

Recommendations for seeking funds to support indoor air quality improvements in community spaces

The following advice is from grant writer and research Anne Morais, and is current as February 2024. You can reach Anne at anne@annemorais.com.

This information provided in the context of a program to help community spaces improve indoor air quality run through a partnership between MAP (Unity Health Toronto), University of Toronto and University of Waterloo. For more information please see: www.maphealth.ca/ventilation

Examples of equipment and actions that help can improve indoor air quality include portable air filters and improvements to HVAC systems. For more information, please see: [Reducing transmission of COVID-19 through improvements to indoor air quality: a checklist for community spaces](#).

For more information, or to book a free, online consultation with an indoor air quality expert about how to improve indoor air quality in your space, email Pearl Buhariwala at pearl.buhariwala@unityhealth.to

A) Funding from government sources

Provincial (Ontario)

Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Capital grant

Dates: Applications open on February 7 and are **due March 6, 2024**.

Amount: \$10,000 – to \$200,000

Term: 12 months

Eligible organizations: “OTF grants support the work of non-profit organizations, small municipalities and Indigenous communities”

Eligible expenses: Construction, renovation and equipment

More information: <https://www.otf.ca/our-grants/community-investments-grants/capital-grant>

B) Foundations

If you have charitable status, consider applying to foundations.

Most foundations want a relationship with you. They are not quick fixes. Research the foundation and how to position your program within their priorities.

Your letter/pitch should introduce your organization, and explain why you are a good match for the foundation's values and goals. It should also explain how improving indoor air quality will help you serve more people and offer additional or enhanced services.

Finally, you should include evidence to demonstrate how measures such as ventilation and filtration will help you improve, enhance or grow your services. If you have attended our team's indoor air quality virtual information sessions, this evidence could include advice [shared by our indoor air quality experts](#).

It could also include information such as the details explored in [Reducing transmission of COVID-19 through improvements to indoor air quality: a checklist for community spaces](#).

Here are just a few of the many potential foundations you may wish to contact:

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation

Dates: Rolling deadlines

Eligible organizations: Not-for-profits in Toronto and, "charitable organizations whose work responds to the needs of the Indigenous communities outside of Toronto, primarily within the Province of Ontario."

Eligible expenses: Flexible, does support capital projects.

Range: Grants are usually up to \$5,000

Contact: "Feel free to call: 416-363-0604 to speak to the Executive Director should you have further questions."

More information: <https://www.rotarytoronto.com/sitepage/granting-guidelines-1>

The George Lunan Foundation

Dates: Next application deadline is April 30 and August 31, 2024

Eligible organizations: "Arts and Cultural, Educational, Environmental, Health and Welfare, Social Services and Religious organizations operating within the Province of Ontario."

Eligible expenses: "Special projects, operating funds, equipment funds and seed money."

Grant range: "Grants do not normally exceed \$5,000."

More information:

<https://www.scotiawealthmanagement.com/ca/en/services/scotiitrust/foundations.html>
(Scroll down for the George Lunan Foundation.)

Edwards Charitable Foundation

Dates: Rolling deadlines

Eligible organizations: Social services, religious, health, children and the arts

Grant range: Grants amounts vary

Send introduction and pitch letter to: 196 Fincham Ave. Markham On L3P 4B5.

Dunin Foundation

Dates: Rolling deadlines

Eligible organizations: Social services, health and women's issues with a heavy focus on York Region

Range: Grant amounts vary

Send introduction and pitch letter to: 181 Bay St. Suite 3300 Toronto M5J 2T3

C) Low-interest loans

The ***Community Forward Fund*** is a 12-million-dollar fund that provides innovative financing to community organizations. More information:

<https://communityforwardfund.ca>

City of Toronto ***Energy Retrofit Loans*** for low-carbon, energy-efficient capital improvements. This fund may be appropriate if replacing windows, optimizing HVAC system etc. <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/energy-retrofit-loans>

D) Internal Operations

Improving HVAC systems can be a capital expense, administrative expense or even a programming expense. When submitting a service delivery proposal, consider adding this expense into the budget.