Living Cities Canada Fund. Inside, you'll find details on each funding stream, eligibility, timelines, and tips to help you prepare a strong application.

Key information at a glance:

- Application window: Typically opens annually in the fall
- Funding amounts: \$5,000 – \$30,000 depending on stream
- Who can apply: Community-based organizations, Indigenous governments, municipalities, schools, stewardship groups
- Support provided: Funding, training and capacity building, project management tools, peer learning, and logistical support

Which Funding Stream is Right for You?

The Fund offers four distinct granting streams tailored to different kinds of project activities and green infrastructure scales. Please note, not all funding streams may be active each year.

1. Transform Stream

- Neighbourhood-scale green infrastructure interventions transforming 250m² or more of urban space
- *Grants of up to \$30,000*

Ideal for:

- Large-scale, community-led projects (e.g. multi-feature rain gardens, multi-block depave efforts, large mini-forests)
- Equity-embedded planning and co-design in high-needs neighbourhoods
- Organizations with strong community partnerships and capacity for impact

2. Demonstrate Stream

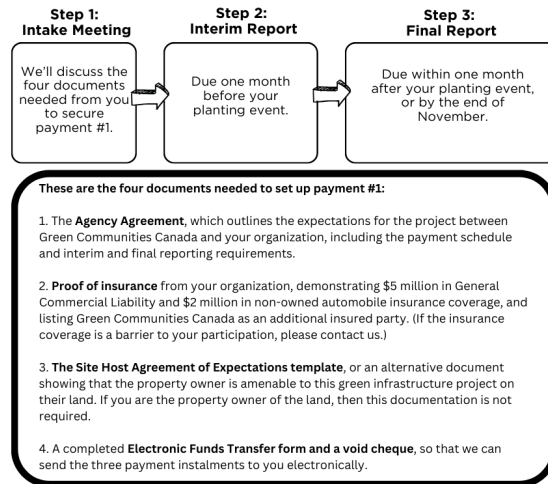
- Small-scale, equity-embedded green infrastructure demonstration sites, approx. 100m²
- *Grants of up to \$15,000*

Ideal for:

- Pilot projects (e.g. single mini forest, curb-cut rain garden, depaved sidewalk installation)
- Organizations testing new approaches with community involvement
- First-time green infrastructure implementers or those expanding into new neighborhoods

If your project is selected for funding

These are the three major expectations from us to receive the full amount of funding.



Above: Flowchart titled “If your project is selected for funding.” Step 1: Intake Meeting - discuss four documents needed to secure payment #1. Step 2: Interim Report - due one month before the planting event. Step 3: Final Report - due within one month after the planting event or by the end of November. The four documents to secure payment #1 are: 1) Agency Agreement, 2) Proof of insurance, 3) Site Host Agreement of Expectations or equivalent documentation, and 4) Electronic Funds Transfer form and void cheque.

3. Thriving Microgrant Stream

- Supports volunteer-based maintenance and monitoring of existing green infrastructure sites
- *Grants of up to \$5,000*

Ideal for:

- Stewardship groups, schools, or community organizations who maintain sites planted in previous years
- Volunteer-driven activities like weeding, mulching, water testing, installing fencing or irrigation, or initiating community science

4. Mobilize Stream

- Supports green infrastructure policy and planning work
Grants of up to \$5,000

Ideal for:

- Municipal and civil society collaborations
- Initiatives such as green infrastructure equity mapping, participatory design workshops, and policy analysis
- Projects aiming to embed green infrastructure into local planning frameworks

Note: In 2025, a new bilingual training cohort is launching under this stream, supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Application Timeline

- Fall/Winter: Applications open
- Winter: Projects are selected and notified
- Spring: Site prep and planning begins
- Fall: Ideal window for planting and implementation

Eligibility

- Community-based organizations
- Indigenous governments
- Municipalities
- Schools
- Stewardship groups

All participants gain access to Green Communities Canada's full suite of training, support, and resources, including connections to a growing national community of practice.

How to Prepare & Apply

- Review funding streams to choose the one that best fits your goals.

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- Start thinking about your site(s), partners, and community priorities.
- Gather rather required documents such as:
 - Site maps
 - Project plans
 - Budget estimates
 - Certificate of insurance (\$5M commercial general liability, and \$2M non-owned auto)
 - Permission from partners (especially the landowner of the site, such as the municipality or a private property owner)
- Watch for the yearly application window (typically opens in the fall).
- Submit your application following the instructions for your chosen stream.

Contact Us

Questions? Reach out to the Green Infrastructure team to learn more or discuss your organization's and project's eligibility.

- Transform/Demonstrate Stream: Jenn McCallum - Interim Manager, Green Infrastructure, jmccallum@greencommunitiescanada.org
- Mobilize Stream: Miriam Ponette - Green Infrastructure Policy Lead, mponette@greencommunitiescanada.org
- Thriving Microgrant Stream: Tianna Mighty - Green Infrastructure Program Coordinator, tmighty@greencommunitiescanada.org