

Community Grant Program

Applicant Guide

Atlantic Edge Credit Union

About the Program

As a member-owned and democratically controlled financial co-operative, our success is linked to the success of our communities. We are committed to investing financial and nonfinancial resources to contribute to the sustainable wealth and well-being of our communities. For this reason, Atlantic Edge Credit Union (AECU) is proud to fund the Community Grant Program.

The Community Grant Program will provide funding to community stakeholders whose values and activities align with our efforts to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits to our members and their communities.

- The total value of the grant program will be approximately \$30,000 annually; a total of 17 grants are available to be awarded.
- Applications will open on Friday, September 1, 2023.
- The deadline to submit applications is Friday, October 27, 2023.
- Successful applicants will be notified no later than Friday, November 24, 2023. Funds will be distributed through direct deposit to the recipient's credit union account where possible and will otherwise be distributed by cheque.
- Grant recipients will be announced on the AECU website and social media channels. Recipients may be announced through press releases and other media outlets, at the sole discretion of AECU.
- Grant recipients will be required to complete a brief follow-up report describing the positive impacts of their projects.

Grant Categories

The Community Grant Program is divided into four categories:

1. Community Changemakers Grant

When people come together in a community, big social changes can take place. This category supports individuals, groups or organizations that are organizing programs, initiatives, or purchases that contribute to community care and development. These enhancements must have an economic, social, and/or environmental benefit, and may include factors such as health and wellness, food sustainability, animal welfare, arts and culture, etc.

A \$1,500 grant will be available to each of the eleven branches of AECU.

2. Youth Connection Grant

AECU believes that youth are the key drivers to making our communities a better place to live, work and play. A small amount of money can support impactful change for people, projects, and communities. This category empowers youth (35 and under) to be community change champions and is awarded to a youth-led project or initiative to create economic, social and/or environmental change.

There may be two grants offered at a value of \$2,000 each. Where possible, preference will be given to awarding one grant per region.

3. Small Business Change Champion Grant

Small businesses create vital economic development within communities. AECU recognizes that small businesses are also often responsible for driving social and environmental development, which must be

recognized and supported. This category will assist small businesses by providing funds towards the advancement of a social and/or environmental initiative that demonstrates positive impact for the community or environment in which they operate.

There may be two grants offered at a value of \$2,000 each. Where possible, preference will be given to awarding one grant per region.

4. Co-operative Development Grant

AECU believes in the power of the co-operative model. A society that has organizations with such positive values and principles as co-operatives will be a better society in which to live and work. To effectively assist in the growth and development of co-operatives, this category will support new or existing co-operatives that best demonstrate how they will create positive economic, social, and environmental change. Where possible, one grant will be reserved for existing co-operatives, and one grant will be reserved for newly formed co-operatives.

There may be two grants offered:

- Existing Co-operatives – one grant valued at \$2,500.
- New Co-operatives – one grant valued at \$3,000.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants are asked to complete all sections of the online application, which focuses on both applicant and project information. Applicants must be prepared to answer questions concerning the following areas of consideration for their proposed projects:

- Category (Social, Environmental, or Economic)
- Purpose and Objective
- Partners
- Beneficiaries
- Planned Activities
- Timeline
- Results and Impacts

Note: Your project may be applicable to more than one grant category. If applicable, you may select multiple categories for consideration when completing your application.

Eligibility and Rules

To qualify for the Community Grant Program, applicants must adhere to the following:

- Applicants are **not required** to have an AECU membership.
- All projects, initiatives, and purchases funded by the Community Grant Program must be for the benefit of community stakeholders in proximity to an AECU branch community.
- All organizations, non-profits, co-operatives, small businesses, etc., must be registered in Newfoundland and Labrador, and operate in proximity to or for the direct benefit of an AECU branch community.
- Individuals will be considered as eligible applicants for the Community Changemakers and Youth Connection grants only.
- Organizations may be eligible for all grant categories if they meet the required criteria.

- For the purposes of this program, a small business will be defined as any business with less than 100 employees.
- Grant recipients are not eligible to apply for the Community Grant Program for three years following a successful application.
- Funds are distributed for the projects for which they were rewarded; if funds are not used for the intended project, the credit union should be contacted to see how funds may be redirected to other initiatives and/or returned.
- If the scope of the successful project changes significantly from what was outlined in the application, AECU should be contacted to reassess the eligibility of the applicant.

For grants with regional consideration, regions will be defined as:

- **Western/Southwestern Newfoundland** (including Port aux Basques, Doyles, Jeffrey's, St. George's, Corner Brook, and Deer Lake branches).
- **Northern Peninsula/Labrador** (including Port Saunders, St. Anthony, L'Anse au Loup, Mary's Harbour, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay branches).

The Community Grant Program **will not** support:

- Private or personal events.
- Loss or debt of an individual, group, or organization.
- Travel expenses and long-term operational costs.
- Individual or group pursuits that do not have a broader community scope (ex: sports teams).
- Parties, organizations, or interest groups advocating a political or religious ideology.
- Religious groups, events or initiatives that are not open to all members of the community.
- Initiatives or projects that do not provide direct benefit to AECU branch communities.
- Organizations previously convicted of fraud or involved in illegal activity.
- Applications that go against AECU's values and purpose or that could compromise its ethical standards and integrity.

How To Apply

Applicants who meet the conditions as outlined in the section above are eligible to apply. Please [click here](#) to access the application. Incomplete, unsubmitted, or late applications will not be considered.

Note: To complete the online application form, applicants must create a **Do Some Good** account. This platform connects individuals, charitable organizations, and good companies to make a meaningful impact in their communities – [click here to learn more](#).

- An account is required for several reasons:
 - Ensures information security and credibility of the form and weeds out spam.
 - Allows the applicant to view their submission afterwards and ensures privacy of information.
 - Allows for ease of communication with the applicant.
 - Allows us to track submissions quickly and securely.

Questions about the program?

Contact info@aecu.ca for more information.

Disclaimers

- Applicants will be contacted to verify identity and eligibility prior to processing applications.
- All information provided must be accurate, complete, and in no way misleading.
- AECU will not be responsible for any lost, delayed, misdirected, illegible, incomplete, damaged, or undeliverable applications, or any delay or failure to transmit, process, receive or consider applications, or technical failures of any kind.
- If for any reason AECU cannot run the program as planned, AECU reserves the right to cancel, modify, extend, or suspend without notice.
- AECU may at any time, at their sole discretion, disqualify any applicant who: does not meet the eligibility criteria, fails to comply with the rules, attempts to apply in any manner or through means other than described in these rules, or attempts to circumvent these rules.