

## Inviting Applications for Family - Engagement Grants Year 2026-2027

### Description:

Community Living Ontario (CLO) is excited to announce the launch of the grant program again this year in the province of Ontario. This grant funding is aimed at supporting family-led engagement groups in our communities for family members who have loved ones with intellectual disabilities. We believe that fostering strong family connections and collaboration is vital for the holistic development of all people.

As a provincial organization, Community Living Ontario is committed to providing resources and support to promote meaningful family engagement in Ontario and providing families with the opportunity to network and build good lives for their loved ones. We encourage groups and family networks that serve diverse populations from across Ontario to apply for this grant, as we recognize the importance of diversity in creating positive change. We are committed to supporting and empowering groups and networks that are dedicated to promoting inclusivity and equity for all.

### Objectives:

The primary objective of this grant is to encourage and facilitate family engagement groups that create opportunities for families who have loved ones with intellectual disabilities to connect, learn, and grow together. By providing financial assistance of up to \$10,000, we aim to enable groups and family networks to design and implement innovative and impactful family engagement at the grassroots level in Ontario.

### Eligibility Criteria:

To be considered for the grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Family groups/networks (incorporated or not);
- Demonstrate commitment to supporting families with a member who has an intellectual disability;
- Clear one or two-page plan outlining the proposed family engagement including objectives, activities and expected outcomes;
- Provide stated principles and values that will guide your family engagement work;
- The proposed activities should foster a sense of belonging and community among families, creating opportunities for peer support, mentorship and special connections.
- The family groups should be aligned with the values of Community Living Ontario family-to-family connections, creating learning opportunities, building mutual support among families, and helping to shape meaningful lives for their family member – one of inclusion and belonging;

- Demonstrated knowledge of inclusive practices for people with all abilities and strategies;
- Ability to provide accommodations and adaptations to ensure equitable participation by all;
- Efforts to promote family engagement should be sustainable beyond the duration of the grant, with plans for long-term impact and ongoing collaboration within the community;
- Ability to track, measure and provide a brief (one or two-page) report to CLO with regards to the impact of the family engagement as a result of the grant.

**Family Engagement Vision Statement:** ‘The voice, engagement and leadership of families continue to be central to building a good life of belonging and meaningful participation for individuals who live with an intellectual disability. Values-based and deeply committed families will exist throughout Ontario to support and encourage one another, to learn together, and to influence the community to welcome and be responsive to all its members.’

**Family Engagement Eligibility Matrix:** Please refer to the Eligibility Matrix for additional details and requirements: [Eligibility Matrix](#)

### Application Process:

Interested groups/networks can apply for the grant by submitting a brief (one or two-page) proposal that includes the following:

1. Description: Clearly outline the purpose, objectives, and activities of the proposed family engagement, specifically designed for families of children who have intellectual disabilities.
2. Budget plan: Provide a budget including how the grant funds will be utilized and any additional funding sources.
3. Implementation timeline: Provide a timeline of activities between July 2026 and April 2027, outlining the milestones and deliverables of the project.
4. Evaluation and impact measurement: Describe the methods and metrics that will be used to assess the effectiveness and impact of the initiative.
5. Background: Provide information about the group/network, its goals and previous experience in family engagement or related initiatives in the province of Ontario. Two references with email addresses and phone numbers should be provided in the grant proposal.

### Grant features:

1. Funding Support: We will offer grants to eligible groups/networks of up to \$10,000, to support the planning and execution of family engagement work. The grant amount will be determined based on the proposed project's scope, scale, and potential impact.

Priority may be given to new family groups.

2. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** It is imperative that the proposed activities prioritize inclusivity and accessibility. Grant recipients will be expected to create space for families to engage, share and support each other, and ensure that all family members (including siblings) can fully participate and benefit from the activities.
3. **Capacity building:** We recognize the importance of equipping people with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver effective family engagement as part of the grant. Grant recipients can reach out to CLO for access to key resources to enhance their ability to create engaging and impactful experiences.
4. **Collaboration and Networking:** In addition to financial support, grant recipients will have the opportunity to collaborate with other family networks in Ontario, working towards similar goals.
5. **Check-ins:** Please note that all grant recipients will be required to attend a mandatory one-hour virtual orientation session in July or August. In addition, a mid-way check-in will be held in the month of November, followed by a culminating event in Spring 2027 (tentatively April) where grant recipients will share information about their initiatives. Additional details will be provided during the orientation session.

### **Selection Process:**

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of experts in disability support and family engagement. The selection criteria will include the clarity and feasibility of the proposal, alignment with the grant objectives, potential impact, inclusivity, and the capacity for successful implementation within the timeframes specified.

Please send a one-page proposal along with a budget plan (in excel sheet) to [inclusion@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:inclusion@communitylivingontario.ca)

The application **deadline is Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.** Upon completion of the selection process, successful applicants will be notified and awarded the grant at the beginning of July. CLO will provide ongoing support and guidance to ensure the smooth implementation and success of the family engagement initiatives. All successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report of their activities to CLO by Friday, April 30th, 2027.