

MISSISSIPPI MILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD MICRO GRANTS 2022



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

There are two main components to this program:

Have fun with your neighbours AND tell 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 and decrease crime. Mississippi Mills recognizes the value of building an inclusive, welcoming, and fun community. In recognition of this and in the spirit of Canada's 150th birthday, the Municipality committed \$2500 in 2017 to provide micro grants to encourage residents to get out, meet each other, and celebrate! Sixteen Community Micro Grants were awarded in the first year. Activities that received grants included: quilting bees, yoga in the park, an antique car show and more. Based on the success of previous years the municipality is committed to continuing this worthwhile program \$3000 is available for community microgrants in 2022.

Read below to learn about grants when applications open, eligibility, and how to apply.

B. WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD MICRO GRANT?

Micro grants of up to \$150 are available for residents to develop projects that meet the needs of their neighbourhood community and meet 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, a 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. TIMELINE

The deadline to submit your application is June 10, 2022. You will receive an email confirming your application has been received and will hear back regarding the status of your application no later than June 20th.

F. GRANT DETAILS

Please consider the following when calculating your project budget:

- Grants of \$150 will be awarded. Individuals receiving funding need 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, with a maximum allowable amount of \$50 per person.
- 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 \$150.

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 1st 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 to greater numbers)
- 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 - APPLY VIA EMAIL

Applicants need to submit a complete application with clear and sufficient information to the Recreation and Culture Department at recandculturedept@mississippimills.ca. Submission of an application does not guarantee the application will be awarded. To be considered, submit an email with the following information:

- The names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of two organizing residents.
- Title, date, and location of the event.
- Details on how the grant of up to \$150 will be used.
- Approximate number of people invited and how you are ensuring inclusiveness in the neighbourhood.
- A draft budget.
- Which name the cheque should be made out to and the signatures of applicants.

J. REPORTING – TELL YOUR STORY!

Within 8 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 outline the following:

- 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

1. The municipality has some resources available on a first come, first served basis to help with the success of your event – examples: tents, tables, chairs, garbage cans, and recycling bins. To inquire about resources, please contact the Recreation and Culture Department at 613-256-1077 or recandculturedept@mississippimills.ca.
2. Other resources:
 - a. Eastern Ontario Event Centre at the Almonte Civitan Club.
www.almontecivitan.com/our-services/eastern-ontario-event-centre/
 - b. Looking for some inspiration? Check out Better Block Foundation's website www.betterblock.org .