



# Municipality of the District of Chester

## ~ Events & Festivals Grant ~

### Guidelines

The Municipality of Chester continually strives to celebrate its heritage, history, arts and culture. Our goal is to position our community as a destination of choice for residents and visitors, enhancing our reputation locally and internationally. The Events and Festivals Grant supports non-profit organizations and groups that organize events and festivals which foster positive community development, celebrate heritage, arts and culture, build bridges between diverse populations, enrich quality of life for residents, and attract visitors.

#### Eligible Applicants

- You must be a non-profit organization or otherwise comply with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act for eligibility for a grant or contribution by a Municipality (Section 65(AU)).
- Groups need to be organized but do not need to be registered through NS Registry of Joint Stocks.
- The group's primary purpose must be to operate within the Municipality of the District of Chester.
- Groups are eligible for one Events & Festivals Grant per fiscal year. To find out if you are eligible for any other Municipal grants, please contact the Recreation Office.
- Council may make eligibility exceptions on occasion when deemed appropriate

The Municipality of Chester is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and the dignity of all people. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals and groups who have historically faced barriers, including:

- Indigenous peoples
- African Nova Scotians and Black communities
- Racialized individuals of Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, or mixed racial descent
- 2SLGBTQ+ communities
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons living with mental illness

#### Ineligible Applicants

- Churches / faith-based organizations are not eligible for funding.

#### Eligible Projects Include

- Arts and Culture festivals and events
- Heritage festivals and events
- Music and performances
- Holiday events
- Open to all artistic disciplines (literary, visual, theatre, music, etc.)

- Open and accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities
- Demonstrate economic benefit
- Align with Municipality of Chester Strategic Goals
- Projects should foster a diverse and inclusive community and promote equal access and opportunity for all persons.
- Only expenses incurred after an application is submitted are eligible to be included in the grant request.

### **Eligible Costs**

- Marketing and advertising
- Location and equipment fees
- Fees for performers, speakers, authors
- Security and safety services
- Salaries and wages of event staff and organizers

### **Funding**

- The amount of total grant funding available for Events & Festivals Grant each year will be determined during annual budget deliberations.
- The maximum funding limit for single day event or festival is \$3000
- The maximum funding for a multi-day (2 or more) event or festival is \$5000.
- Preference will be given to events or festivals that demonstrate their ability to operate annually as well as outside of peak season (June-September).
- Council looks favorably at applications that include funding from other sources (i.e. grants from other levels of government, in-kind contributions and fundraising efforts)
- Financial assistance should not be anticipated on an annual basis.

### **Application Procedure**

- Applications deadline May 10, 2026.
- Organizations must complete and submit an Events & Festivals Grant Application Form. You may attach a separate document if there is insufficient space on the form for your response to each question.
- Submit an event budget.
- Completed applications should be submitted to the Municipality as indicated on the form.
- The Recreation Committee will review all applications and make funding recommendations to Municipal Council for final approval.
- If organizations have questions about the application form or would like to receive assistance in completing the form, please contact Recreation & Parks Services at 902-275-3490 or [recreation@chester.ca](mailto:recreation@chester.ca).
- After an event is complete, organizations are required to complete and submit a Final Report Form to indicate how the funds were spent.

## **Evaluation**

- Grant criteria have been met.
- Demonstrated positive community impact.
- The organization has shown a financial need for grant funding.
- Evidence of fundraising efforts (these are funding sources other than the Municipality of Chester).
- Alignment with the Municipality's strategic priorities.

## **Municipal Services**

- Successful applicants are encouraged to contact the Municipality to book Municipal public spaces and services such as equipment loans, barriers, and waste stations.

## **Grant Recognition**

The Municipality of Chester requires appropriate recognition as a funding partner of approved projects.

Note: The amount of grant funding available is limited. Council reserves the right to approve funding amounts lower than requested. Council also reserves the right to reject any grant application, regardless of whether the criteria have been met.