

Community & Financial Inclusion Granting Program

Alterna Savings is dedicated to utilizing its profits to support the communities we serve.

Our **Financial Inclusion Granting Program** funds innovative initiatives focused on financial inclusion and/or financial education for underserved populations. Since its inception in 2016, this program has awarded over \$206,000 in grants.

This year, the recipient organization is the Financial Literacy Entrepreneurial Society Hub (F.L.E.S.H.), which has been awarded \$20,000 to further its impactful work in the community.

2024 Financial Inclusion Grant Recipient

Financial Literacy Entrepreneurial Society Hub also known as (F.L.E.S.H.) is dedicated to advancing financial literacy and entrepreneurship for creatives and small business owners who identify as women, BIPOC, or 2SLGBTQIA+. Our mission is to enhance the economic opportunities for marginalized communities. As a culturally relevant and socially responsive non-profit, co-founders Brandy Skinner and Gabrielle Rubaine lead online and in-person workshops. These workshops focus on education, mentorship, and training, using a trauma-informed, anti-oppressive approach to promote equitable access to financial literacy, credit, and capital.



2024 Community Grant Recipients

Alterna's **Community Granting Program** provides funding to local initiatives where a small amount of money (\$1,000) can profoundly impact the community. These initiatives must support one of Alterna's yearly areas of focus.

Our areas of focus for 2024 include:

- *Affordable Housing*
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
- *Environmental Sustainability*
- *Food Insecurity*

In 2024, we awarded **15 grants** to a wide range of organizations in communities throughout Ontario.



All Saints' Anglican Church

All Saints' Anglican Church, established in 1875, is dedicated to building a connected, compassionate, and vibrant community. They offer grocery supplements and monthly community meals through their Well-Fed program. They also run youth groups, children's day camps, community music education programs, and performances, while actively engaging in social justice and social service work. With a dedicated, caring team, the church continues its life-giving and transformative work, offering compassion to every person they encounter.



All-Together Affordable Housing Corporation

All-Together Affordable Housing Corporation has offered long-term and transitional housing options for individuals at risk of homelessness in the Quinte Region since 2007. The organization provides non-profit residential accommodation and facilities for low-income individuals, seniors, and persons with disabilities. All-Together Housing is committed to ensuring that everyone has the right to live with dignity in safe, affordable, and sustainable housing that meets their personal, physical, and psychological needs.

Caledon Community Services

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is a multiservice, community-impact organization serving residents of all ages in the Town of Caledon and surrounding municipalities. CCS's mission is to help people help themselves by responding creatively to community needs. The organization addresses food insecurity, social services, health, employment, training, specialized transportation, newcomer resettlement, and other service needs of local residents.



“Thanks to this grant, more than 400 Caledon children will receive healthy, nutritious meals they might otherwise go without. This isn’t just food; it’s giving kids the fuel to grow, learn, and dream. Together, we’re turning generosity into action.” – Geraldine Aguiar, CEO, Caledon Community Services



Caledon Meals On Wheels

Caledon Meals on Wheels (CMOW) has been serving the Caledon community since 1984, providing essential services to over 700 seniors and individuals with disabilities each year. CMOW offers nutritious meals, security checks, friendly visits, and health and wellness programs. These services help individuals in Caledon, Orangeville, and surrounding areas live independently and maintain optimal health and wellness.

“Thanks to Alterna’s generous contributions, we are able to continue to meet the increasing needs of our community.”

Cartier Square Housing Co-op

Cartier Square Housing Co-op offers affordable housing to a diverse, mixed-income community. Established in 1995, their 67-unit co-op is located on Cooper Street, in the heart of Centretown, Ottawa. The co-op fosters a strong sense of community, with neighbors supporting one another, a bond further strengthened by the children's garden in their backyard.

“This grant will enable the Co-op members, children and adults alike to continue in the journey of growing their own healthy organic food, support biodiversity while spending time outdoors.”



Community Clothing Assistance



Community Clothing Assistance, established in 2006, is a local charity rooted in volunteerism and community responsibility. Our mission is to alleviate poverty by providing free clothing to individuals and families in crisis through community partner agencies. We support those facing challenges such as addiction, homelessness, mental and physical health issues, job loss, and limited education, helping them regain dignity and self-confidence.

Dutton & District Lions Non-Profit Housing

“With this funding, we will be able to enhance the Common Room, making it more suitable for our tenants’ social functions. Additionally, we plan to improve the outdoor area with a bench or planters, providing seniors with a comfortable space to enjoy the outdoors. These improvements will help our tenants better enjoy the building, both individually and with family, friends, and visitors.”

Eighth Street Trails Association

The **Eighth Street Trails Association**, owned and supported by the Town of Fort Frances, has relied on volunteer maintenance and improvements since the 1960s. The Alterna Community Grant will fund ongoing enhancements, including fill and wood mulch, to improve walking and ski trail surfaces for all users and seasons.



Kimbourne Park United Church

Kimbourne Park United Church has served East Danforth for over 100 years, fostering an inclusive, welcoming space for all. Guided by our mission—“Working together to feed God’s people: body, mind, and spirit”—we focus on food security, education, and community programs. Our initiatives include worship services, a monthly community meal, and support for the United Church of Canada’s Mission & Service Fund.

Multifaith Housing Initiative

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is committed to providing safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing in inclusive communities while mobilizing resources to support this mission. MHI fosters tenant engagement through experiential learning, promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in housing.

“The Alterna grant will help sustain our food security program.”



Peterborough Action for Tiny Homes (PATH)

Peterborough Action for Tiny Homes (PATH) is transforming lives by providing stable housing for the chronically unhoused. As a nonprofit and registered charity (2024), PATH creates supportive communities where residents can transition toward permanent housing. With a leased property secured in 2023, renovations are underway to welcome residents and volunteers. While awaiting legal approvals, *the Ready for Home program* equips individuals with essential skills in self-care, cooking, and gardening.

“Thanks to Alterna’s grant, a new freezer will enhance food storage, meal planning, and future food safety training.”

The Environmental Network Collingwood Inc

“This grant will fund seeds, soil, and containers for our newly built greenhouse, enabling year-round food production for our vulnerable population. Every harvest will be distributed to the community free of charge.”





The Incorporated Ministry in Flemingdon Park

Flemingdon Park Ministry (FPM) has been a cornerstone of the Toronto community for over 50 years, fostering inclusion and support. Its urban farm, Common Table Farm, has been growing fresh, culturally relevant produce since 2019, distributing thousands of pounds each season to combat food insecurity. FPM also provides essential programs for seniors and newcomers, offering safe spaces for learning, connection, and mutual aid. Through strong partnerships and hands-on workshops, they educate the next generation while championing sustainability and environmental stewardship.



The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG), Durham Region's largest public art gallery, connects communities through art in downtown Oshawa. Home to over 4,700 works, RMG showcases Canadian abstraction while hosting exhibitions, programs, and artist collaborations that inspire dialogue and belonging. Welcoming 38,000 visitors annually, the gallery offers education, volunteering, and an artist-in-residence program—all free, every day, for everyone.



"We are grateful to Alterna Savings for helping to ensure Black voices from Durham are represented in the gallery spaces through exhibitions and programming as part of our commitment to amplify equity-deserving communities."

We Candle Co.

We Candle Co. is a nonprofit providing above-minimum-wage jobs in candle-making for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Focused on inclusion, skill-building, and empowerment, WeCandle creates a supportive space where everyone can contribute meaningfully to their community.