

OCAPDD Innovation Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

Who Can Apply?

Applications are welcomed from individuals, groups of individuals or families, or organizations that are involved with, or concerned with, improving the conditions of persons living with developmental disabilities and their families in the Ottawa & Cornwall areas. Members and employees of OCAPDD are welcome to apply.

What Kind of Projects Will Be Considered?

Consideration will be given to any project that improves the lives of persons living with developmental disabilities and their families in the target area.

Examples of the types of projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Housing and residential services;
- Improving fundraising capacity;
- Introducing technology or expanding the use of technology with individuals in their daily lives;
- Expanding and improving communications and increasing public awareness;
- Enhancing the development of social entrepreneurship.

A primary objective is to test or pilot new approaches in order to determine their effectiveness, and/or to assist with their start-up in order to lay the base for future expansion. First preference will be given to proposals that provide or expand services to individuals and their families who are still on the waitlist, or who otherwise are not currently receiving support.

How Long Will a Project Activity be Financed?

In general, it is expected that selected projects could be financed for 12-18 months; however, not for more than 24 months. This is consistent with the principal of primarily financing pilot, or start-up activities, and because the Innovation Fund is not intended to be a long-term funding source for programs. However, if a pilot program proves particularly successful, and there are compelling reasons for undertaking a second phase, the Board would consider a second round of financing in exceptional circumstances. Note however, that proposals for such follow-on financing would have to compete on their merits with other proposals submitted for consideration in the subsequent round, and approval is not guaranteed.

How Much Can I/We Apply For?

There is no minimum amount, although it is preferred that applications involve activities costing at least \$5,000. The maximum request should be for no more than \$100,000.

What Items/Costs will be Financed?

Financing can be provided for the following:

- Materials and supplies;
- Operating costs directly associated with the activity (including, for example, utilities, transport, or rental charges)
- Short-term staff or consultancy costs (involving commitments of no more than 18-24 months maximum)

The Innovation Fund will **not** finance the following:

- Permanent staff salaries
- Vehicle purchases
- Rental or contractual commitments that extend beyond 24 months.

Can We Apply for Financing for an Existing Activity?

Yes, but the proposal should be to expand or enhance, existing successful programs.

Will the Innovation Fund Support Activities that are Being Financed from Other Sources?

Yes. Innovation Fund grants can be used to co-finance or supplement initiatives that are already being financed by other sources. (Note however that financing will generally not be provided for proposals that are contingent on the securing of financing from other sources, if that financing is not yet guaranteed.)

How Much Documentation Do I/We Need to Submit with a Proposal?

All proposals will be considered for eligibility on the basis of the initial one- or two-page application form provided. However, applicants are encouraged to include any other documentation that they have developed that will help the Committee assess their proposal. If the Committee considers a proposal has merit based on the initial summary, it may ask for additional information prior to making the final decision on the submissions.

When Will I/We Hear Back?

The Committee will review applications in April 2021. All applicants will be informed of the status of their application in early May 2021.