Launchbox Changemakers Program: Community Impact Fund Application

Empowering students to lead community change

Overview

Launchbox Changemakers Program supports students who are or want to be leaders at Acadia University in pursuing passion projects that create positive community impact. The Community Impact Fund provides micro-grants to help bring meaningful ideas to life, whether you're just getting started or already have something in motion.

We believe leadership and entrepreneurship come in many forms. You don't need business experience or a full-fledged team, just an idea, a desire to make a difference, and the commitment to take action.

Program Goals

- Support projects which have the potential to create positive impact in the County of Kings, the Annapolis Valley region, and broader communities
- Provide accessible funding and support for early-stage ideas or pilot projects
- Encourage student growth in leadership, entrepreneurship, and project design
- Empower students to turn ideas into action, by piloting and testing ideas in their community

Funding Details

- A total of **$4,000** in funding is available for distribution
- Students can apply for **$50–$500** in project funding
- Applications are **open by September 8** and will be **accepted on a rolling basis** until February 27, 2026 or until funds are distributed
- All projects are intended to be completed by March 31, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

This opportunity is open to:

- Part-time or full-time **Acadia University students**
- Students from **any program** and **any year of study**
- Individuals or small teams with a project idea (whether course-based or independent)
- Students **with or without business or leadership experience**
- Acadia student clubs (officially registered, or unofficial)

Examples of types of projects eligible for the Community Impact Fund:

- A student taking part in a special topics course or honours project
- A plan for a community event or gathering
- An idea for a non-profit or social enterprise
- A group of students not officially registered as any club, society, or non profit group, with a project idea which requires funding to implement

About Launchbox

Launchbox is Acadia University's hub for student innovation and entrepreneurship. We support students from all disciplines in developing ideas, gaining real-world experience, and building valuable professional skills through hands-on programs, events, and mentorship. From launching student-run businesses to solving real industry challenges and participating in short-term work placements, Launchbox provides opportunities that are creative, practical, and impactful.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, Launchbox engaged over **550 students**, supported **13 student businesses**, hosted **28 events**, and awarded **$38,000** in funding to student innovators. Signature programs include **Build a Business**, which offers funding and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs; **Project Connect**, a work-integrated learning program that matches students with paid project-based roles; and **Innovation Challenges**, which task student teams with solving real-world problems posed by industry partners. Launchbox also hosts regular workshops, guest speaker, networking and social events

Learn more at: launchbox.acadiau.ca

To ask questions regarding this program please contact: Launchbox@acadiau.ca

How to Apply

1. Complete the application form below and email it to **launchbox@acadiau.ca**
   a. Email subject line: *Impact Fund Application – [Your Name]*
   b. In your email, include a couple timeslots you would be available to meet in the 1-2 weeks following from the time you submit your application via email
2. Attend a 20-minute meeting with the Launchbox Manager to discuss your project objectives in detail, and discuss any needs for support to reach project goals.

Application Form

This application is designed to be simple, low-stress, and open to all Acadia students, no matter what stage your idea is at. Don't worry if you're unsure how to answer every question perfectly, just aim to be concise and share as much relevant information as you can. If your idea is still early-stage, that's okay! Launchbox is here to support you in shaping and planning your project so it can grow to the next level.

Student Information

1. **Full Name**:
2. **Acadia Student Email**:
3. **Year of Study**:
4. **Program**:
5. **Age:**
6. **Names of Team members** (if applicable):
7. **Residency Status** (please **bold** one):
   a. Nova Scotian
   b. Canadian (non-NS)
   c. International
8. **Project Status**
   a. New Idea
   b. Existing Project
9. If any, list any past involvement with Launchbox programs or events:
10. **Project Name**:

1. Community Impact Project Description

    a. **Description of the project**, highlighting the purpose, and the who, what, when, where, why, and how of your project.

    b. The **community or group** it aims to support or engage. (Outline any demographics this project targets, i.e.: students, youth, elderly, newcomers, etc.)

    c. Any **team members,** collaborators, supporters, mentors, sponsors involved

    d. Your **motivation** for starting this project. What inspired you or your team?

    e. The **impact** you hope to create. What is your desired outcome of this project?

2. Budget Request

    a. How much funding are you requesting? $

    b. **Budget Summary -** Please break down how you plan to utilize the funding (e.g. research, supplies, event expenses):

Amount	Description

3. Timeline - When do you plan to begin and complete your project? Do you see this project continuing beyond the initial planned timeline – if so, how would you plan to sustain it?

4. Support Needs - Is there anything else you might need from Launchbox (mentorship, physical co-working space, connections to resources, etc.)?

5. Anything else you would like to add?

Funding Recipient Requirements & Reporting

If your project is selected for funding, you'll be asked to complete a **short reflection and project report** at the end of your funding period or by March 31, 2026. This helps us celebrate your success, share stories with our funders and community, and ensure continued support for future student-led projects.

Your report doesn't need to be long or formal—we just want an honest summary of your experience, outcomes, and learning. You'll be asked to submit your report **within one month of completing your project, and no later than April 30, 2026**, and Launchbox staff will be available to help if you need guidance.

Your Final Report should cover:

1. **Project Summary**
   Briefly describe what your project accomplished. What activities did you complete? Did the project evolve from your original idea?

2. **Impact Created**

   - Who or what was positively impacted by your project?
   - Approximately how many people were reached or involved?
   - What feedback, if any, did you receive from participants, partners, or your community?

3. **Skills and Learnings**

   - What did you or your team learn from this experience?
   - Did you gain any new skills (e.g. project management, communication, budgeting, leadership)?
   - What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

4. **Budget Reflection**

- Brief breakdown of how the funds were used, including any proof of spending
- Were there any changes to your original budget or plan?

5. **Testimonial**
   Please include a personal reflection or quote from you or your team that we can share publicly to help tell your story. *Ex: "Through this project, I learned how to turn a simple idea into something real. I connected with people in my community and gained confidence in leading a project from start to finish."*

6. **Optional: Photos or Materials**
   If available, we encourage you to share 3+ photos or visuals from your project. These can be used in Launchbox social media or reports (with your permission).