

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Family/Caregiver Support Group Funding Frequently Asked Questions



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The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are designed to support the completion of the funding application.

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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 **Why was this funding opportunity created?**

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) is focused on improving outcomes for children, youth and families affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). It has long been acknowledged that individuals and families who are experiencing FASD have had limited access to relevant support programs and services. The Government of Ontario is demonstrating its commitment to building capacity and improving outcomes for those affected by FASD by offering small subsidies to support and expand FASD Support Groups for families and caregivers. See [Application Guidelines](#) for details regarding the purpose of the funding and what the money can and cannot be used for. Funding for FASD Support Groups is being provided by the Government of Ontario.

1.2 **What is Health Nexus?**

Health Nexus is a bilingual health promotion organization that works with diverse partners to build healthy, equitable and thriving communities. Health Nexus supports service providers who work in preconception health, prenatal health and early child development. For more information, please visit www.healthnexus.ca

1.3 **How much funding is available?**

Funding of up to \$4,500 was made available for successful applicants in 2018/2019. Health Nexus is now providing a second round of funding to further support FASD Support Groups in 2019/20. Prior to this project, the most current data indicated that there were approximately 24 active FASD Support Groups in the province. The first round of funding was able to support the development of 21 brand new support group initiatives and augment the work of 18 existing groups. We learned that there were some existing groups that were not initially accounted for in the data collection through the application process but we can surmise that we now have at least 47 active FASD support groups across the province. We remain committed to supporting these efforts while supporting ongoing growth and development of new opportunities for communities that have very few to no FASD support services.

1.4 **Can I/we submit more than one funding application?**

Yes. An individual can submit applications for more than one FASD support group, as long as activities are being provided to different groups of people, (such as parents of children, parents of adolescents, adults living with FASD) and/or in different geographic locations.

1.5 **Can I/we apply for Cycle 2 if we received subsidies in Cycle 1?**

Yes. We encourage applicants to apply for both cycles of funding to increase opportunities for support within your community. During the second cycle, the applicant

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can apply to provide completely new activities or continue with current activities that are already having a positive impact for families/caregivers of individuals with FASD.

2 APPLICATION TIMELINE

2.1 What are the application timelines?

First cycle timelines:

- People or organizations interested in applying can download the application package from <https://en.healthnexus.ca/FASDSupportGroups>
- Applications may be completed in English or French.
- Applicants must send their completed application form via email no later than noon on **Wednesday, April 17, 2019**.
- Applicants will be notified of our decision by **May 1, 2019**.
- Legal agreements will need to be signed by successful applicants by **May 15, 2019**. Funds will be made available at this time.
- Please ensure that the contact information on the application form is completed correctly. This will enable Health Nexus to:
 - Confirm receipt of the application.
 - Contact you if there are any details that require clarification.
 - Notify you once a decision has been made – whether selected or not.

3 APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Who can apply for funding?

The following groups/representatives can apply for funding:

- People who don't belong to an organization (i.e. volunteer parent)
- Charitable organizations.
- Non-profit organizations.

Funding is **not** available for for-profit organizations.

3.2 How do I/we apply for funding?

To apply for funding, the applicant needs to:

- Submit an application to Health Nexus by noon Wednesday, April 17, 2019.
- The application can be downloaded from <https://en.healthnexus.ca/FASDSupportGroups>.
- Applicants are asked to answer a series of questions and then complete an action plan.

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- We encourage applicants to complete the application form electronically and submit it via email:
 - English applications can be sent to: FASDsupport@healthnexus.ca.
 - French applications can be sent to: TSAFsupport@nexussante.ca.

See [Application Guidelines](#) and [Application Form](#) for details.

3.3 What if we don't have an FASD Support Group name established yet?

The applicant must include a name for the FASD Support Group in the application. If the applicant does not have a name yet, please make one up that **sets the FASD Support Group apart from others**. For example, the name could be {town/city} {any special population} FASD Support Group.

3.4 What are the “must haves” for applications?

To receive funding, applications must show plans to increase access to FASD specific family and caregiver supports within their communities. This can involve building upon existing work, and/or by creating new support activities for families, caregivers and individuals experiencing FASD.

Additionally, activities must support one or more of the following audiences:

- Families/caregivers of children and youth with FASD,
- Families/caregivers of adults with FASD,
- Children and youth with FASD,
- Adults with FASD.

3.5 What if there is already an FASD Support Group in my community?

FASD Support Groups in the same communities will be encouraged to work together if possible. FASD Support Groups in the same area who support different audiences ie. Francophone, newcomers, different age groups, Indigenous etc. will be considered for separate funding. Priority will be given to communities who have fewer or no services available.

3.6 What types of activities can be funded?

Funding is expected to be used for activities such as, but not limited to:

- Facilitating in-person FASD Support Groups for families/caregivers of individual with FASD.
- Education and training for service providers, families, childcare providers, caregivers and individuals experiencing FASD through workshops, weekly group sessions, onetime events, webinars etc.
- Creating an event focussing on family wellness, self-care and how to access FASD support services.

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3.7 What are the expected outcomes of my/our activities?

Outcomes will vary depending on the activities. However, all projects are expected to measure how many people have been supported. It is the intent to have FASD Support Groups demonstrate improved outcomes for individuals and families through positive participant feedback. Some examples are:

- Participants share that they are satisfied with the FASD Support Group activities.
- Participants feel more aware, have more skills and have more confidence in their abilities because of these activities.
- There are more FASD supports available for the community as a result of this funding.
- Group members feel less isolated.

4 NEXT STEPS

4.1 What happens if the application is successful?

If the application is successful, the applicant will be notified within 2 weeks of the application deadline. A legal agreement will need to be signed by the applicant and submitted to us within 2 weeks from when the applicant was notified before there will be access to funds.

4.2 What happens if my/our application is not successful?

Unfortunately there are limited number of subsidies available and we may not be able to fund all FASD Support Groups. The applicant will be notified of the decision within two weeks of the application deadline.

4.3 What administrative and reporting expectations are there for successful applicants?

In addition to signing a legal agreement, these are the other requirements for successful applicants:

- Mid-term report to be completed midway through the project.
- Participation in peer sharing via newsletters, and webinar planned for **spring 2019** (date TBC).
- Participation (direct or through information sharing) in an in-person meeting/forum **early to mid-cycle (date TBC)**
- Final report
- For the mid-term and final reports, the applicant will be expected to provide an updated action plan which includes:
 - Progress on activities.
 - Plans for finishing the activities (mid-term report only).
 - How much of the money has been spent.

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- How many people have been supported?
- Additional ways to demonstrate that the activities are helping (e.g., client feedback and satisfaction).
- The applicant will be given reporting forms and expected due dates from Health Nexus upon signing the legal agreement.

4.4 Will Health Nexus help me with my activities?

The applicant is responsible for making sure the project activities are finished. Health Nexus can help the applicant in different ways:

- Assist with questions and challenges by phone or email.
- Provide an online forum where other FASD Support Groups can be consulted with for help.
- Facilitate Webinars or teleconferences to discuss evaluation and reporting.
- Facilitate Webinars or teleconferences to encourage sharing of what is working and what the leaders would tell others to do differently.
- Host an in-person forum (workshop) to network, share what FASD Support Groups are doing and talk about how to continue the FASD Support Group when the funding ends.
- Provide tools and documents to help guide projects.

4.5 Who can I contact for help with my funding application?

For assistance with the funding application, please contact:

Angela Geddes, FASD Project Coordinator

a.geddes@healthnexus.ca.

416-408-6868

1-800-397-9567 x 2292