

Call for applications



DESJARDINS ONTARIO CREDIT UNION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Community Development Fund
From April 14 to May 31, 2026

Eligibility criteria

- The applicant organization must submit its project online at www.desjardins.com/ontario between April 14 to May 31, 2026.
- The organization must be a non-profit or a cooperative. Individuals and private companies are only eligible for specific credit union programs such as scholarships and entrepreneurial support.
- The project must be in line with the credit union's mission and values and have a positive impact on our community.
- The project must have concrete benefits for the community and be in line with the credit union's 5 investment priorities:
 - Entrepreneurship and business succession
 - Local services and housing
 - Promoting success in education and training
 - Economic excellence and innovation hubs
 - Employment and workforce

- Goods and services required to carry out the project must be purchased from businesses located in the credit union's territory whenever possible.
- The credit union must have access to the organization's audited financial statements.
- The credit union must have full access to information about how its financial contribution is used.
- The organization must have demonstrated efforts to self-sustain and continue operating over the medium term.
- The credit union's directors and employees cannot be applicants either in their personal capacity or on behalf of an organization. They may, however, be directors of the organization submitting the application.
- The project cannot be funded entirely with the contribution of the Desjardins Ontario Credit Union. The organization must demonstrate that there are other partners or other sources of revenue for the project.

Exclusions

- The organization may not obtain two (2) financial contributions in the same year for the same project.
- The funds must not be used for current operations, to balance the operating budget (e.g., salaries) or to cover a deficit.
- The funds must not be used to replace operating grants.
- Funds cannot be used for play structures or schoolyard development, a festival or an event.
- An organization that received funds for a "Call for application 2025" cannot apply for the same project.

Decision-making process

- A maximum of \$50,000 will be awarded per project for a total of \$500,000 to be invested in the community, or \$125,000 per region (Ottawa, Eastern Ontario, Greater Toronto Area/Southwestern Ontario, Sudbury/Northern Ontario).
- The jury will analyze the projects, and the selected projects will then be presented and approved by Cooperation Committee.
- Selected projects will be announced during Co-Op Week 2026.
- The credit union reserves the right to redirect the application to another one of its financial assistance programs