

Tips for Writing Impactful Energizing Spaces Applications

Energizing Spaces powered by ENMAX wants to engage your community by bringing energy-efficient solutions into your community spaces. Energy-efficiency is about more than saving dollars and cents; it's about creating sustainable community hubs that can enhance their communities for many years to come.

Be Specific

Give specific details about a particular user group who will benefit the most. Our committee understands that everyone who uses your facility will benefit from new appliances or lighting, but help them understand the larger impact of the appliance/lighting by focusing on a specific user group or groups, who will use the appliance/lighting often, and will immediately feel the benefits.

Ex. A community association is applying to replace security lighting at their main entrance.

Ok

Our facility is used extensively by the community. We operate many evening programs and we need proper lighting to ensure the feeling of safety and security of our users.



Better

Our facility is used extensively by the community, and we host over 40 programs per year, primarily in the evenings.

For example, our before & after school care program operates from 7am until 6pm. In the wintertime, this means that families are dropping off/picking up their children in the dark. With over 50 kids in our program, poor lighting and potentially icy conditions, we worry about the families and children coming in and out of the building at these high-traffic times.

Quantify where possible. Show us the potential impact this grant will have on your community. Think about: how many people will benefit from the new lighting/appliance; and how much time/energy/money will you save with new lighting/appliances.

Quantity

- Our indoor arena proudly hosts over 50,000 guests per year.
- Our dishwasher is broken and we need to use disposable dishware. We host a community meal every month, and serve 60-70 people at each event.

What does that show us?

- Approximately, 50,000 people will benefit from the new rink lighting.
- That's a lot of dishes! A new dishwasher would significantly help you reduce waste and eliminate the cost of disposable dishware.

Provide specific examples.

On Neighbour Day last year, our fridge failed us at the worst possible moment! We prepared a community meal for over 300 people. Our fridge was FULL. Unfortunately, our fridge's fluctuating temperatures (too hot and then too cold) caused our coleslaw to freeze solid! We lost over 300 portions of coleslaw.

Food is a big part of our community events, and having an unreliable fridge makes that very challenging.

Submit Impactful Photos

Show us how old, broken, worn out or disgusting your old lighting or appliances are.



Our dishwasher is now a storage bin.

Our fridge doesn't seal properly.



Show us a photo of the people who use the appliance or space regularly.



Our dedicated volunteers make a community breakfast for seniors in our community every month. While they enjoy preparing the meal, and serving the seniors, cleanup is a nightmare. Because we do not have laundry on-site, our volunteers currently take turns washing dirty linens and table cloths after our social events. They have to take the laundry home, wash and dry, then return it to the facility. We would like to install a new washer/dryer unit at our premises. This will eliminate volunteers carrying soiled laundry home and back. We feel volunteers will be much safer doing laundry on site.

Share your struggles or opportunities

Tell us about the problems your facing.



Our old dishwasher is – literally – a waste of space. Due to health regulations, we cannot use it. It’s basically become a storage bin, but the real problem is that we now have to rely on single-use disposables, because we cannot wash any dishes after our events. Not only is that bad for the environment, but it’s terrible for the budget!

Or what could be made possible if you had new lighting or appliances



Many residents in our community are facing food insecurity. While we’ve already built a free little pantry for our community, many community residents still come to our hall in search of food. We would like to purchase a new fridge to expand our food security efforts. A community fridge would increase our capacity to store and provide food to our community.

What has your community said?

Share what your community members have said. While you can quote a community member directly, you can also paraphrase (i.e. give us a general idea of what you community members are saying or feedback you’ve recieved from them.)

“The most prevalent feedback we hear is regarding the quality of the indoor lighting directly above the ice rink. The current lights [...] are slowly dimming and frequently burning out. Because of their age, we are unable to replace them with exact replacements leading to mismatched lights. The mismatched lights are creating uneven distribution of light [...], different brightness levels in different areas, and shadows or dark spots. Not only are these issues causing poor lighting conditions on the ice for players and participants, but it has also been noted by spectators.”

Put it all Together!

Our grant committee wants to understand how energy-efficient lighting or appliances can make a difference for people in your community. **How will this grant change your community for the better?** Try to tell us a story and connect the lighting/appliance to a specific user group, and tell us how they will benefit.

Think about:

Who: who uses the appliance or space (with the lighting)? Who will benefit the most or feel the most immediate impact?

What: what problem(s) are old appliances or lighting causing? what problem(s) would adding new lighting or appliance help you solve? what could you do (or do more of) if you had new lighting or appliances?

Why: why are you applying for this grant? what do you hope will change if you recieved it?

How: how will this grant help you solve this problem or embrace this opportunity?

Storytelling may sound complicated, but it's not. We don't need any "dark and stormy nights," or epic plot twists. Keep it simple:

The light in front of our main door is really dim and causes shadows that prevent people from seeing the curb, ice or other obstacles
The problem.
when they arrive for our programs, but it's our Before & After School kids and their families that we really worry about. The program
A specific example of who is affected.
runs from 7am to 6pm, and during the winter months, it's dark outside during our peak drop-off and pick-up times. With the poor
When they really notice the problem
lighting and the additional threat of ice, we've had a number of our kids come in with scraped knees or elbows from falling outside
Why it's important to fix the problem
our building. Adding energy-efficient LED lights will brighten up the entryway, and help us prevent future slips, trips and falls.
How this grant will help fix the problem.

Ask us to review your application

We want to help you submit the strongest application possible.

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