

What is the Sand Plains Community Development Fund?

Sand Plains Community Development Fund (SPCDF) is an application-based program to assist rural communities in the tobacco-growing region of the Sand Plains region (counties of Brant, Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk and Oxford) to transition to a non-tobacco based economy. Support will be targeted to community-based initiatives which support regional development, attract and retain people and investment, and stimulate business development and job creation. The Fund has two separate components: **Community Development Support** and **Access to Capital**.

How does it work?

1. Community Development Support (CDS) Component

The Community Development Support component provides non-repayable contributions to not-for-profit projects designed to explore and develop new and sustainable community and regional development opportunities. The goal is to enhance regional capacity to generate and support diverse economic development activities in order to achieve a sustainable, prosperous and diverse economy driven by innovation.

Eligible recipients under the Community Development Support (CDS) component include:

Community Organizations	Non-Profit Organizations
Co-operatives	Social Service Institutions; and
Municipalities	

2. Access to Capital (AC) Component

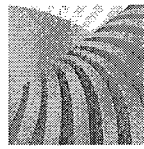
The goal of this component is to foster entrepreneurship in the region by increasing the availability of patient capital for small business start-ups and expansions in priority sectors. Patient capital provides flexible repayment terms negotiated to encourage the long-term viability of the borrower; 3 yr. term loans, amortized over 5 to 10 years, at an interest rate of Bank Prime + 2%.

Eligible recipients under the Access to Capital (AC) Component include:

Community Organizations	Non-Profit Organizations
Co-operatives	Social service Institutions
Business organizations	Municipalities; and
Private Enterprise.	

Priority areas for support include:

Tourism	Food Processing
Manufacturing	Agribusiness and food
Green Products	Renewable Energy



Funding Principles and Criteria

The following principles and criteria will be applied to the selection of projects:

- Preference for projects related to agriculture and agri-food and benefiting the Sand Plains region;
- Preference for locally-driven initiatives **supported by communities**;
- Preference for **multi-community and regional partnerships**;
- Consideration of economic viability, social implications and environmental values in decision making;
- Leverages other federal, provincial, municipal and/or private sector investments;
- Complements and does not duplicate funding from other programs;
- Recipients must be in the Sand Plains region or the majority of project work must occur in the region; and
- Demonstrates benefit to the rural areas of the Sand Plains region.

Access to Capital

The goal of this component will be to foster entrepreneurship in the region by increasing the availability of patient capital for small business start-ups and expansions in priority sectors. Patient capital provides flexible repayment terms, negotiated to encourage the long-term viability of the borrower.

Who can apply:

The following groups are eligible:

- Community organizations;
- Not-for-profit organizations;
- Co-operatives;
- Social service institutions;
- Business organizations;
- Municipalities; and
- Private enterprise.

Loan Terms:

Successful applicants will receive financing up to \$250,000 through loans from Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs). Interest rates will be prime + 2% for 3 year terms, amortized over 5 to 10 years.

Payments will be decided on a case-by-case basis and may include such conditions as one year of no payments or interest only payments for a defined period, then interest and capital repayments for the following period of the loan. The financing may be used as subordinated debt to encourage leveraging from other lending sources. If this is what you need, please contact your local Community Futures Development Corporation.

Community Development Support

This component provides non-repayable contributions to not-for-profit projects designed to explore and develop new and sustainable community and regional development opportunities. The goal is to enhance regional capacity to generate and support diverse economic development activities in order to achieve a sustainable, prosperous and diverse economy driven by innovation.

Who can apply:

The following groups are eligible:

- Community organizations
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Co-operatives
- Social service institutions
- Municipalities

Eligible recipients must be incorporated and be able to enter into legally binding agreements.

Funding:

The maximum level of total government funding (federal, provincial, and municipal funding) for projects under the SPCDF must not exceed 85% of total project costs.

The minimum 15% non-government contribution to your project can be cash, in-kind support from your organization or from other sources of funding, or a combination of both. In-kind support means contributions other than monetary which defray a portion of the project's eligible costs. If this is what you need, please contact the Sand Plains Community Development Fund office. 1-519-688-7263 or toll free at 1-877-607-7263.

Check out the website at www.sandplains.ca for more information

The following activities will **not be funded**:

- Projects which involve religious, political or illegal activities;
- Activities which could be deemed as discriminatory as defined by the Canadian Human Rights Code;
- Tobacco-related initiatives.
- Debt or deficit reduction;
- Costs incurred or completed prior to project approval.

Ces renseignements sont disponibles en français à www.sandplains.ca