

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Community Investment Program Guidelines

The Community Investment Program (CIP) is designed to support and fund initiatives that address the unique needs of rural communities across Ontario. This program aims to strengthen social ties and enhance community spirit and is an initiative of the Grain Farmers of Ontario Legacy Fund.

The Community Investment Program provides an opportunity for Districts to receive funding for impactful projects. This program allows Grain Farmers of Ontario to give back to the local District's communities.

Who can apply:

- Local projects must submit applications to the Grain Farmers of Ontario District Committees. <https://gfo.ca/about/districts/>
- Districts will select one project to submit to the Grain Farmers of Ontario CIP.
- Multiple districts may submit a joint application for projects that benefit multiple districts. One point of contact must be identified.

Criteria:

- Projects must demonstrate benefit to local residents, with preference given to projects benefitting rural communities.
- All projects must comply with the local laws and regulations during the execution of the project.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered for the current program year.
- Projects are eligible for a one-time investment from the CIP.
- Priority will be given to projects that will be completed within **three** years.

Funding amounts:

The Community Investment Fund will provide up to a three-times match of a Grain Farmers of Ontario contribution to the project, up to \$15,000*. (i.e., a \$5,000 contribution from the District grant would receive up to \$15,000 from the Legacy Fund).

**The maximum amount from the Legacy Fund designated for the CIP may change depending on the availability of funds for the program year.*

Who is not eligible for funding:

- Individuals or private business applicants
- Religious groups
- Political organizations

Project areas that will not receive funding:

- Deficit or debt reduction expenses
- Retroactive expenses
- Ongoing business operations such as utilities, rent, staffing, fees, taxes, insurance, etc.
- Endowment matching grants

Review process:

- The upcoming intake deadlines for the 2024 program are September 30, 2024 and March 31, 2025.
- The Legacy Fund Committee will review applications.
- The Grain Farmers of Ontario Board of Directors will consider funding recommendations from the Legacy Fund Committee.
- Applicants will be notified following Board decisions.
- Board decisions are final.

Approved projects:

- A confirmation of project status will be required before funds are disbursed.
- Arrangements will be made for disbursement of funds.
- Project updates may be requested from the supporting District.
- Use of the Grain Farmers of Ontario logo must be approved.
- The project applicants agree to have information published or shared through videos, press releases, newsletters, the Ontario Grain Farmer magazine, or other communication or promotional methods.

If you have any questions about the Grain Farmers of Ontario Community Investment Program, please contact Rachel Telford, Manager, Member Relations, rtelford@gfo.ca.