

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oxford Community Foundation takes part in new Healthy Communities Initiative**

***\$1.3 Million in funding available in The South Western Ontario HUB  
to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19***

**Woodstock – February 16, 2021:** Oxford Community Foundation is announcing they will be part of an initiative to provide \$1.3 Million across South Western Ontario to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19.

This funding is part of the Government of Canada’s new \$31 million Healthy Communities Initiative. This investment by the federal government will support community-led organizations in developing local, small-scale infrastructure projects that respond to the immediate needs arising from COVID-19, while building towards a more pandemic-resilient future.

The South Western Ontario HUB is being co-led by Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, the London Community Foundation, and WindsorEssex Community Foundation, in partnership with Aylmer Area Community Foundation, Sarnia Community Foundation and Sunset Community Foundation supported by Centre Wellington Community Foundation, Dufferin Community Foundation and Oxford Community Foundation.

Organizations are invited to apply for funding between \$5,000 and \$250,000 to lead projects that help create safe and vibrant public spaces, improve mobility options, and provide digital solutions to help their neighbourhoods or communities navigate the pandemic and look to build back better in the COVID-19 recovery. This could include projects that adapt crosswalks and access to public transport to allow for safe physical distancing, the creation of community gardens, and art installations, and free wifi in targeted public spaces. A variety of community-led organizations are eligible to apply, including local governments, charities, Indigenous communities, and registered non-profit organizations.

Community Foundations that have formed the South Western Ontario HUB are working alongside Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Urban Institute and other partners to serve communities across Canada, including equity-seeking groups interested in applying.

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**South Western Ontario Hub**





# CANADA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

funded by     Canadian  
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“Public spaces are the glue to our communities: they enable a feeling of belonging and of social cohesion. They are a big part of what makes communities safe, vibrant and connected” said Louise Wardrop, Executive Director at Oxford Community Foundation “As Oxford County faces increased isolation due to COVID-19, the Healthy Communities Initiative will help our community to connect safely and will benefit the mental and physical well-being of our residents.”

Funding will be distributed in two rounds. The South Western Ontario HUB has approximately \$537,000 available in the first round, and \$806,000 available in the second round. There is also a national funding application available in both rounds.

The application period for the first round of funding closes on March 9, 2021 at 8:00PM EST. A second application period for funding will take place starting in May 2021.

To learn more, including how to apply for funding, visit [www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org)

## About Oxford Community Foundation

Oxford Community Foundation helps people leave a personalized, lasting legacy in Oxford, to make it a better place. Providing individuals the opportunity to target their areas of interest, Oxford Community Foundation invests and grants funds wisely. One of 191 community foundations across Canada, Oxford Community Foundation is the only community foundation that serves all of Oxford County granting to all aspects of our community including Arts & Culture, Education, the Environment, Heritage, Recreation and Social Services. In Oxford, for Oxford, forever.

For more information, please contact:

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## South Western Ontario Hub

