

Priority Areas

In addition to our scholarship and award programs, the Desjardins Foundation supports organizations that encourage young people to stay in school or succeed academically.

- Stay-in-school initiatives: support for projects that encourage young people to complete a study program, based on factors that influence them to stay in school.
- Academic success programs: direct assistance to young people to help them reach their full potential through instruction, socialization and qualification.

Here are some examples of priority areas:

- Initiatives to prevent dropouts or encourage people to go back to school to finish their studies
- Direct support to promote stay-in-school initiatives, particularly among clients who are at risk of dropping out
- Skills development to help young people prepare for the job market
- Contribution to scholarship programs that encourage students to stay in school; these programs are in addition to programs run by the Desjardins Foundation and other Desjardins Group entities
- Initiatives to encourage young children to develop their skills so they will be well-integrated at school
- Initiatives to help students transition from one grade level to another
- Support to help youth acquire qualifications and succession development based on labour shortages and professions of the future
- Support for parents to help them encourage their children to stay in school
- Development of new tools and initiatives that will support students throughout their academic career and help them succeed

Eligibility Criteria

In addition to covering one of the priority areas above, applicant organizations must also meet the following criteria:

- Be a "qualified donee" as defined in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada)
- Have their head office in Canada
- Maintain a low overhead ratio considering the nature and scope of their activities and the number of years they have been operating
- Demonstrate that those who will benefit from the project live in Canada
- Demonstrate the project's viability and potential benefits

Exclusions

The following applications are not eligible:

- Applications for initiatives that have a local or regional scope
- Applications for projects outside Canada
- Applications for event sponsorships
- Applications to finance the organization's day-to-day operations or to supplement government funding
- Applications for personal projects or projects that only benefit one person or a small group of people
- Applications for projects supporting the creation of an artistic product or work of art
- Production of audiovisual materials that are not educational in nature
- Applications for trips and excursions (even for charitable purposes)

Selection Criteria

The following elements will be considered during the selection process:

- The number of people benefitting from the project
- Projects that impact a large region (priority will be given to projects that impact all areas Desjardins operates in)
- Projects that directly affect people (i.e., a limited number of intermediaries)
- Projects that complement other Desjardins or Desjardins Foundation partnerships
- Priority will be given to organizations that are Desjardins members or clients

Application Processing

Desjardins supports communities through philanthropic partnerships, sponsorships, scholarships and support to major projects. Based on their scope and nature, all applications will be forwarded to the appropriate Desjardins stakeholder (Desjardins Foundation, a caisse, or another team in Ontario or at the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec).

[Apply for sponsorship or a charitable partnership.](#)