

Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID)

Application Guidelines 2024-25

Introduction

The Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) supports investment in priority municipal infrastructure projects that address critical capacity issues, build more accessible and adaptable communities and enable the preservation and expansion of services to support housing.

This program was established as part of the renewed Service Exchange Agreement between the Province and the Municipalities. This partnership led to the creation of GRID, an application-based program, which supports provincial priorities and provides municipalities with increased flexibility in leveraging funding.

Funding

The program may provide funding for 50% of eligible project costs, though the actual cost-sharing percentage could vary based on project specifics or budget availability.

Applicants must demonstrate their ability to cover the remaining project costs through municipal and/or other funding sources.

Funding from GRID can be leveraged by municipalities as their portion of any cost-shared infrastructure program, provided that the other programs do not prohibit this. If recipients choose to use multiple funding sources for a project, they are responsible for understanding the specific requirements of each grant program. All grants supporting the project must be clearly outlined in the project proposal. If additional grants are obtained after GRID funding approval, recipients must inform DMAH.

Funding priority will be given to shovel-ready projects that help communities address critical capacity issues, health and safety, expand services, build more accessible and adaptable communities, and projects that enable and/or preserve housing.

Preference will be given to projects where funding sources are secured or where the project can proceed regardless of securing other funding sources.

Eligible Recipients

This program is available to Nova Scotia Municipalities and Villages.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include:

1. Water, Wastewater and Stormwater

Construction, expansion and/or renewal of:

- Facilities for the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage
- Sanitary sewage collection systems
- Water intake, treatment, pumping and storage facilities
- Water transmission and distribution systems
- Construction, expansion and /or renewal of storm sewers
- Infrastructure which reduces/eliminates combined sewer overflows

2. Climate Change Adaptation

- Capital Project Recommendations from Climate Hazard/Risk Assessments
- Coastal and Inland Flooding Adaptations

3. Accessibility

- Capital projects required to comply with *Accessibility Act*
- Projects supported by accessibility plans
- Accessibility improvements to municipal infrastructure including sidewalks and active Transportation (excluding Fleet)

Eligible Costs

Eligible costs include:

- Engineering services and project management
- Design as a stand alone project
- Construction inspection and administration
- Construction and equipment acquisition as per plans and specifications

Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs include:

- Interim financing costs
- Non-fixed assets which are not essential for the operation of the asset
- Operation and maintenance costs
- Land acquisition
- Leasing land, buildings and other facilities
- Real estate fees and related costs
- Overhead costs, including salaries and other employment benefits of any employees of the Recipient

Application and Submission

Municipal applicants may submit a maximum of 2 applications, but only 1 can be approved per cycle. A council motion must accompany the submissions and identify project priority. Village applicants may submit a maximum of 1 application. A motion from both the Village Commission and Municipal Council must accompany the submission.

Only 1 project can be active under this program at a time. An applicant is not eligible for another project until their project is complete.

The application form can be downloaded from the program [website](#). You can also use a search engine (i.e. Google) to locate our website. Please use the following key words in your search, 'GRID Nova Scotia'.

Once the application is completed, it must be emailed including any attachments to the program email GRID@novascotia.ca. Please make sure that you have confirmation from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) that your completed application has been received.

The application submission must include:

- **Council Resolution:** a Municipal resolution of Council supporting the submission of the project for funding consideration under GRID. Village applications require confirmed support by the Municipality.
- **Cost Estimate:** A detailed cost estimate for the project is required. A template is provided by DMAH. Preference will be given to projects with Class A estimates.
- **Location Shapefile:** a kml file of the project location.

Review Process

Applications submitted to DMAH will be reviewed to ensure requirements outlined in these guidelines have been met. Incomplete applications may result in your project not being reviewed for funding consideration.

The review and evaluation of applications is a competitive process. Although a project may be eligible, it is not guaranteed funding from this program.

If the project is approved, it is possible that the approval will not match the full level of funding requested in the application.

It should take 6 to 8 weeks for the DMAH to review funding applications and let you know if your application is approved.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are screened for eligibility and then recommended for approval based on but not limited to:

- Whether project addresses a critical capacity issue (e.g. treatment plant over capacity)
- Whether project addresses an immediate environmental and/or health and safety issue
- How the design and implementation considers impacts of climate change.
- Does the project meet accessibility regulatory requirements (i.e. *Accessibility Act*) or align with municipal accessibility plans?
- If the project enables housing development (e.g. the upgrade or extension of water/wastewater services that support new housing or preserve existing ones) and the number of units.
- Project readiness (i.e. preference given to projects which have detailed design complete and are ready to begin construction phase)

Payment

Successful applicants will receive an approval letter and Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) outlining the requirements of the approval. DMAH will release 100% of the payment upon receiving the signed T&Cs.

Project Amendments

After project approval, if the project scope changes or anticipated completion date extends beyond the project deadline outlined in the Terms and Conditions, an amendment is required. The amendment request (i.e. Progress Monitoring Report) must be submitted to and approved by DMAH.

Project Completion

The project must be complete, and all invoices must be dated no later than March 31, 2026. Only 1 active project under this program is permitted. Not eligible for another until active project is complete.

DMAH has the right to require the return of any unspent funds or any funds that have been spent on items that were not part of the Agreement.

Final Reporting

Recipients must submit a Project Closeout Report and Statement of Expenditures to DMAH. DMAH will provide the required reporting templates to successful recipients.

The Project Closeout Report must confirm all project outcome indicator values as selected in application. (refer to Appendix A: Outcome Indicators).

The Statement of Expenditures will consist of a listing of all invoices as well as proof of payment in the form of copies of cancelled cheques, printouts of online cancelled cheques, bank statements or copies of electronic banking statements.

If feasible, please include a (pre and post completion) digital photo of your completed project with the Project Closeout Report. These photos may be used for media requests, reports, presentations, or communication purposes.

Communications

Funding approvals must be kept confidential until DMAH has coordinated a public program announcement.

The contribution by DMAH must be recognized in any project promotion or communication.

A list of successful project applicants may be made public after the process is completed.

For More Information

Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
1505 Barrington Street, Floor 8 N
PO Box 216, Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4
902-424-6642

GRID@novascotia.ca

APPENDIX A-Outcome Indicators

Water

Outcome Indicator:

Length of deteriorated water pipe replaced (m)

Existing # of households with improved municipal water service

Length of water service extended or upgraded (m)

Increased # of properties with access to municipal water system

Increased # of households that will have improved fire protection

Increased # of households that will be equipped with residential water meters

Increased capacity to supply, treat or store potable water (m³)

Wastewater/Stormwater

Outcome Indicator:

Length of deteriorated wastewater pipe replaced (m)

Length of wastewater service extended or upgraded (m)

Increased # of properties with access to municipal wastewater system

Increased capacity to collect and/or treat wastewater (m³ per year)

Length of combined sewer systems separated (m)

Type of stormwater asset(s) receiving improvements. Specify # and/or length of asset(s).

Climate Change Adaptation

Outcome Indicator:

of properties where climate change risk is reduced

Accessibility

Outcome Indicator:

and type of assets (municipal buildings, playgrounds, beaches, etc.) that have received new accessibility features & improvements

Length and type of active transportation assets (sidewalks, trails, etc.) receiving accessibility improvements (km)