

MISSISSIPPI MILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD MICRO GRANTS 2024



Neighbourhood Micro Grants is a unique program in Mississippi Mills, Ontario

*There are two main components to this program:
Having fun with your neighbours AND telling your stories!*

A. OBJECTIVE

The Neighbourhood Micro Grants program helps build community and strengthen connections right where people live - in their neighbourhoods. Knowing your neighbours helps increase quality of life, enhances safety and security, decreases crime, and fosters a stronger sense of belonging.

Mississippi Mills recognizes the value of building an inclusive, welcoming, and fun community. In recognition of this, \$3600 will be provided for micro grants to encourage residents to get out, meet each other, and celebrate! Past activities that received grants included: quilting bees, yoga in the park, music festivals, scavenger hunt, an antique car show, cooking class, street party, community BBQs and more.

Based on the success of previous years the municipality is committed to continuing this worthwhile program in 2024.

Read below to learn about the micro grant program, when applications open, eligibility, and how to apply.

B. WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD MICRO GRANT?

Micro grants of up to \$200 are available for residents to develop projects that meet the needs of their neighbourhood community and achieve the following goals:

1. Connect and engage neighbourhood residents of all ages and abilities

Examples: Block parties to introduce new neighbours, weekly neighbourhood clean-up work parties that strengthen and sustain relationships over time, a birthday party for the oldest person on your street.

2. Share residents' skills and knowledge within the community

Examples: A FREE yoga lesson for the community, or a community kitchen where participants exchange their cooking skills and share a meal together or launch a secret Santa or cookie swap in your neighbourhood.

3. Build sense of ownership and pride

Examples: A historical tour of the neighbourhood, a community clean-up of invasive species in a local green space, a snowman building festival.

4. Respect and celebrate diversity

Examples: A multicultural fashion show, a story telling project that involves seniors and youth, cost-free acrylic workshops open to all ages and skill levels.

C. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Our eligibility criteria are designed to ensure that Neighbourhood Micro Grants support a diverse range of community-focused projects.

- Applicants must live in Mississippi Mills.
- Main applicants can apply for one Neighbourhood Micro Grants project per year.
- Two applicants from different households are required on every application. Both applicants are responsible for managing the event & grant money.
- Your project must be accessible and welcoming to all.
- Except for community gardens, projects involving infrastructure building, upgrading or maintenance are not eligible.
- You must begin your project after the grant decision is made. Projects are not supported retroactively.
- Preference will be given to new projects, or those that have been funded for fewer than three years in a row.
- After the initial deadline, any remaining funds will be awarded to eligible projects on a first come, first served basis until all funds have been awarded.

D. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE

- Applicants who profit financially from the project.
- Registered organizations and businesses.
- Applicants that have already received funding through the municipality.
- Organizations with political affiliations.

E. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to submit your application is **June 15, 2024**. All applicants will receive an email confirming receipt. **Note: Applications will still be accepted after June 15, 2024**

F. BUDGET DETAILS

Please consider the following when calculating your project budget:

- Grants of \$200 will be awarded. Individuals receiving funding should acknowledge the support of the municipality by displaying a lawn sign which we will provide along with the grant money.
- Grant money may be used to pay people (also called an honorarium) for services needed for the project. Examples include paying someone to lead a workshop or to do carpentry work.
- When creating a budget, it is suggested you determine the cost of items to be used and think resourcefully about how to obtain materials through borrowing or donations.
- If you receive a grant, you are responsible for keeping expense receipts to account for project costs that relate to the micro grant of \$200.

G. PUBLIC EVENTS

If your project is going to take place in a public place (e.g. neighbourhood street, public space, or park) please consider:

- Projects taking place on neighbourhood streets or public spaces/parks must follow municipal by-laws.
- You may require liability insurance depending on the nature of your event.

H. AWARD DECISIONS

The Neighbourhood Micro applications are reviewed and awarded by staff.

Applications will be reviewed, and grants awarded to those that meet our eligibility criteria within two weeks of the **June 15th** deadline and then on a first come, first served basis until no funds remain.

At deadline, if the committee receives more funding requests than the budget can support, the following criteria will be used to narrow down applications:

- Estimated number of individuals that will benefit from the project or attend the event (priority given to projects that benefit greater number of people)
- Initiatives in their first or second year of operation will be given priority
- Applications that clearly indicate a plan to promote and execute an inclusive welcoming event will be given priority
- The committee will attempt to balance a geographical disbursement of funds across the municipality (based on applications received)

I. APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications can be emailed to programs@mississippimills.ca or dropped off at the Recreation and Culture department, Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge Street, 2nd Floor.

Submission of an application does not guarantee micro grant approval (H. Award Decisions (above))

J. REPORTING – TELL YOUR STORY!

Within eight weeks of the completion of the event, applicants are required to submit a short report (story). Stories will be shared on the municipality's website, with the Millstone News and/or the Mississippi Mills Gazette / Carleton Place Canadian.

Please include the following in your submission:

- Briefly describe the event including number of attendees.
- Pictures, samples of communication and marketing for the event are encouraged.
- Describe how funds were spent.
- Describe the successes/challenges of the event.
- Provide any additional relevant information and fun details.

Any applicant that does not submit a final report/story will not be considered for future funding.

K. NOTES

- a. If you need resources for your event – example: tents, tables, chairs, garbage cans, etc. consider contacting the Eastern Ontario Event Centre at the Almonte Civitan Club. www.almontecivitan.com/our-services/eastern-ontario-event-centre/