Milton Community Connections Grant
2027 Guidelines

Background

Milton residents and nonprofit organizations planning small scale, citizen-led activities that will enhance the well-being of Milton residents, can apply for the Milton Community Connections Grant (MCCG).

The Milton Community Connections Grant aims to advance the Culture Plan's mission, which speaks to the role of the Town in collaborating and investing in Milton's diverse people and places in order to elevate local capacity, talent, experiences and relationships. **Consideration will be given to residents and organizations that provide recreation, artistic and cultural programs and services in and for the benefit of the Milton community.**

The total funding available for cash grants from the 2026 Milton Community Connections Grant is $75,000 with a maximum recipient allocation of $2,500. The program is funded via the Milton Community Fund, which receives payment from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for hosting Elements Casino Mohawk. The Town of Milton uses part of the funding it receives from OLG for the Milton Community Fund, and to the benefit of the community.

Funding Opportunities

Events / Activities that would be eligible for funding include:

- Take place in, and directly benefit the Milton community.
- Are entirely free and accessible for the Milton public to participate in and attend.
- Are publicly accessible and not held on a property associated with an applicant's personal business.
- Provide for community building, opportunity for connection, knowledge sharing and relationship building; which (in alignment with the Culture Plan) can include:
    i. Activities that promote raising cultural awareness;
    ii. Arts and Culture: Workshops, lectures, walking tours, concerts, talent shows, storytelling events, cooking demonstrations, games nights, public art projects / installations, movies in the park;
    iii. Learn-to-play sports sessions;
    iv. Neighbourhood street / block parties, picnics;
    v. Recreation-oriented health & wellness activities;
    vi. Recreation and Culture focused events / activities that include support for vulnerable or isolated community members; **or**
    vii. Special Events.

Note: examples listed above are not a complete list; all opportunities that meet and align with the program's purpose, are welcome to be submitted for funding consideration.

Application Steps

Upon review of these program guidelines and eligibility criteria, prospective applicants will follow the steps outlined below:

1. Applicant submits an application form (60 business days prior to the event / activity) via the MCCG web page.
    - Applications are accepted **throughout** the year.
    - This grant is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
    - Should annual program funding be depleted prior to the end of the calendar year, the application window will be closed from that point and for the remainder of the year.
2. Applications are reviewed by Town staff to assess eligibility / alignment with the program's requirements.
    - Funding may be allocated in any amount as deemed appropriate up to a maximum of $2,500.
    - All decisions are **final**.
3. Applicants will be notified of application status within 15-business days of submission.

4. Those applicants that receive a Pending Approval, then run the event / activity.
   - **Note: For Town of Milton property reservation:** Applicant secures reservation via the Facility Booking Office (facilitybooking@milton.ca; 905-875-5418).
   - **Note: For neighbourhood street / block parties:** Applicant secures permit via the Street Party Petition Form (permit is free; however, insurance will be required to process the form).
5. After the event / activity is completed, Pending Approved Applicants submit a Post-Event Summary Form (including all receipts) **within ten (10) business days after the event / activity (and by December 31)**, which are reviewed by Town staff to verify program adherence.
6. Once a Post-Event Summary Form is cleared, the associated grant payment will be remitted.
   - Individuals / organizations unable to accept funding from the OLG, can contact Town staff for more details, as there are alternate funding sources available.
   - Grant recipients can be subject to an audit conducted by the Town of Milton.

Eligibility and Requirements (Applicant)

1. Be a Milton resident / resident group or a Milton-based nonprofit organization, in good financial standing with the Town of Milton.
   - **Resident / Resident Group:**
     i. The applicant must be 18 years of age or older;
     ii. A maximum approval of one (1) application, per Milton residential address, per year (proof of address may be requested);
        - Neighbourhood street / block parties: A maximum approval of one (1) application, per Milton street section, per year
     iii. Resident applications cannot involve organization(s) partnering, presenting, sponsoring the event / activity
   - **Nonprofit Organization:**
     i. Operate under the authority of an active volunteer board / executive / organizing committee with at least five (5) members, with a minimum of four (4) members not related by blood or marriage;
     ii. Have a minimum of 75% of its membership / registrants comprised of Milton residents / ratepayers. Recognizing that a broader population base is sometimes required for an organization to be successful, applicants may be exempted from this standard if the organization meets one (1) of the following criteria:
        - Provides an emerging or unique service
        - Services a population with special needs
        - Caters to a high performance/elite level of activity
        - Showcases community events which draw a significant audience base
     iii. Have a maximum approval of one (1) application, per organization, per year
     iv. Have a central organization email address and demonstrated online presence proving ease of accessibility to the Milton public. The organization email must be established in the organization's name and be accessible to multiple organization committee members.

NOT be:

- A business / for-profit organization; or an associated nonprofit organization supporting businesses / for-profit organizations;
- An academics / tutoring-related organization;
- A foundation that raises funds for nonprofit organizations, or another level of government and their associated groups or agencies;
- An organization whose activities could be deemed discriminatory as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- An organization whose purpose is related to political activity.

2. Have completed any previous Town of Milton grant requirements.
3. Have not received any other Town of Milton grant within the same calendar year.
4. Provide proof of General Liability Insurance coverage for any approved allocations or associated events, with a limit of not less than $5 million proof of insurance, listing the Corporation of the Town of Milton, 150 Mary St., Milton., ON L9T 6Z5 as an additional insured; indication that cross liability is included under the General Liability Policy; and 30 days written notice of cancellation or material change in coverage.
5. Follow all municipal, provincial and federal legislation and by-laws related to the event / activity.
6. Acquire clearance for all inspections / permits / licenses / approvals related to the event / activity.

Eligibility and Requirements (Event / Activity)

The following elements are **eligible** for funding:

- ✓ Contract fees (e.g. artists, service people, security, etc.)
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Food and / or beverages (non-alcoholic)
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Operating costs (e.g. liability insurance, road closures, etc.)
- ✓ Promotion
- ✓ Rental Fees
- ✓ Supplies

The following elements are **not eligible** for funding:

- × Academics / tutoring-related activities
- × Activities deemed discriminatory as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code
- × Activities whose purpose is to promote religious doctrine or are being led by a person whose mandate includes the promotion of religious doctrine
- × Duplication of funding received from another funding organization or level of government
- × Events that have received funding for three (3) years prior
- × Flow-through funding (redistribution of funds to others, for example bursaries / scholarships)
- × Fundraising events or drives
- × Invitational or discretionary travel
- × Neighbourhood clean-ups
- × Political and / or advocacy activities
- × Purchase of items to be “owned” by someone after the event / activity (e.g. prizes, medals, merchandise, swag) (excludes nonprofit organizations, as long as the items are appropriately associated with the event / activity)
- × Purchase of any alcohol beverages, tobacco, or cannabis products
- × Purchase / rental of fireworks and propane tanks
- × Requests to reimburse or pay the applicant(s), members of the applicant group or organization, or their immediate family members for work, services, time, or participation related to the event
- × Social services related activities (e.g. food security, counselling, therapy, mental health focused themes)

For questions, please contact the Community Services Department:

Phone: 905-878-7252, ext. 2539 | E-mail: MiltonCommunityConnectionsGrant@milton.ca
Learn more on the MCCG web page