

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it is providing jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region and includes features that make this project truly distinctive. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge, community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for the local communities. In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit communities, which are the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT

The Community Organization Investment initiative will provide funding of \$100,000 (CDN) in Canada and the US respectively to community organizations serving Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit residents. The initiative will result in a total of \$700,000 (CDN) invested in the two communities from 2020-2024.

Eligible organizations can submit an application for funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 (CDN) for events, programming or infrastructure improvements that will benefit the Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit neighbourhoods (as defined by the maps included on page 2).

Eligible applications will be reviewed by members of the project's Local Community Group as well as senior representatives from Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), Bridging North America (BNA) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations and proposed projects/initiatives must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- The lead applicant must be a registered charity or registered non-profit organization. Alternatively, a trustee/fiduciary organization can be named in the application and must provide proof of charitable or non-profit status along with an accompanying letter of support.
- Individuals, public sector and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply. Applications from public sector foundations will be accepted.
- The lead applicant must be located in or provide services to the Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit communities.
- Only one application per organization is permitted.
- The requested funding must support events, programming or infrastructure improvements that will directly benefit the Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit communities and align with at least one of the community investment priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.
- Proposed projects/initiatives must begin after July 1, 2024, and have anticipated completion dates prior to June 30, 2025. Funding will not be provided retroactively.
- Funding requests cannot exceed \$25,000 (CDN). Funding will not be committed over multiple years.
- Organizations that have received funding through the Community Benefits Plan for a different initiative or through a previous funding cycle of the Community Organization Investment initiative are eligible to apply if the organization has satisfied reporting requirements.
- Applications from religious organizations may be considered if the proposed project/initiative is non-religious in nature and will provide benefits to the greater community.
- Proposals will not be considered eligible if funding will be directed towards: fundraising or sponsorship activities, scholarships, deficit or debt reduction, an organization's overhead or operational costs (including but not limited to rent, mortgage payments, utilities, etc.), advocacy or political activities, or complete or partial purchases of vehicles.

TIMELINE AND REVIEW PROCESS

November 28, 2023 - January 31, 2024 (4:00 p.m. EST)

Applications will be accepted between Tuesday, November 28, 2023, and Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Only applications received before the deadline of 4:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, will be considered.

February 2024

All applications will be reviewed to ensure completeness and eligibility. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be put forth for further review. Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed by the Local Community Group, comprised of stakeholders from Windsor and Detroit, who will recommend projects for funding.

March 2024

Senior representatives from WDBA, BNA and MDOT will review applications recommended by the Local Community Group and select projects to receive funding.

April 2024

Applicants will be notified via email of the status of their application.

July 2024 - June 2025

Funding will be released to successful applicants in July 2024. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team reserves the right to offer funding in an amount that differs from the original funding request.

Individuals reviewing Community Organization Investment applications will be required to treat application content as confidential and disclose any conflicts of interest.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a semi-annual report and a final report within 90 days of project/initiative completion, and no later than June 30, 2025, and to adhere to the Recognition Guidelines provided once funding has been approved.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested organizations are encouraged to download the Community Organization Investment Application Form at **GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com**. Applications can be submitted in the following ways:

- **Electronically** to info@wdbridge.com in word or .pdf format noting "Community Organization Investment Application, Attn: Manager Community Benefits" in the subject line.
- **Via registered mail** in printed format to the attention of the Manager Community Benefits at: WDBA Main Office, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 400, Windsor, ON, N9A 6T3
- **By dropping off a paper copy** at the Sandwich or Southwest Detroit Community Office. Check the project website for addresses and hours of operation.

Organizations will be sent an email confirming receipt of their application within three business days of their submission.

LEARN MORE

If you have questions about the Community Organization Investment initiative, application process or eligibility criteria please contact us via email at info@wdbridge.com or via our toll-free number at **1-844-322-1773**.

Additionally, interested organizations are encouraged to attend the following Community Organization Investment Information Sessions:

- Virtual session on December 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (pre-registration required)
- In-person sessions from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on January 17, 2024, in Windsor and January 18, 2024, in Detroit.
- Visit **GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com** for more information and to register for the virtual information session. Registration is not required for in-person sessions.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATION AREAS



SANDWICH/WEST WINDSOR



DELRAY/SOUTHWEST DETROIT