

Recommendations for seeking funds to support air quality improvements in public spaces

The following advice is from grant writer and research Anne Morais, received in January 2021, updated in March 2021.

A) From government sources

1. Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)

- *Resilient Communities Fund*, intended for “eligible non-profit organizations to aid their medium to longer-term recovery efforts.” **Next deadline is August 4, 2021.** Up to \$150,000.00. Can be used for “...equipment and/or renovations to meet changing technology, health and safety, and service delivery requirements.” More information here: <https://otf.ca/our-grants/resilient-communities-fund#plan-your-application>
- *Ontario Community Building Fund*, intended to provide COVID-19 recovery support to arts, culture, heritage, tourism, sport and recreation sectors. This could apply to drop-ins and other agencies that might be attached to or affiliated with organizations/buildings that fit into under the “arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation” umbrella.
 - The operating fund. Deadline is **June 1, 2021**. Eligible expenses for the operating fund include, "Equipment: Equipment to meet the changing needs of the organization, its programs and services, and to adapt to new ways of working e.g. equipment to meet changing technology, health and safety, personal protective equipment (PPE), and service delivery requirements." More information here: <https://www.otf.ca/our-grants/community-building-fund/community-building-fund-operating-stream>
 - The capital fund will open for applications later in **2021**. More information here: <https://www.otf.ca/our-grants/community-building-fund>

2. *Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI)* is a fund to support the adaption of public spaces and services to accommodate COVID-19 needs. Second round of applications opens on **May 14 2021**, deadline is **June 25 2021**. More information: <https://communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/chci/>

3. *Reaching Home Initiative* funding **can be redirected** to address air quality. This is for housing and homelessness organizations that already receiving this funding. See COVID-19 addendums to "section d: client support services," "section e: capital investments" and "administrative expenditures" here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/directives.html#h2.3-h3.1>

4. *Canada Cultural Spaces Fund* is an ongoing fund focused on improving arts and heritage/religious spaces. **Applications accepted on a continuous basis** at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/cultural-spaces-fund/application-guidelines.html>

5. *Ontario government portal* that asks how they can support your COVID-19 fighting initiatives. Unclear when this portal will be removed. Unclear if open to non-profits, but simple application and potentially a way to communicate to the provincial government that ventilation is important: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/submit-your-ideas-to-help-fight-coronavirus>

B) Foundations

If you have charitable status, consider applying to foundations. With the growth in markets, foundations are now distributing more money than in previous years as they are mandated to distribute 2.5 per cent of their assets. Identify 5-7 foundations that support your mandate and send a short 2-3 page request.

C) Fundraising

Another option is to make an appeal to your supporters either through a direct ask or a campaign. If you do not have the infrastructure to receive donations, consider a fundraising platform like GoFundMe.

D) Low-Interest Loan

The *Community Forward Fund* is a 12 million dollar fund that provides innovative financing to community organizations. More information: <https://communityforwardfund.ca>

E) Internal Operations

Improving ventilation systems can be a capital expense, an administrative expense or even a personal protective equipment (PPE) expense. When submitting a service delivery proposal, consider adding this expense into the budget.

Although PPE-eligible expenses do not normally include portable air filtration systems and improved ventilation systems, it would be an easy argument to make.