



MS Can Be Grants

Fact Sheet

What Are the MS Can Be Grants?

The 2019 MS Can Be Young Adult Summit was an opportunity for over 80 individuals affected by MS between the ages of 19 and 36 to come together for a weekend of networking, capacity building, and considering what personal impact they want to have to change the narrative for young people with MS. At the end of the weekend, participants had time to think about an initiative or project that they would like to implement in their community, online, or even across the country. These projects may be in the event, advocacy, or awareness sphere. In order to keep the momentum generated from the weekend and recognizing that the follow-through and sustainability of these projects is key, the MS Society has committed, through the generous donations of sponsors, to offer grant money which can be accessed by participants to kickstart their ideas. Through this pot of money, individuals will have the ability to apply for anything from \$100 seed money to more than \$5000 for a large scale, high return initiative.

Objective

The objective of the MS Can Be grants is for MS Can Be Summit participants to apply the skills they learned at the Summit to make an impact in their local community towards our mission: to connect and empower the MS community to create positive change.

Eligibility

Did you attend the MS Can Be Young Adult Summit in Toronto in Sept 2019? Yes? Then you are eligible to apply. While the grants are currently open to participants of the 2019 MS Can Be Young Adult Summit, you can partner/work with anyone to make it happen.

The MS Society reserves the right to open the grants to the general public if there are significant funds remaining by July 2020.

Money Available

Thanks to 2 generous sponsors, there is \$50,000 available in total grant money. \$20k came through F.UMS which was raised through the efforts of Aaron Solowoniuk and friends. \$30k was kindly provided through the fundraising efforts of Kim Miyama, Shane Miyama, and Jason Love (www.nighttofightms.com/).

What's The 'Value' of My Idea?

All ideas and projects are valuable! Some projects won't need funding at all. However, there are different types of needs which would be common in different funding brackets. These are just some examples:

\$50-300

- Rent a space for your networking event
- Get a domain name for your MS blog
- Purchase food for a social event
- Make photocopies/purchase usb keys to load info for an MS information session at a high school
- Social media ad buy campaign
- Budget for a few prizes to entice attendees for a small fundraiser
- Liquor License

\$300-\$750

- Buy ad space to highlight your fundraiser
- Take a course on public speaking to strengthen your ability to tell your MS story
- Venue, promotion, and snacks for a local paint night fundraiser

\$750-\$1000

- MS awareness campaign on campus

\$1500k-\$3k

- Travel costs and meeting space to set up a young people's speaker's bureau initiative
- Sponsorship cost; secure a large/well known name to contribute to event and invite their networks

\$5-7K

- Full day networking event for young professionals affected by MS
- Large scale fundraiser with the potential to raise over \$20k

Restrictions

We recognize that all kinds of ideas may get submitted and we recognize that impact can be felt in all kinds of ways (short and long term). Some projects will have more personal impact and some will be more far-reaching. The key factor is being able to explain this impact in your application. We are open to the expected and the unexpected!

However, there are some limitations to what can be funded and all decisions are at the discretion of the granting committee and the MS Society of Canada. There is no formal appeal process once a decision has been made. Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback and can revise and resubmit.

Funds cannot be used for:

- Salary or personal gain (this does not include people hired to perform a service – eg: waiter)
- Alcohol purchases unless approved in advance
- Personal growth or education opportunities where the linkage to the MS Society's mission is unclear
- Travel or accommodation costs not linked directly to an initiative or pre-approved
- Food purchases not linked directly to an initiative or pre-approved
- Personal care items (eg: medications, medical devices, mobility aids)
- If working with the MS Society directly on a project, there are situations where funds could not be used to pay for items not within the regular scope of that project. For example, the MS Society does not pay for space for support groups.

Please also consider that these funds are not to be used in lieu of looking for in-kind donations and reduced costs for things like event space. Please do your due diligence to reduce, as much as possible, the necessary costs. In fact, if you have secured things in-kind or reduced costs, the review committee will look upon this favourably. The granting committee reserves the right to revise the amount of money requested based on assessed project scope. The MS Society also reserves the right to implement additional restrictions if necessary which recipients would be made aware of in advance of receiving funds.

Reporting

Successful grant recipients will be required to provide regular updates and a final report through an online form. There will be an understanding that sometimes there is no movement/change in projects from month to month.

- When grant money is spent, pictures or scanned copies of the original receipt (not the Interac or credit card receipt) are required.
- Recipients will be provided with a financial tracking form they can use. Money spent without a receipt and/or without adequate explanation will be questioned and expected to be reimbursed
- Money spent that is outside the approved scope of the project and/or without adequate explanation will be questioned and expected to be reimbursed
- If you have expenses that were not forecast in your original budget, you must get pre-approval

General Grant Guidelines

- Funding requests must be for ideas with outcomes that are compatible with the [mission](#) of the MS Society – “To connect and empower the MS community to create positive change”.
- With some flexibility, grants are limited to one grant per year per project. If you apply for money for multiple projects, we will take into account the feasibility of you being able to accomplish both projects as well as the overall number of requests.
- If you are working on a fundraising initiative, you will need to register through the [iChallenge site](#). This will connect you to existing MS Society resources that can help you with your initiative.
- Any initiative or event you work on using these funds is a 3rd party event. It not an MS Society event and the organizers do not speak on behalf of the MS Society. This distinction needs to be made in your messaging. This would change if you happen to be working directly in conjunction with your local MS Society office on a project.
- The granting committee will update local MS Society chapters/divisions when money is received by someone in their region
- Remember, funds are limited so we encourage you to look for donations, reduced costs, volunteers, etc as much as possible
- Unspent money over \$100 must be returned to the MS Society. Unspent money under \$100 may be retained for additional project seed money
- For grants above \$500, we may require a SIN
- In the case of an unsuccessful application, the applicant will receive communication regarding the reasons for the denial. The opportunity to resubmit is always available.
- The application and reporting can be submitted in English or French

Application

The application is a Word document and a budget Excel document that can be downloaded, completed, resaved, and sent back to nationalps@mssociety.ca.

Only complete applications (word document with all sections completed as well as budget spreadsheet) will be reviewed.

Deadline

The next deadline for applications is **March 15, 2020**. Following this date, a committee will review all applications using a common assessment tool. By early April, applicants should receive a notification of next steps.

For questions, please email nationalps@mssociety.ca