

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 in different ways. Depending on its scope or nature, an application that doesn't meet the Desjardins Foundation's criteria may be transferred to a caisse or to the Fédération des Caisses Desjardins du Québec. All completed applications must be sent based on the following:

• Applications for local or regional initiatives

If your application is for a local or regional initiative that will benefit the members/communities of a caisse or a limited number of caisses, please send it to the caisse located in the same geographic region as your head office. (www.desjardins.com/en/votre_caisse)

• Applications for donations and sponsorships

If your application is for a sponsorship or philanthropic partnership (large donation), it will be handled by the Donations and Sponsorships and Branding Department, which may partner with a caisse, Desjardins component, business sector and/or regional representative, depending on the type of application. Please refer to Desjardins's [National involvement](#) page.

Please follow the steps below to submit a partnership application to the Desjardins Foundation:

1. Read the "Partnerships with the Desjardins Foundation" document to learn about:
 - our priority areas
 - eligibility criteria
 - exclusions
 - selection criteria
2. Fill out all the fields in the form below.
3. Email the form to fondation.desjardins@desjardins.com and make sure to include:
 - a description of the project
 - estimated budget
 - annual report

Name of the organization		Name of the project or program	
Name and job title of the applicant			
Organization's full mailing address			
Phone	Fax	Email	
Project scope			
Number of people impacted by the project	Start date of the proposed agreement	End date of the proposed agreement	Amount requested
Is the organization a Desjardins member or client? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please write the name of the caisse or Desjardins Business centre			
Charity registration number with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)			

Please email your application to fondation.desjardins@desjardins.com.
 We'll contact you within **4 - 6 weeks** of receiving your application.