

The Abbotsford Community Foundation Agricultural Enhancement Grants are provided in partnership with the City of Abbotsford to enhance, innovate, and invest in Abbotsford's agricultural sector in order to support a healthy and profitable industry.

There are 2 streams to this year's granting. Projects must be located in Abbotsford.

The overall purpose of Agricultural Enhancement Grants Program (AEGP) is to: encourage agricultural innovation, increase agricultural productivity, build capacity in the agriculture sector, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Stream #1 - will open February 18, 2026 and close March 31, 2026 @ 4 pm (PST).

A matching AEGP grant of up to \$100,000 is available to address sector wide initiatives such as:

- Address sector wide threats
- Solve supply chain issues
- Streamline regulatory compliance
- Address climate change
- Agricultural education
- Develop new product opportunities

A sector can be considered the dairy industry, greenhouse industry, the flower industry, etc. The bulk (min. 75%) of the project must be located/happen in Abbotsford. This can include research trials, demonstrations, pilots, instruction/education, research studies, etc.

Stream #2 - will open in October, 2026 (dates TBA)

A matching AEGP grant of up to \$50,000 is available to address more specific farm, agricultural operations, or food processing initiatives such as:

- New product development
- New crops/crop diversification
- Value added agricultural innovations
- Entrepreneurial farm practices to enhance market growth

Farms, processors, or producers must be located in Abbotsford and ensure their projects include a research component so that information can be shared freely with the agricultural industry to learn from and build upon.

Together, we build a thriving, more resilient agricultural industry.

Getting Started

Who is eligible to apply?

Abbotsford Community Foundation AEGP is intended to support projects, and initiatives based in Abbotsford.

To be eligible for **Stream #1**, the applicant must be one of the following:

- An agricultural organization, association, or non profit looking to address a sector-wide issue that has a significant impact on Abbotsford's agricultural industry; and/or
- An agricultural research institution (or department within an institution) conducting a sector-wide study/pilot/project that may have a significant impact on Abbotsford's agricultural industry.

You will also need to confirm the following in order to apply for this grant stream:

- You will obtain the necessary permits and approvals from all levels of government for your project if approved. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Neill, General Manager of Planning and Development Services at the City of Abbotsford (MNeill@abbotsford.ca or 604-864-5513), to discuss your proposal and work with staff to ensure it fits with local government and other senior government/agency land use regulations and requirements.
- You or one of your project partners, will be available on **Tues April 21 between 3-5 pm**, to appear before the adjudication panel to answer questions regarding this application.

To be eligible for **Stream #2**, the applicant must be one of the following:

- A local farmer or farming operation with the majority of their farm holdings and operations based in Abbotsford; and/or
- An agricultural processor, company, or organization with its project scope and reach primarily Abbotsford based; and/or
- An agricultural research institution (or department within an institution) conducting its project primarily within Abbotsford.

How will knowledge & research from your project be shared?

As this grant program is intended to benefit Abbotsford's agricultural industry, the knowledge, information, and research developed or otherwise gained from your project or initiative, is intended to be shared openly with the sector. For example:

- If the intent or outcomes are focused on proprietary information that cannot be shared, your project, will likely be deemed ineligible.
- If your project or initiative only benefits a single farm without significant knowledge transfer opportunities that can inform the broader industry, it will likely be deemed ineligible.

Use of Funds:

The AEGP provides matching funds for an eligible project where grant recipients have up to 2 years to complete their project.

This is a 50% matching grant where a minimum of 30% of matching revenue must be in cash.

For example, if you were applying under **Stream #1** and your total project cost is \$180,000, your maximum grant request would be \$90,000. The other sources of project revenue totalling the remaining \$90,000, must include a minimum of \$27,000 in cash and \$63,000 may be gift in kind.

For example, if you were applying under **Stream #2** and your total project cost is \$80,000, your maximum grant request would be \$40,000. The other sources of project revenue totalling the remaining \$40,000, must include a minimum of \$10,000 in cash and \$30,000 may be gift in kind.

At the time you submit the application, you do not need these other sources of revenue confirmed but you must indicate that it has been requested and from whom. However, if your project is awarded a grant under the AEGP, you will need these other sources of funding when you sign your grant agreement. Grant funds will NOT be disbursed to your project if matching sources of funding are not confirmed.

Have You Submitted Your Project Evaluation Report?

If you have previously received a grant through the AEGP from the Abbotsford Community Foundation, you must submit the **Agricultural Enhancement Project Evaluation Report** at the end of the 2 year term for your grant per your grant agreement. **Outstanding reports are due by January 31, 2026 to qualify for Stream #1 this year and by September 15, 2026 to qualify for Stream #2** of the year you wish you apply, before any future funding applications will be considered.

Please note that grants are awarded on a minimum 18 month basis. This means that you will NOT be eligible to apply in Year 2 of your project. You may be eligible to apply in Year 3 as long as you meet all the other eligibility requirements and your Evaluation Report has been received by the due dates indicated above in the appropriate year. For example, if you are awarded an Agricultural Enhancement Grant in 2025, you will NOT be eligible to apply in 2026 (Year 2) and can only apply in 2027 (Year 3) if your Evaluation Report has been received by Jan 31st of 2027.

Still Not Sure If You Should Apply?

Contact Areni to discuss your project idea and request clarification on the eligibility requirements of this grant. She can be reached via email: arenik@abbotsfordcf.org.

How to Apply

If you have questions about accessing the online application or if you are having trouble uploading required documents online, please contact: Anmol Baryer- anmol@abbotsfordcf.org or 604-850-3755.

The online grant application for Grant Stream #1 opens **February 18th** and will require the following information:

- Names & Contact Information (email, phone, mailing address) of grant proponent and partners
- Letters from Named Project Partners confirming their participation and role in the project
- Opportunity/Short Description of the Sector Issue you wish to address (200 words or less)
- Explain you identified this issue & process for consultation with the sector (200 words or less)
- Detailed explanation of your project (300 words or less)
- Project timelines and milestones (300 words or less)
- Explain How the Project Will Benefit the Abbotsford Agricultural Industry (100 words or less)
- Proposed Budget Including Where Matching Funding Will Come From

Your online grant application will require the following documents to be uploaded:

- Project Budget (using Project Budget Worksheet provided)

- Two letters of support from other community leaders and/or agricultural organizations. (Directors or employees may not provide references for their own respective organizations.)
- A list of the current Board of Directors of your organization (if applicable) and management staff or owners of the company that is the key proponent.
- Most recent year-end financial statements (professionally prepared) including income statement and balance sheet of the organization. Consideration will be given to management prepared financial statements that demonstrate proof of financial viability for the proposed project and/or confirmation, from financial institution, that funds are available as outlined in project budget

Important Dates to Note

- Feb 18, 2026 - Agricultural Enhancement Grant program opens for Stream #1 applicants
- March 31, 2026 (4 pm) - Agricultural Enhancement Grant program closes for Stream #1 applicants
- May 15, 2026 - Adjudication decisions are shared with applicants
- October (TBA) 2026 - Agricultural Enhancement Grant program opens for Stream #2 applicants
- Nov 13, 2026 - Agricultural Enhancement Grant program closes for Stream #2 applicants
- Dec 18, 2026 - Adjudication decisions are shared with applicants

Important Considerations to Note

- Incomplete and ineligible applications will NOT be reviewed.
- All submitted materials become the property of Abbotsford Community Foundation.
- Final decision on all grants rest with the Board of Directors. Adjudication is confidential.
- If you have previously received an Agricultural Enhancement Grant and have not submitted your final project evaluation report per the terms of your grant agreement or as indicated above, your application will be deemed ineligible.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete an **Agricultural Enhancement Grant Final Project Evaluation Report** at the conclusion of your project within the timeframes identified in your grant agreement. Late reports will impact your ability to apply for future grants.

Approvals Process & Requirements of the Grant

Notification of Decision	Requirements of Grant Recipients
Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by the dates as listed above.	As a condition of this grant, we request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a signed grant agreement ● acknowledgement of our financial contribution, as outlined in your grant agreement; ● submission of an Agricultural Enhancement Grant Evaluation Report as outlined in the grant agreement.

We know that completing any grant application takes resources and capacity and we want to help applicants make the best decisions they can about applying for an **ACF Agricultural Enhancement Grant**. If you would like to discuss these guidelines to help with your decision making on whether to apply for a grant, please contact Areni. If you have questions about the online application access and uploading required documents, please contact Anmol.

Anmol Baryer, Grants & Admin Coordinator
anmol@abbotsfordcf.org

Areni Kelleppan, Executive Director
arenik@abbotsfordcf.org