

HEALTH AND WELLNESS VALUES: Nova Scotians working together to make our province a safe and healthy place in which to live, work and play.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SPORT AND RECREATION (PASR) focuses on achieving better health outcomes and improving quality of life for Nova Scotians through participation in physical activity, sport and recreation.

RATIONALE

1. A provincial recreation/physical activity funding policy advances the goals and strategic directions of the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Responsibility Centre (PASR) of the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW).
2. The funding may serve as a leverage and catalyst to support provincial recreation/physical activity initiatives.
3. DHW recognizes the valuable contribution of the voluntary sector and volunteers.
4. DHW values the role of provincial recreation/physical activity and related organizations.
 - a. Allows government and not for profit organizations to do what they do best
 - b. Enables capacity building of the sector¹, enables partnerships, and supports relationships
 - c. Provincial recreation/physical activity and related organizations are a vital support system for community development initiatives
 - d. Government recognizes the role and contribution of the voluntary sector in the delivery of quality recreation/physical activity programs
 - e. Government recognizes the economic contribution of provincial recreation/physical activity and related organizations

CATEGORIES OF FUNDING

1. **Block Funding:** Designed for provincial associations that have a primary mandate for recreation/physical activity and meet the eligibility criteria. Block funding provides four years of core operational funding.
2. **Project Funding:** Designed for provincial associations that have a primary mandate for recreation/physical activity, and for groups that do not have a primary mandate in recreation/physical activity, but deliver recreation/physical activity programs and project(s) as a means to achieve their mandate.
3. **Agreements:** An Agreement is a collaborative arrangement between DHW and one or more parties regarding a course of action that supports the recreation/physical activity priorities and goals of PASR and the other parties. An Agreement can be a partnership/joint initiative or a third party arrangement.
4. **Contract Funding:** Designed for provincial associations with a mandate to represent the entire spectrum of the recreation sector in Nova Scotia.²

¹ Sector, as defined in the *Power and the Potential, The Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Framework for Action*, April 2009

² At the present time Recreation Nova Scotia is receiving Contract Funding.

BLOCK FUNDING

OBJECTIVES

Block Funding is core operational funding designed to assist provincial associations that have a primary mandate for recreation/physical activity achieve their goals and mandate. Associations must meet the eligibility criteria to receive support. It is the intent of PASR, in partnership with provincial recreation/physical activity organizations, that the following **results** be achieved:

- **Public Awareness**
 - Increased public awareness of the benefits of participation in recreation and physical activity.
- **Participation**
 - Increased opportunities for organized and spontaneous healthy, active and safe participation in recreation and/or physical activity; and
 - Increased engagement, involvement of individuals and organizations.
- **Disparity Reduction (Systemic barriers)**
 - Increased access to opportunities for recreation and/or physical activity; and
 - Increased involvement of and opportunities for under-represented populations
- **Capacity Building**
 - Improved efficiency and effectiveness of the provincial recreation/physical activity organization;
 - Increased capacity of organizations – developed by such activities as information sharing, planning, training and accessing tools; and
 - Increased relevancy, responsiveness, and accountability; and
 - Enhancement of volunteer and board management practices.
- **Places and Spaces - Facilities**
 - Improved quality, safety, and sustainability of indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities;
 - Better use of existing facilities;
 - Equitable use of existing facilities; and
 - Increased environmental practices
- **Building Leadership - People are the foundation of the recreation/physical activity field**
 - Increased supply and availability of competent and committed volunteers and professionals, including paid staff and members of boards;
 - More Volunteers, coaches, leaders and parents helping out; and
 - More young people involved in leadership positions.

PRINCIPLES

1. Provincial Recreation/Physical Activity Associations must meet the Block Funding eligibility criteria to receive public funds.
2. All associations that meet the eligibility criteria and complete the assessment process shall be considered for funding. The level of funding will be based on the results of the assessment process and availability of funds.
3. The assessment is based on past achievements and accomplishments (results), which include the capacity and plans to achieve the policy objectives.
4. The assessment process for allocating government support and resources to associations is transparent.
5. Associations are accountable for the use of public funds by reporting on outcomes achieved as negotiated with DHW and are evaluated annually.
6. Associations that do not participate in the 2010-2014 Block Funding assessment cycle will be ineligible for Block Funding until the next cycle. These groups may apply for project funding and/or funding through agreements.
7. Associations will be given long-term commitments (four years) subject to annual legislative approval of the Department's budget.
8. Associations that meet the Block Funding eligibility criteria will be able to access the Provincial Sport and Recreation Administration Centre funded by DHW and operated by Sport Nova Scotia.
9. Any association that changes its original mandate and/or objectives, or fails to meet annual requirements may be subject to a review of its eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Provincial associations must have a primary mandate for recreation/physical activity and provide services in at least three of six DHW Regions (South Shore, Valley, Central, Fundy, Highland, Cape Breton).
2. Be registered in good standing as a Provincial Society under the Registry of Joint Stock Companies or equivalent.
3. Have audited or attested (an independent financial review proving the quality of the information) financial statements.
4. Have a one-year operational plan for the association
5. Have a multi-year plan, or a commitment to prepare one in the first year of Block Funding.
6. Have members and/or stakeholders that receive services or other tangible supports directly related to the mandate of the association.
7. Do not receive annual core funding from any other provincial government department.
8. Be recognized by DHW as the provincial authority for the activity.
9. Have policies on equity and harassment.
10. Proof of insurance covering the activities of the association.

PROJECT FUNDING

OBJECTIVES

Project Funding is designed to **address specific DHW/PASR priorities and goals**. These are determined annually and will include identified target groups, issues, risk factors, etc.

PRINCIPLES

All associations must meet the Project Funding eligibility criteria to receive public funds.

Associations are accountable for use of public funds by achieving project outcomes and outputs that are negotiated in advance with DHW.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Provincial associations must either have a primary mandate for recreation/physical activity or deliver recreation/physical activity programs and project(s) as a means to achieve their mandate.
2. Associations receiving funding through Block Funding, Contract Funding or an Agreement are eligible to apply for and receive Project Funding.
3. Be registered in good standing as a Provincial Society under the Registry of Joint Stock Companies, or equivalent.
4. Complete the Project Funding application form and submit all requested information demonstrating how the project addresses the identified PASR priorities and goals.

GUIDELINES

1. Funding will be based on a project assessment, which includes how the project meets the priorities and goals, and the availability of funds.
2. The level of contribution will be based on need and the applicant's ability to contribute. The expected level of contribution by the application from other sources is 50 percent.
3. Associations will be given a maximum of two years of funding, subject to annual legislative approval of the
4. Department's budget and successful completion of first year activities.

AGREEMENTS

Agreements are collaborative arrangements between DHW and one or more parties regarding a course of action that supports the recreation/physical activity priorities and goals of PASR and other parties. An Agreement can be a partnership, joint initiative or third party arrangement. Agreements are designed for recreation/physical activity associations and related volunteer groups, the private sector, and other government departments. The length of an Agreement is determined by DHW and other parties. Discussions regarding an Agreement may be initiated by PASR or by the other parties. If interested in an Agreement with PASR, applicants are requested to contact the Manager of Recreation to discuss the concept or proposal.

CONTRACT FUNDING

PRINCIPLES

1. The association must meet the Contract Funding eligibility criteria to receive public funds.
2. The level of funding will be based on the results of the assessment process and availability of funds.
3. The assessment is based on past achievements and accomplishments (results), which include the capacity and plans to achieve the policy objectives³, and the association's capacity and plans to represent recreation and the recreation sector in Nova Scotia.
4. The assessment process for allocating government support and resources to associations is transparent.
5. The association is accountable for the use of public funds by reporting and evaluating annually on outcomes achieved as negotiated with DHW.
6. The association will be given four years of core funding, subject to annual legislative approval of the Department's budget.
7. The association will be able to access the Provincial Sport and Recreation Administration Centre funded by DHW and operated by Sport Nova Scotia
8. If the association changes its original mandate and/or objectives, or does not provide required reports and information, it may be subject to a review of its eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The provincial association must have a mandate to represent the entire spectrum of the recreation sector in Nova Scotia, and provide services in all six DHW Regions (South Shore, Valley, Central, Fundy, Highland, Cape Breton).
2. Be registered in good standing as a Provincial Society under the Registry of Joint Stock Companies or equivalent.
3. Have audited financial statements.
4. Have a one-year operational plan for the association.
5. Have a multi-year plan.
6. Have members and/or stakeholders that receive services or other tangible supports directly related to the mandate of the association.
7. Do not receive annual core funding from any other provincial government department.
8. Host an annual conference or similar event.
9. Recognized by DHW as the provincial association that represents the entire spectrum of the recreation sector in Nova Scotia.
10. Have policies on equity and harassment.
11. Proof of insurance covering the activities of the association.

³ See Block Funding Objectives, page 2