



# Infrastructure and Community Development Program

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Investing in Infrastructure  
to Promote Growth  
and Economic Development

## Infrastructure and Community Development Program

Modern and reliable infrastructure is a cornerstone of building thriving, prosperous communities everywhere. In Northern Ontario, where municipalities face unique geographic and socioeconomic challenges, the assistance levered by this program can make the difference for a community seeking the necessary investment to improve its infrastructure. This program encourages partnerships that find effective ways to create jobs and improve economic prospects in the North through improvements to infrastructure.

### Who is Eligible

Eligible applicants may include partnerships and alliances comprising municipalities, private sector businesses and organizations, federal government and other government-related agencies. Municipalities, First Nations, not-for-profit corporations and educational institutions may apply individually.

Projects must be located in Northern Ontario.

Individual businesses and projects led by the federal or provincial government are not eligible under this section of the program.

### What is Eligible

The program will assist in the provision of essential and strategic community infrastructure necessary for the creation of jobs in Northern Ontario. The program will also fund other economic development activities under the community development program.

### What is not Eligible

Certain projects and costs will generally not be considered eligible for funding under this program. These include:

- New airports
- Airport runway improvements, lighting and navigational systems
- Vehicle purchases
- Land acquisitions
- Aesthetic improvements
- Administrative facilities
- Waste disposal
- Road projects, except for strategic economic development purposes
- Ongoing operating costs of organizations
- General feasibility studies
- Maintenance costs
- Projects to serve individual businesses.

## Infrastructure Program

Eligible infrastructure projects include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Industrial parks
- Winter roads projects
- Waterfront development
- Infrastructure projects in support of long term job creation
- Community facilities (such as call centres) for economic development purposes.

Other community and/or regional infrastructure projects which, in the opinion of the Board, are considered necessary to further an economic goal or improve the quality of life in Northern Ontario may be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis.

The NOHFC may consider making investments in projects that are eligible for assistance under other federal and/or provincial programs. However, such contributions will only be considered where:

- An approval of funding has already been made by the core program
- An NOHFC investment is required to make the project viable
- NOHFC assistance will not replace funding from other provincial or federal sources and may only be used to reduce the client's share of the costs.

## Community Development Program

Eligible projects include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Identifying development opportunities consistent with the NOHFC's objectives and mandate to create direct jobs and economic growth in Northern Ontario
- Preparing proposals for consideration under the second stage of the NOHFC approval process
- Projects which improve the capacity and investment readiness of communities
- Sectoral research projects which contribute to the overall objectives of the NOHFC
- Small capital projects which enable the community to realize economic development opportunities.

Projects that identify development opportunities will only be considered for funding if a credible source is identified to support advancement of the project to the construction or implementation stage.

The NOHFC may provide funding to assist in the preparation of business cases for projects that may be eligible under other federal and/or provincial programs. However, such contributions will only be considered where:

- The project's eligibility for capital funding is clearly demonstrated
- Other funding sources have been investigated
- An expression of interest or application for funding has already been made to the other source(s)
- There is general conformity with NOHFC goals, objectives and strategic direction
- Funding would not duplicate that available from another source.

## Funding

Assistance available from the NOHFC includes conditional contributions, forgivable performance loans, and repayable loans.

For infrastructure projects, the amount of NOHFC assistance will generally not exceed the lesser of 50 per cent or \$1 million. For community development projects, the amount of NOHFC assistance will generally not exceed the lesser of 50 per cent or \$50,000.

The amount and type of assistance will be determined by the Board taking into account such factors as the significance of the project, the financial capability of the applicant(s) and adherence to program guidelines. In exceptional circumstances, the Board may consider projects exceeding the normal levels of assistance on a case-by-case basis.

## Guidelines

- Applications require support by a municipal council resolution, a band council resolution, a local services board bylaw or other supporting document as appropriate. Applications will be assessed based on such factors as:
  - the significance of the project, number of jobs to be created, service being provided
  - financial capacity of the applicant
  - ability of the applicant to operate and maintain the completed project
  - public benefit
  - adherence to program guidelines
  - consistency with a community planning process such as business retention and expansion or the Investment Readiness Test.

- All buildings, facilities or land related to the project must be owned by the applicant or leased for a period exceeding the life of the capital improvement, or for a shorter period if approved by the NOHFC.
- Funding may be provided for buildings and other facilities, which can be considered part of the community economic development infrastructure. However, it should be noted that the thrust of this component is economic in nature and is intended to support job creation rather than social, cultural or recreational goals.
- Projects must lead to direct job creation in Northern Ontario and provide new economic benefits. Projects which shift economic benefit from one part of the North to another will not be considered.
- NOHFC funding is not intended to replace other government programs. Where a project is considered the direct responsibility of a federal or provincial department, ministry or agency, funding will not be provided, except possibly as additional assistance once approval is given by the lead agency.
- Preference will be given to projects which demonstrate high levels of financial leverage and which provide opportunities for investment from other partners.
- All projects must have a solid, viable business plan which identifies technical, managerial and financial capacity.
- NOHFC investment must be necessary to make the project viable, and ongoing initiatives must demonstrate self-sustainability.

## Application Process

Applications must be completed and submitted to:

**Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation**  
70 Foster Drive, Suite 200  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6V8  
Telephone: 1-800-461-8329 or 705-945-6700  
Fax: 705-945-6701

The application form is available on the NOHFC website at: [www.nohfc.com](http://www.nohfc.com) or may be obtained from Government Information Centres and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines offices.

Applications must be received by the NOHFC by December 31, 2007. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

As funding is limited, there is no guarantee that all applications meeting program criteria and received prior to the deadline will be approved by the NOHFC.