

The Commonwell's **Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund (L.E.A.F.)** supports projects that grow capacity and resiliency in communities across Ontario. Specifically, L.E.A.F. supports programs and facilities that re-energize learning and engagement within communities.

Each chosen project will receive dollar amounts ranging from **\$10,000** to **\$50,000** depending on the amount requested in the application process. Up to **\$400,000** will be awarded under the 2026 program.

To be eligible for a L.E.A.F. grant, the project must:

- Be located in Ontario.
- Have a goal related to learning in the community including programming and upgrades to the places the community gathers to learn.
- Be either fully funded by L.E.A.F., have secured any additional funding required and/or have a plan to obtain the additional funding within 6 months.
- Have a leadership team established prior to funds being distributed.
- Have support from the property owner or other relevant stakeholders for the location the project will take place.
- Be a publicly accessible resource.
- Not be owned by an individual or business – Not for profit organizations, charities and community groups are eligible.
- Be submitted to the L.E.A.F. website by completing the full application form by the submission deadline of **October 30th, 2026**.
- Must be submitted by a person who is of the age of majority.
- Projects must be completed within 2 years of funding received. If projects are not completed funds may be returned or a proposal to redeploy the funding within the community may be considered.
- Projects previously funded by L.E.A.F. are not eligible to receive funding again. New projects from the same organization are eligible. Projects previously submitted but not selected are also eligible.
- Each project may only be submitted once during the program year.

Review Criteria:

- Recipients will be selected based upon The Commonwell's assessment of the applications. Applications will be judged based on:
 - Ability to communicate impact of project on learning and engagement in the community
 - Ability to demonstrate project viability and plan to complete the project within 2 years
 - Demonstrated need for funding
 - Community support garnered on L.E.A.F website and through social shares
 - Recipients will be selected at the sole discretion of The Commonwell.

Conditions of receiving grant funds:

- Recipients must display signage and/or alternate agreed upon recognition at the site of the project noting that it received support from The Commonwell L.E.A.F.
- If an opening event takes place The Commonwell will be invited to attend.
- Recipients agree to complete regular check-ins with The Commonwell (6 Month intervals) in the 3 years following a L.E.A.F. Grant.
- Recipients will be announced publicly on The Commonwell's Facebook page, Instagram Account and the L.E.A.F. website. Recipients will also be publicized through press releases and media outlets – Timing for public announcements will be at The Commonwell's discretion.
- Recipients may be required to participate in a video development process for promotional purposes at the timing requested by The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group.

Notification of recipients:

- Recipients will be notified by phone no later than **November 20th, 2026**. If a recipient cannot be reached by phone, an email will be sent to the submitter's email address requesting a call back.
- Recipients must complete forms sent by The Commonwell following notification within 5 business days.
- Projects that are not selected will be notified by email no later than **December 2nd, 2026**.