Q 1.   What's new with the Francophone Community Grants Program?

Originally launched as a funding program that would provide opportunities for Francophone organizations in Ontario to implement cultural and community-based projects, the Francophone Community Grants Program scope has expanded to also support Francophone businesses and businesses that serve French-speaking Ontarians. The program supports the implementation of Projects that enhance the commercial and cultural vitality of the French-speaking population by driving community and economic development that will support the engagement of Francophones in their milieu.

Not-for-profit and for-profit organizations can access funding through one of two streams, the "Community and Culture Stream" and the "Economic Development Stream", to carry out initiatives that will:

Community and Culture Stream (Not-for-profit organizations)

- Increase collaboration among service providers to enhance services to Ontario's Francophone communities

- Strengthen the capacity of Francophone organizations in Ontario

- Provide opportunities to celebrate and foster understanding of Ontario's Francophonie.

Economic Development Stream (For-profit organizations)

- Strengthen the capacity of organizations to improve the supply of products and services to Ontario French-speaking markets

- Promote the identification and recruitment of Francophone bilingual workers in the community

Further details are provided in the **Francophone Community Grants Program Guidelines** available on Transfer Payment Ontario.

Q 2.   Why does the Program now also target for-profit francophone organizations?

This is part of the government's effort to create a more favourable business climate in Ontario. The Minister's economic tour, which began in the Fall of 2018, has underscored the need to increase support for francophone organizations and small businesses serving Francophones. This will help strengthen francophone communities as well as contribute to Ontario's overall economic development.

Q 3.   What does it take to be an eligible applicant to the program this year?

Applicants must have been in continuous operation in Ontario for at least two years and may include incorporated and not-for-profit organizations and municipalities, as well as incorporated and registered for-profit businesses (e.g. sole-proprietorships, general partnerships and corporations).

Not-for-profit applicants are expected to have as part of their mandate to develop programs and initiatives benefiting Francophones at the local, regional or provincial level.

For-profit applicants are expected to meet one of the following conditions:

- operate in a francophone community – that is, a Census Subdivision in which at least 15% of the population is Francophone according to the Ministry's Inclusive Definition of Francophone. (Refer to the "Francophone Population of Ontario by Census Subdivision" table on the GOS portal page).

- offer products/services to a francophone market in Ontario.

- present a realistic business expansion plan supported by market data to start operating in or providing products/services to a francophone market in Ontario.

OR

- partner with a not-for-profit or for-profit organization or business (can be non-Ontario based) to bring products/services to Ontario with an aim to increase their offering to a French-speaking market.

The following organizations are not eligible applicants under either stream:

- Agencies, boards, or commissions of the federal or provincial governments;

- Registered charities (charitable organizations, public foundations, or private foundations) which are not federally or provincially incorporated;

- Private schools, public schools, colleges, or universities; and

- Organizations that are 100% funded by the federal or provincial government (municipl entities are exempt from this rule).

Q 4.   What is the total funding envelope for the Program?

The Francophone Community Grants Program has a one-million-dollar ($1.0M) funding envelope for 2019-20.

Q 5. Is there a certain portion of the program budget that has been assigned for each stream?

The Ministry has not defined amounts to be allocated to each funding stream. The full pool of projects submitted will be reviewed and the funding envelope will then be distributed to those projects that best meet the Program's priorities.

Q 6. How much funding may I receive for my project?

The maximum funding per application is determined according to both the stream you are applying to and to the size of your organization's operating budget or gross annual revenues:

Stream I – Community and Culture

(Not-for-profit organizations only; annual operating budget of $50,000 or more)

- Category 1: grants of up to $10,000

- Category 2: grants between $10,000 and $25,000

(Ministry can cover up to 80% of total eligible cash expenses)

Stream II – Economic Development

(For-profit organizations only; gross annual revenues between $100,000 and $750,000)

- Grants between $25,000 and $50,000

(Ministry can cover up to 50% of total eligible cash expenses)

Q 7. What is the deadline to apply?

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, August 19, 2019.

Q 8. What is the project eligibility period?

Project activities must take place between November 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020.

Q 9. How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted through the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) online system, which provides one-window access for users to draft and submit applications, check application status and manage reports.

Applications in any format other than the application form on the TPON system will not be accepted.

All applicants must register as users with the Government of Ontario's encrypted ONe key log-in system at Transfer Payment Ontario and apply online.

Online modules and quick reference guides are available to provide support as you move through the site, and technical support is available during regular business hours. Your Regional Advisor can also help you with any questions you may have regarding your applications.

NOTE: Upon submitting your application materials through the Grants Ontario System, you should receive a receipt confirmation notice. If you do not receive a notice within 24 hours, you should contact the TPON Client Care office at:

TPONCC@ontario.ca or (416) 325-6691 / Toll-free (855) 216-3090.

Q 10. Can I submit my application in either French or English?

Yes. The Transfer Payment Ontario system allows for the submission of an application in either English or French.

Q 11. I am having problems accessing the Transfer Payment Ontario system. What should I do?

For technical support questions related to the system, please contact the Transfer Payment Ontario Client Care office, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:
TPONCC@ontario.ca or at 416-325-6691 / 1-855-216-3090 (Toll-free).

Q 12. Can my organization apply for more than one project?

No. Each organization may apply for ONLY one project per Fiscal Year.

Q 13. I'm a not-for-profit organization. Can I partner with a for-profit organization and apply for funding to deliver a project under the Economic Development stream?

Yes, however the **for-profit** organization will have to be the lead applicant for your project to be considered under the Economic Development stream. The lead applicant will therefore have to meet all the relevant eligibility criteria for this stream as outlined in the Francophone Community Grants Program guidelines.

Q 14. How will my application be assessed?

All applications will be evaluated based on how well they meet the program's Eligibility, Funding and Technical requirements as indicated in the Francophone Community Grants Program Guidelines available on Transfer Payment Ontario.

Q 15. When will I be notified if my application was successful?

The Ministry of Francophone Affairs will notify applicants of the decision regarding their application by the end of October 2019.

Q 16. After my project is over, do I have to submit a report to the Ministry of Francophone Affairs?

Yes. All successful applicants must report on the outcome of their project through the Transfer Payment Ontario system.

Successful applicants must provide a final report on the outcome of their project and the use of the funds within 90 days of the end of the initiative (Project End Date). Release of the final payment (up to 10% for grants of $10,000 and less, and up to 20% for all other grants) is contingent on the submission and approval of this report.

Applicants must use the appropriate report template, which will be made available on the Transfer Payment Ontario system.

Q 17. Should projects be fully accessible to persons with disabilities?

In carrying out their project selected for funding, successful applicants must comply with the province's accessibility requirements for organizations, which depend on the type and size of organization. In addition, expenses related to improved accessibility and services are eligible under the Francophone Community Grants Program.

Q 18. Can you recommend a professional grant writer to assist in preparing my application?

We can't direct you to a grant writer to assist you with your application, but your Regional Advisor is a great resource for answers to your specific questions regarding the Francophone Community Grants Program.