

THE NEXT PLAY GRANT PROGRAM



FEMMES ET SPORT AU CANADA
CANADIAN WOMEN & SPORT

Ontario



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SECTION 1: ABOUT THE NEXT PLAY

Canadian Women & Sport is committed to helping girls, women and gender-diverse people access active recreation and physical activity.

Recent insights from the [Rally Report 2022](#) show that girls and women are facing unprecedented barriers to fully participating in active recreation. Meanwhile, there is immense pressure on sport leaders and organizations to engage girls, women and gender-diverse participants in active recreation.

The Next Play is a grant program aimed at helping Ontario-based organizations meet this opportunity head-on by designing girl-centered sports programs and initiatives.

By supporting sport leaders and organizations through The Next Play, more girls, women and gender-diverse participants will be able to access the benefits of physical activity.

This project is made possible by the Government of Ontario.



SECTION 1: ABOUT THE NEXT PLAY

What is The Next Play?

- The Next Play is an Ontario-based grant program designed to help organizations, and their coaches and leaders engage more girls, women and gender-diverse participants from diverse backgrounds in active recreation and physical activity.
- The goal? Help organizations figure out their next play when it comes to better engaging more girls, women and gender-diverse participants in active recreation.

How does it work?

- Canadian Women & Sport and the Government of Ontario are partnering to provide 50 active recreation organizations in Ontario with access to this grant program.
- As part of The Next Play, participating organizations will:
 - Have 3 leaders or coaches complete girl-centered program design training, equipping them with effective approaches for engaging girls, women and gender-diverse participants in recreation. A \$1,000 honorarium will be provided to organizations to support with training.
 - Develop and submit a project proposal aimed at better engaging and/or retaining girls, women and gender-diverse participants in active recreation. Proposals should reflect the unique needs of their communities and organizations, and learnings from the program design training. Successfully completed proposals will receive a \$4,500 grant to support their initiative.



SECTION 1: ABOUT THE NEXT PLAY

- Participate in two Community of Practice sessions with Canadian Women & Sport Facilitators and other participating organizations in May and July 2024.
- Commence active recreation initiatives in Spring 2024 and complete final reporting by August 31, 2024.

Who is The Next Play for?

- The Next Play is for Ontario-based active recreation organizations that are ready to engage more girls, women and gender-diverse participants from diverse backgrounds in their programming. Active recreation includes sport and physical activity programs as well as cultural and game-based programming.

When and how do I apply?

- You can apply online here. Applications open on Friday, March 8, 2024, and close on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time.



SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Important Considerations & Required Information

To be eligible for The Next Play, organizations must be able to:

- Have three leaders participate in a 3-hour virtual training session on girl-centered program design in May 2024.
- With the support of Canadian Women & Sport, develop and submit a project proposal aimed at better engaging and/or retaining girls, women and gender-diverse participants in active recreation in May 2024.
- Participate in two 90-minute virtual Community of Practice sessions to support proposal development in May 2024 and implementation in July 2024.
- Commence active recreation initiatives in June 2024 and complete final reporting by August 31, 2024 (initiatives should be underway, but do not have to be completed by August 31).

Organizations must be Ontario-based.

All applicants must provide a business/charity number issued by the CRA.

Grant funding must be spent by August 31, 2024.

Canadian Women & Sport may reach out to verify any information provided.

Applications received after April 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time will not be considered.



SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible?

Ontario-based active recreation organizations are encouraged to apply. Organizations must have a business/charity number to be eligible.

Examples of eligible organizations include:

- Charities
- Community organizations
- Indigenous communities
- Indigenous organizations
- League associations
- Municipalities
- Non-profits
- Provincial sport organizations
- Schools
- Sport or physical activity clubs
- Religious organizations

Who is *not* eligible?

The following organizations are not eligible for The Next Play:

- ✗ Organizations based outside of Ontario
- ✗ National sport organizations
- ✗ International organizations
- ✗ Initiatives serving communities outside of Ontario
- ✗ Individual applicants are not eligible for funding for personal use



SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

What can you spend the grant funds on?

Participating organizations will receive a \$1,000 honorarium to support their participation in girl-centered program design training. There are no restrictions on how the honorarium can be spent.

Successfully completed proposals will receive a \$4,500 grant to support their initiative. The Next Play can fund the following expenses directly related to your initiatives' activities including:

- Compensation for human resources (i.e., salaries and benefits, facilitator honoraria, etc.)
- Venue costs
- Marketing and communications
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Participant and/or leader training
- Registration fees
- Data collection and storage
- Childcare

Administrative costs (i.e., % of audit, % of bookkeeping, % of insurance) must be less than 20% of the overall project budget.

Eligible expenses are to be planned and expensed reasonably and fairly, using the most cost-effective approaches to ensure value for money. Frivolous or misuse of funds may result in ineligibility and/or requirement to return the funds.



SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

What can't you spend the grant funds on?

- Costs incurred before April 2024 or after August 31, 2024.
- Entertainment costs (i.e., gifts, celebrations, thank you cards)
- Prize monies/awards
- Insurance claims, legal fees or claims, tickets, or fines
- Severance costs, bonuses, commission, recruitment fees
- Legal or illegal substances (i.e., liquor and alcohol costs, cannabis, drugs)
- Investments or fund developments
- Capital assets or capital investments



SECTION 3: APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

How will applications be reviewed and selected?

Canadian Women & Sport has established The Next Play Selection Committee to ensure a variety of perspectives inform the review and selection process. All applications will be reviewed by at least two trained reviewers from the committee and/or Canadian Women & Sport. Reviewers will complete unconscious bias training and disclose any conflicts of interest to maintain a fair and equitable process.

Canadian Women & Sport will aim to equitably distribute funds across the province of Ontario with consideration for the communities served.

Due to our team's capacity and the volume of applications, we will not be able to provide feedback on individual applications.

How will applications be evaluated?

The Next Play is designed to help organizations engage more girls, women and gender-diverse participants from diverse backgrounds in active recreation and physical activity. Successful applicants will be motivated to learn and participate; they do not have to be experienced with girl-centered programming.

In the application, you will be asked to tell us about how your organization promotes quality through your current active recreation programs, regardless of whether programs are designed for women, girls and/or gender-diverse participants. Quality reflects good people, places, and programs – [read more here](#).



SECTION 3: APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Application Question	Evaluation Focus
Describe the background and/or qualifications of those who deliver your programs.	Demonstrates a consideration for what is beneficial and/or necessary from program leaders (e.g., safety practices, training, relationships, representation, etc.)
Describe the protection and practices that are in place to ensure the environment is accessible, inclusive, and safe.	Demonstrates consideration and planning for making the physical, social and emotional environment accessible, inclusive, and safe (e.g., Rule of 2, Sharing Circle, etc.)
Describe some of the active recreation programs and/or related activities your organization delivers and how they meet the needs of participants and the community.	Demonstrates an understanding of how to intentionally create a program/environment that considers the needs participants (e.g., creating a sense of belonging, developmentally appropriate, fun, challenging, etc.) and/or addresses the barriers experienced by participants in the community. <i>*We welcome all forms of active recreation programs including sport and physical activity, wellness programs, land-based programs, and those that focus on reconnecting with community and personal identity.</i>
What is your organization's main gender equity challenge?	Demonstrates an understanding of how gender inequity is embedded into how organizations operate including in their processes, policies, and programs.
What do you see as the benefit of participating in The Next Play?	Demonstrates a commitment to gender equity and using learnings and resources to advance equity in organizational processes and programming to better engage and/or retain girls and gender-diverse participants.



SECTION 3: APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Helpful Resources

- Canadian Women & Sport Glossary of Terms
- Same Game: A Step-By-Step Toolkit to Bring Your Gender Equity Vision to Life
- She Belongs
- Engaging Newcomer Girls & Women: Physical Activity & Sport Handbook
- Gender Equity LENS e-module
- Keeping Girls in Sport e-module
- Indigenous Communities: Active for Life
- Quality Sport for Communities and Clubs
- Anti-Racism in Coaching e-module
- NCCP Coaching Athletes with a Disability

Helpful Organizations

- Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion
- Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport
- Respect Group Inc.
- Sport for Life
- Women's Sports Foundation



SECTION 4: **ACCEPTED** **APPLICANTS**

What can I expect if my application is accepted?

Recipients will be required to confirm their participation in April 2024. Once confirmed, participating organization will be required to:

Sign a funding agreement and provide financial information to Canadian Women & Sport.

Publicly acknowledge in all communications and promotional activities:

- Canadian Women & Sport for the financial support received
- The Government of Ontario for the financial support received

More information will be provided in the Recipient Package, including a template of recognition requirements and access to Canadian Women & Sport and Government of Ontario logos.

Participate in girl-centered program design training in May 2024.

Develop and submit a project proposal in late May 2024.

Commence an initiative in June 2024.

Participate in a Community of Practice throughout the program.

Spend grant funding and complete The Next Play Impact Report by August 31, 2024.

Notify Canadian Women & Sport if there are any significant changes to your ability to participate in The Next Play grant activities.

Manage all finances and partnerships associated with The Next Play.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does the application open and close?

Applications open on Friday, March 8, 2024, and close on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

Who can apply for The Next Play?

Ontario-based active recreation organizations that are motivated to learn and participate in The Next Play; applicants do not have to be experienced with girl-centered programming.

When will organizations hear back on the status of their application?

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application in April 2024.

Can I submit my application or other supporting documents to Canadian Women & Sport by email?

Applications will only be accepted through the online grant platform (Submittable). Should you require accommodation to use this platform or complete your application, please email us at nextplay@womenandsport.ca.

Are written applications the only way to submit?

Yes, however, if you require accommodation to complete the application through the platform, please email us at nextplay@womenandsport.ca.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do applicants need to only serve women, girls and/or gender-diverse individuals to be eligible?

No. We welcome applications from organizations with a mandate to serve women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, we will also fund organizations who are ready to design programs to engage girls and gender-diverse participants.

If there was a program that was funded and delivered already and is now complete and our organization wants to continue it further by changing/modifying it, are we eligible?

Yes! As long as you meet the other above criteria.

After reading through the application guide, I still have a question about my application. Who should I contact?

Please contact us at nextplay@womenandsport.ca. Our team will do our best to respond to all questions within two business days.

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