



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 \$150,000 (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 \$1 million (CDN) invested in the two communities from 2020-2025.

Eligible organizations can submit an application for funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 (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, local history and culture, food security and wellness and/or aesthetics, landscaping and green initiatives.
- Proposed projects/initiatives must begin after July 1, 2025, and have anticipated completion dates prior to March 31, 2026. Funding will not be provided retroactively.
- Funding requests cannot exceed \$50,000 (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 21, 2024 - January 29, 2025 (4:00 p.m. EST)

Applications will be accepted between Thursday, November 21, 2024, and Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Only applications received before the deadline of 4:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, will be considered.

February 2025

All applications will be reviewed to ensure completeness and eligibility. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be considered. 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 2025

Senior representatives from WDBA, BNA and MDOT will review Local Community Group recommendations and select projects to receive funding.

April 2025

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

July 2025 - March 2026

Funding will be released to successful applicants in July 2025. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.

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 March 31, 2026, and to adhere to the Recognition Guidelines provided once funding has been approved.

HOW TO APPLY

Download the Community Organization Investment Application Form at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com. Applications can be submitted in the following ways:

- Electronically to info@wdbridge.com in Microsoft 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

Organizations interested in applying can learn more about the Community Organization Investment initiative and additional eligibility criteria by:

- Visiting GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com, calling **1-844-322-1773** or emailing info@wdbridge.com.
- Attending a project-led information session:
 - In-person from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Detroit on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at the Southwest Detroit Community Office* (7744 West Vernor Highway, Detroit, Michigan 48209) (registration not required)
 - In-person from 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Windsor on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Mackenzie Hall Cultural Centre* (3277 Sandwich Street West, Windsor, ON N9C 1A9) (registration not required)
 - Virtually on Thursday, January 9, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (pre-registration required via website)
- *Occurs during the project's Quarterly Public Information Meeting.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATION AREAS



SANDWICH/WEST WINDSOR



DELRAY/SOUTHWEST DETROIT

