# **Resources for Successful Music Grant Applications in Ontario and from Canadian Federal Bodies (2015-Present)**

**1. Introduction**

This report addresses the need for a compilation of resources that contain information about successful music grant applications from Canadian federal and Ontario provincial government bodies since 2015. The focus is on identifying publicly available materials that are legible and, where possible, anonymized to protect personally identifying information. Access to such resources is invaluable for music grant writing professionals seeking to understand funding trends, successful application strategies, and the priorities of granting agencies. This document outlines the findings of an investigation into the websites and publications of key federal and provincial funding organizations, as well as other potential sources of information for music grant applicants.

**2. Federal Government Granting Bodies**

* **2.1. Canada Council for the Arts**  
  The Canada Council for the Arts stands as a primary federal agency dedicated to fostering and promoting the arts in Canada through grants, services, prizes, and payments to professional Canadian artists, groups, and arts organizations 1. Its significant financial commitment to the arts is evident in the $308.8 million distributed in grants during the 2023-24 fiscal year to 5,910 recipients 1. This substantial investment underscores the Council's pivotal role in supporting the Canadian music sector, among other artistic disciplines.  
  The Council offers a diverse suite of grant programs, structured under components such as Explore and Create, Engage and Sustain, Supporting Artistic Practice, Arts Across Canada, and Arts Abroad 2. This programmatic breadth suggests that various types of music projects, ranging from creation and production to touring and professional development, could find potential funding avenues within the Council's framework. The application process is managed through an online portal 2, requiring applicants to register an account and validate their profile, a process that can take up to 30 days 2. This highlights the importance of early preparation for prospective applicants.  
  A cornerstone of the Canada Council's grant allocation process is peer assessment 1. This method involves the evaluation of applications by other artists and arts professionals, emphasizing the critical role of artistic merit and potential impact in funding decisions. Understanding this peer-driven evaluation process is essential for applicants seeking to align their proposals with the values and priorities recognized within the music community.  
  The Canada Council publishes annual reports 4 that provide valuable insights into its activities and financial distributions. Snippet 5 explicitly notes that supplementary information regarding grants is available on the Council's website. These reports, accessible online from the 2019-20 fiscal year to the most recent 2023-24 report 4, offer high-level overviews of funding allocated across different programs and artistic disciplines, including a specific breakdown for "Music and Sound" 7. Analyzing these reports can reveal broader trends in the Council's funding priorities within the music sector.  
  While the Council's website allows users to browse lists of grant and prize recipients 1, the research indicates that a readily accessible searchable database containing detailed information about funded music projects, including application specifics, since 2015 is not publicly available 2. This suggests that obtaining full anonymized applications directly from the Council's website may not be feasible.  
  The Canada Council's commitment to equity and inclusion 8 is a significant consideration for applicants. Demonstrating how a proposed music project contributes to a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive artistic landscape could positively influence the application's outcome.  
  The "Guide to Getting a Grant" offered by the Council 9 provides valuable information on navigating the application process, including advice on budgeting 9 and understanding the assessment criteria 10. However, this guide primarily focuses on the mechanics of applying rather than offering concrete examples of previously successful applications.  
  Although direct access to full anonymized successful music grant applications from the Canada Council for the Arts appears limited, the available resources—annual reports and browsable recipient lists—offer valuable contextual information about funding trends, priorities, and the types of music projects supported at a higher level.
* **2.2. Canada Music Fund (Administered by FACTOR and Musicaction)**  
  The Canada Music Fund serves as a key federal initiative aimed at bolstering the careers of Canadian artists and promoting their music both domestically and internationally 11. The Fund's administration is divided between two main organizations: FACTOR (Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings) for the Anglophone market and Fondation Musicaction for the Francophone market 11.  
  FACTOR plays a significant role in providing financial support to a wide array of stakeholders within the Canadian music industry, including recording artists, songwriters, managers, labels, publishers, and event producers 12. This broad scope of support highlights FACTOR's comprehensive approach to fostering growth and sustainability within the sector. The federal government has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the music industry through recent increases in funding for the Canada Music Fund 11, indicating a continued investment in Canadian music.  
  FACTOR's website features a dedicated "#FACTORfunded" section 13 that showcases success stories of artists and projects that have received funding. While these narratives are unlikely to be full application documents, they can provide valuable qualitative insights into the types of music projects FACTOR supports and the potential impact of their funding. These stories may highlight key aspects that contributed to the success of these projects, offering indirect guidance for prospective applicants.  
  FACTOR also publishes annual reports 16 that detail their funding activities. These reports, accessible online from the 2015-16 fiscal year onward 16, offer quantitative data on the total funding distributed, the number of projects supported across various programs, and potentially some aggregated information about the genres of music funded. For instance, the 2022-23 annual report indicates funding for over 3,000 projects 16. Reviewing these reports over the specified timeframe can provide a valuable overview of FACTOR's funding patterns and priorities within the Anglophone Canadian music sector.  
  In contrast, the website for Musicaction, the administrator for the Francophone market under the Canada Music Fund, was inaccessible during the research 18. This presents a limitation in gathering direct information about successful Francophone music grant applications through this particular channel.  
  While direct access to full anonymized successful applications through FACTOR's website may not be available, the "#FACTORfunded" success stories and their comprehensive annual reports offer valuable resources for understanding their funding priorities and the types of music projects they support within the Anglophone market. Information regarding successful Francophone music grant applications through Musicaction requires further investigation due to the website's inaccessibility.
* **2.3. Other Federal Bodies**  
  The research material provided does not explicitly identify other federal government bodies that directly offer significant music grant programs beyond the Canada Council for the Arts and the Canada Music Fund (administered by FACTOR and Musicaction). These two entities appear to be the primary federal sources for music funding within the scope of this report.

**3. Ontario Provincial Government Granting Bodies**

* **3.1. Ontario Arts Council (OAC)**  
  The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) stands as the principal provincial agency in Ontario dedicated to supporting the arts, offering an extensive range of over 65 grant programs across various artistic disciplines, including a significant number specifically for music 12. This broad offering underscores the OAC's commitment to fostering a vibrant and diverse music ecosystem within the province.  
  The OAC provides both project grants, for specific one-time initiatives, and operating grants, for ongoing support to arts organizations 19. Their music-specific grant programs cover a wide spectrum of activities, including Music Creation Projects, Music Organizations: Operating, Music Production and Presentation Projects, and Music Recording Projects 19. This variety indicates support for different stages of music development and presentation, from the initial creative process to recording and live performances.  
  Applications for OAC grants are managed through their online system, Nova 19. The provided snippets offer details about application deadlines and processes for specific music programs, highlighting the need for careful attention to program-specific guidelines.  
  Similar to the Canada Council for the Arts, the OAC employs peer assessment 19 as a key component of its grant evaluation process. This ensures that applications are reviewed by individuals with expertise in the relevant artistic fields, emphasizing artistic merit, impact, and viability as primary assessment criteria 26.  
  **A particularly valuable resource provided by the Ontario Arts Council is its "Open Data" page** 27**.** This initiative offers publicly accessible lists of grant recipients in CSV format for each fiscal year dating back to 2015-16 and extending to 2023-24 27. Crucially, these lists include information that can be filtered by artistic discipline, allowing users to specifically identify music grant recipients 27. The availability of accompanying data dictionaries 27 is essential for understanding the various fields within these datasets, such as program name, grant amount, and recipient type. This provides a significant level of transparency and a direct means of accessing information about music grants awarded since 2015.  
  The OAC also publishes annual reports 28 that offer a broader perspective on their activities and funding priorities within the music sector. These reports often highlight specific music awards and provide overviews of the various music grant programs offered 29.  
  To assist prospective applicants, the OAC provides guides such as the "Guide to OAC Support Material" 33, which details the required artistic examples and support documents for applications, including specific guidelines for audio and video submissions relevant to music. The "Guide to Assessment" 26 offers insights into the criteria and process used by peer assessors. Additionally, the OAC website features a "Grant Results" section 34 where users can browse past grant recipients by year and specific program, offering another way to explore successful music grants.  
  The Ontario Arts Council stands out for its commitment to transparency through its Open Data portal, providing direct access to detailed lists of music grant recipients since 2015. This resource, combined with their annual reports and applicant guides, offers valuable information for understanding their funding activities and priorities in the music sector.
* **3.2. Ontario Creates (Ontario Music Fund)**  
  Ontario Creates, through the Ontario Music Fund (OMF), focuses on fostering the economic growth and development of the music industry within Ontario 12. This emphasis on economic impact distinguishes the OMF from the Ontario Arts Council's broader cultural mandate. The OMF aims to support music companies and organizations in expanding their economic and cultural footprint both within Canada and internationally 12.  
  The OMF's funding primarily targets music industry businesses, such as record labels and music publishers, as well as organizations like music industry trade associations and presenters 38. This focus differs from the OAC, which also provides grants to individual artists. The eligibility criteria for the OMF's various program streams, including the Music Creation stream, often include requirements for minimum annual revenues from core business activities 38, indicating support for more established entities within the sector. A key component of the application process for the OMF is the submission of a comprehensive business plan 38, underscoring the fund's focus on strategic business development and economic outcomes.  
  While the provided snippets offer detailed information about the OMF's program objectives, funding streams, and eligibility requirements, there is no explicit mention of publicly available lists of past grant recipients or examples of successful applications.  
  The Ontario Music Fund supports the business and organizational aspects of the music industry in Ontario, with a focus on economic growth. While detailed information about their funding programs is available, the research does not indicate readily accessible lists of past grant recipients or examples of successful applications.

**4. Other Potential Resources**

* **4.1. Organizations or Initiatives Maintaining Grant Application Archives**  
  The research material lists various organizations involved in providing music-related grants in Ontario 12, including FACTOR, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Creates, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Radio Starmaker Fund, SOCAN Foundation, and Toronto Arts Council. However, the snippets do not suggest the existence of a centralized, publicly accessible archive that compiles successful grant applications from multiple funding bodies within Ontario or Canada. Each organization typically manages its own application data and may publish lists of recipients or summaries of funded projects, but a consolidated archive does not appear to be readily available.
* **4.2. General Grant Writing Resources for Ontario Music**  
  Several resources offer general guidance on grant writing for musicians in Ontario. The City of Toronto's music grants page 12 serves as a useful directory of funding opportunities. The SOCAN Foundation 12 provides grants to music creators and publishers, and their website outlines their programs, though it doesn't explicitly offer examples of successful applications. Websites like Trickle Down Music 40 and ArtReach 41 offer valuable tips and resources on the grant writing process for musicians in Canada and Ontario. Notably, Trickle Down Music mentions a "Successful Grant Example" from FACTOR 40, which, while not a full application, could offer insights into what makes a proposal successful for that particular funder. Additionally, "The Music Educator's Guide to Grant Writing" 42 is mentioned as including examples of awarded funding, although its primary focus may be on music education grants. These general resources can provide valuable guidance on structuring proposals, developing budgets, and understanding funder expectations, potentially offering indirect insights into successful applications.

**5. Compilation of Resources**

The following table summarizes the key resources identified for accessing information about successful music grant applications from Canadian federal and Ontario provincial government bodies since 2015:

| **Funding Body** | **Resource Type** | **Timeframe Covered** | **Link/Reference** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Canada Council for the Arts | Annual Reports | 2019-2023/24 | <https://canadacouncil.ca/about/governance/corporate-reports> | Provide overviews of funding by program and field of practice (including music). |
| Canada Council for the Arts | List of Grant & Prize Recipients | Varies | [https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/funding-decisions/browse-recipients](https://www.google.com/search?q=https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/funding-decisions/browse-recipients) | Allows browsing of recipients, but may not include detailed application information. |
| FACTOR Canada | Annual Reports | 2015/16-2022/23 | <https://www.factor.ca/about-the-foundation/annual-reports/> | Provide data on funding distribution and program activities within the Anglophone Canadian music industry. |
| FACTOR Canada | #FACTORfunded Success Stories | Ongoing | <https://www.factor.ca/factorfunded/success-stories/> | Offers qualitative insights into the types of projects FACTOR supports. |
| Ontario Arts Council | Open Data - Grant Recipient Lists | 2015/16-2023/24 | <https://www.arts.on.ca/research-impact/open-data> | Provides downloadable CSV files of grant recipients, filterable by discipline (including music), with accompanying data dictionaries. |
| Ontario Arts Council | Annual Reports | Varies | ([https://www.arts.on.ca/news-resources/resources?searchtext=&searchmode=anyword&searchfilter=5%3B](https://www.google.com/search?q=https://www.arts.on.ca/news-resources/resources?searchtext%3D%26searchmode%3Danyword%26searchfilter%3D5%253B)) | Offer overviews of OAC activities and funding in the arts, including music. |
| Ontario Arts Council | Grant Results | 2015-Present | <https://www.arts.on.ca/grants/general-granting-information/grant-results> | Allows browsing of grant recipients by year and program. |
| Trickle Down Music | Grant Writing Tips & Example | Not Specific | <https://trickledownmusic.ca/grant-writing/> | Offers general grant writing advice and includes a "Successful Grant Example" from FACTOR. |

**6. Conclusion**

This investigation has identified several key resources for individuals seeking information about successful music grant applications from Canadian federal and Ontario provincial government bodies since 2015. The Ontario Arts Council's Open Data portal stands out as a particularly valuable resource, providing direct access to lists of grant recipients in the music sector through downloadable CSV files. These datasets, when used in conjunction with the provided data dictionaries, offer a tangible means of analyzing funding trends and identifying the types of music projects that have received support.

Annual reports from both the Canada Council for the Arts and FACTOR Canada offer broader contextual insights into the funding priorities and overall investment in the music industry at the federal level. While these reports may not contain full anonymized applications, they provide valuable data on funding distribution and strategic directions. FACTOR's "#FACTORfunded" success stories offer qualitative narratives that can further illuminate the types of projects they favor.

General grant writing resources, such as those provided by Trickle Down Music and ArtReach, can offer valuable guidance on the principles of successful grant writing, potentially including limited examples or insights into funder expectations.

It is important to note that direct access to full anonymized successful grant applications from these government bodies appears to be limited. The focus is primarily on transparency through recipient lists and high-level summaries. For more in-depth understanding, direct engagement with program officers at these funding organizations or further exploration of publicly available program evaluations might be necessary. The resources identified in this report, however, provide a strong foundation for understanding the landscape of music grant funding in Ontario and from the Canadian federal government since 2015.

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