



# APPLICANT GUIDE

2025 Fall Grants

## About Oxford Community Foundation

Oxford Community Foundation helps people and organizations leave a legacy in Oxford, to **make it a better place**.

OCF invests and grants funds wisely and provides donors with the opportunity to target their areas of interest. OCF grants to all aspects of our community including arts, culture and heritage, education, the environment, recreation, health and wellness and social services. OCF has granted more than \$2 million to 115 charitable organizations.

OCF is one of 208 community foundations in Canada and is the only foundation that supports all of Oxford County.

## About the grants

OCF community grants are made possible by the many generous donors who have contributed to legacy and community funds. You can read more about these funds in this guide. A total of **\$71,200** is available for granting. Grants are typically between \$500 - \$10,000.

Community funds are powerful tools for local impact. Built on the belief that the people who live in a community are best equipped to shape its future, these permanent funds grow over time to provide steady, reliable grants for local priorities—today and for generations to come.

Because communities thrive when all aspects of community life are supported, OCF invests in a wide range of needs and opportunities through this fall granting program. This includes celebrating arts and culture, advancing education, protecting the environment, preserving heritage, fostering sports and recreation, strengthening health and wellness, and caring for those in need through social services.

This application guide contains information to assist you in preparing and submitting your request to the Foundation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Jen Weicker**

Office & Grants Administrator

[info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org)

226-664-6404

## Who can apply for grants

OCF will consider funding requests from [qualified donees](#) (as defined by Canada Revenue Agency) who support Oxford County residents. This list includes:

- Registered Canadian charities
- Registered Canadian amateur athletic associations
- Registered Canadian municipalities in Oxford County
- Oxford County School/School Board or School Board Foundation

The following types of organizations and activities are ineligible for a grant:

- non-registered charitable institutions unless supported by a qualified organization as described above through a charitable partnership (contact us for more information)
- For-profit organizations
- Organizations not located or running programs in Oxford County
- Individuals

Grant applicants must make services available without discrimination, without consideration of the gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, creed or disability.

OCF will consider qualified donees supporting the following areas:

- Animal Welfare
- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Community & Social Services
- Education
- The Environment
- Health & Wellness
- Sports & Recreation
- Social Services



## Types of eligible projects and initiatives

OCF considers funding requests that enhance the overall quality of life for people living in Oxford County. **Eligible** initiatives may include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting healthy living through regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and stress management
- Supporting individuals and families in need, advancing equity, and improving well-being
- Creating belonging and reducing isolation by fostering inclusive spaces and connections
- Educational opportunities, including skilled trades training and leadership development
- Protecting our environment by safeguarding clean air and water, and developing green spaces and trails
- Fostering creativity and connection through art, theatre, camps, and inclusive community programs
- Animal welfare initiatives that promote care and compassion

OCF will **prioritize** applications that:

- Address community needs
- Tackle the underlying causes of issues rather than just the symptoms
- Demonstrate efficient use of community resources
- Offer a collaborative approach to community challenges

The following types of activities are **ineligible** for a grant from OCF:

- Activities promoting any particular religious doctrine
- Political lobbying or campaigns
- Annual or capital building campaigns
- Retroactive expenses against a project
- Endowment funds
- Any activity taking place outside of Oxford County

A project can receive funding from more than one source as long as there is no duplication of funding for the same project costs.

Please see examples of past grants made in our annual reports available on our [website](#).

## Grants amounts and categories available

This year, a total of **\$71,200** is available for granting through the Oxford Community Foundation. Of this amount, **\$41,400** comes from funds that can support any community granting category. The remaining **\$29,800** comes from legacy funds that were established to support specific areas of focus. Both lists are provided in this section.

Grants are typically between \$500 and \$10,000. When considering the amount to request, please keep in mind that the Foundation often combines contributions from multiple funds to support a single initiative. While community and legacy funds are listed, you do not need to identify specific funds in your application, nor do you need to adjust your request based on the amounts shown for legacy funds. These figures are shared only to give you a sense of dedicated amounts available in particular areas.

This flexible approach allows us to maximize impact while still honouring each donor's intent. A single initiative may receive support from both broadly focused funds and legacy funds with a specific purpose. For example, last year, *The Forge Boys Night Out* program—which empowers high school boys by teaching essential life skills such as cooking, baking, and car maintenance, alongside mental and emotional well-being—was funded through two funds: the Tyler Arts Memorial Fund and the William & Mary Mackesy Fund.

Of the total \$71,200 available, **\$41,400** comes from funds that can support any granting category, these community funds include:

- Cheryle & Peter Evans Fund
- Dolson Family Fund
- Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund
- Henning Henson Memorial Fund
- Heroes Among Us Fund
- Joland Family Fund
- Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund
- Martis-Disdelle Fund
- William & Mary Mackesy Fund

## Grants amounts and categories available (cont'd)

Of the total of \$71,200 available, **\$29,800** of this amount comes from legacy funds that were established to support specific areas of focus. Below is a list of these funds along with their area of focus.

Alabastine-Wilkinson Fund	\$2,400	Tillsonburg residents
Norwich Township Community Fund	\$450	Norwich Township residents
Thamesford Lawn Bowling Club Fund	\$2,000	Thamesford residents
Bill & Wilma Farr Fund	\$450	Environmental
Stevens Fund	\$5,000	Environmental, with focus on capital or construction costs of community outdoor nature + recreation
Oxford Environmental Fund	\$400	Environmental priority areas and preferences: 1. Water quality 2. Land use - urban sprawl on farmland 3. Sustainable energy production 4. Education
Wayne McKay Youth Leadership Development Fund	\$1,500	Youth leadership development
Oxford County Youth Fund	\$800	Youth
Lessif Family Fund	\$1,500	Youth
Canada Summer Games	\$3,200	Youth sport
Donald Post Community Fund	\$1,400	Skilled trade development
Oxford County Rural Fund	\$1,500	Rural initiatives
Tyler Arts Memorial Fund	\$2,000	Mental health
B&R George Fund	\$3,400	Arts & Culture
Woodstock Chamber of Commerce Community Fund	\$3,800	One or more of: i. education for small business ii. mental health, supports or workshops, iii. creation or enhancements of public spaces iv. building a stronger Woodstock community



## Timeline

- August 27 -> September 30, 2025 at 4 p.m. – Applications Accepted
- November 17 -> December 12, 2025 – Notification of funding, execution of agreements and disbursement of funds
- November 30, 2026 – project completion and report due

## How to apply

This year, we've made applying easier through our online grant application system, Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM). Helpful resources for using GLM are available at the links below. If you have any questions or run into challenges with the system, please reach out to our office—we're happy to help.

Click to access our online application: [OCF Grant Application Portal](#)

Online resources from GLM are available at these links:

- [GLM Applicant Tutorial](#)
- [Application Dashboard](#)



## Application Summary

The online platform includes a translation feature to help you navigate the application. Please keep in mind, however, that final answers need to be submitted in English. If this creates a challenge, we encourage you to reach out to our office—we're here to support you.

### ORGANIZATION TYPE

1. Registered Charity
2. Sponsored by Registered Charity (please note: additional form required)
3. Municipality
4. Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association
5. Oxford County School/School Board

### PROJECT AND CONTACT DETAILS

1. Project name
2. Project total cost
3. Amount requested
4. Project dates
5. New or existing project
6. Focus Area (Arts, Culture, Heritage, education, etc.)
7. Geography Area Served (municipality)
8. Brief project description
9. Value to community
10. Project overview
11. Partnerships
12. Impact
13. How you will measure success
14. Will project continue if grant not received
15. Primary contact information
16. Authorized signatory information

### NEXT STEPS

1. Anything else you would like to add
2. Submission





*Looking Forward...Giving Back!*

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