

ECO-ACTION ACCELERATOR

The **Eco-Action Accelerator** is a 16-week microgrant program that provides Canada Service Corps (CSC) alumni with the tools to scale up a pre-existing service project and produce expansion plans that focus on the long-term sustainability of the project. The program consists of 3-interconnected components that support the development and delivery of grantee service projects: a 3-day retreat or in-person workshops in British Columbia, 6 entrepreneurial workshops, and bi-weekly mentorship calls with a triad of your peers.

Grantees are expected to spend 5-10 hours/week working on the program to meet the deliverables, and will benefit from:

- Funding from one of three competitive streams:
 - 45 grants of \$1,500,
 - 30 grants of \$3,000,
 - 15 grants of \$5,000.
- Guidance to develop a long-term sustainable business plan for successful delivery or scaling of their project.
- A collaborative approach to project development that taps into participants' knowledge and experience to build a unique network of support.
- Access to professional resources and subject matter experts.

Participation in the program is limited to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or persons with official refugee status between ages 15-30 at the start of the program, and who have successfully completed a 120-hour CSC program.

Grantees must have a project idea they would like to transform into a larger-scale or long-term initiative. Only one application per project will be accepted. If there are multiple team members, the team will need to elect a project lead to apply and list the group members in the application. *Only one team member may represent the service project at the 3-day retreat and in-person workshops at this time.*

The application process will require individuals interested in the program to provide clear information on the scope, audience, and goals of their project, including a funding request and rationale from one of the three funding streams.

Please contact accelerator@ocean.org for any questions.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be 15 to 30 years old at the time of application;
- Be an alum of a Canada Service Corps (CSC) program;
- Reside in the Lower Mainland BC if 15-18 years old at the start of the program
- Have a service project idea contributing to positive environmental change by addressing climate change, plastic & pollution, or overfishing either directly (ex. reducing reliance on single-use plastics, restoring habitats, improving access to sustainable seafood, etc.) or indirectly (ex. encouraging nature connectedness, promoting accessibility & inclusivity in environmental spaces, raising awareness of environmental issues, combating climate anxiety & eco-grief, etc.); and
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person granted refugee status in Canada.

Program Expectations

During the 16-week program, Accelerator Grantees are expected to:

- Participate in a 3-day retreat in British Columbia if 19-30 years old (costs associated with the in-person retreat will be covered including: food, lodging, transportation);
- Participate in weekend workshops in the Lower Mainland if 15-18 years old;
- Engage fully in 6 virtual workshops and discussions tailored to developing appropriate skills;
- Engage fully in bi-weekly mentorship triad calls with peers;
- Lead an individual or collaborative project that contributes to positive change for the environment either directly or indirectly (see examples in *Eligibility* above);
- Keep all relevant receipts to submit an expense report and a final report prior to the program end date; and
- Develop and submit a scale-up and/or long-term sustainable business plan for the service project.

Outcomes

- **Project Development & Delivery** | Using design thinking principles, develop a comprehensive short and long-term sustainable business plan, including a model of change and results chain. Delivery of the project with a clear definition of success that encapsulates growth in the project's reach, scope, or longevity.
- **Entrepreneurial & Project Management Skills** | Apply new entrepreneurial skills and knowledge gained from attending 6 workshops and either the 3-day retreat or weekend workshops to both the project development and when providing feedback to peers in the mentorship triads.
- **Reconciliation, Inclusion & Accessibility** | Identify and incorporate actions for reconciliation, inclusion, and accessibility within the service project.
- **Capacity for Environmental & Community Action** | Expand understanding of, interest in, and capacity for environmental action and active participation in the community through scaling of the service project.



Application Process

1. Develop your **Project Proposal** and **Funding Request Rationale**. The form does not save your progress, so we recommend preparing these sections in advance.

Project Proposal

This section can be a written submission (max 750 words) or a video recording (max 5 minutes). Up to five photos/visuals can be included in the submission as supporting materials. Your Project Proposal should:

- Outline the pre-existing service project you wish to further develop or scale-up, including the scope, audience, and goals of the project;
- Describe why you want to participate in this program;
- Explain how your project will effect positive change for the environment, increase national awareness of ocean conservation, and/or promote an inclusive and accessible environmental sector.

Funding Request Rationale

We offer three tiers of grant funding options through this program: \$1500, \$3000, or \$5000.

Your funding request should outline your anticipated financial need and how you plan to use these funds. Please provide as much information as possible, specifying what the funds will be used for. The three funding streams are increasingly more competitive the higher the value.

**The project's budget will be further developed and refined upon acceptance and as part of the program curriculum.*

2. Apply [here](#) if you're 19-30, or [here](#) if you're 15-18!
3. Applicants can expect to hear back about their application status within 3 weeks after the application deadline for the respective cohort.

Assessment Criteria

Please use the following assessment criteria to inform your **Project Proposal** and **Funding Request Rationale**:

Project Proposal

1. Concept
 - i. Does the project align with the Accelerator themes?
 - ii. The project's potential to transform into a larger-scale or long-term initiative.
 - iii. The project's scope, audience, and goals are described and clear.
2. Impact
 - i. The project's potential to effect positive change for the environment, increase national awareness of environmental protection, and/or promote an inclusive and accessible environmental sector.
 - ii. The project's potential to positively impact communities disproportionately affected by an environmental issue.
 - iii. Does the project fill an existing gap in the interest area, or does it support progress of existing ideas?
3. Delivery
 - i. The project's potential to be realized and delivered with a clear definition of growth and success
 - ii. Demonstrated commitment to the service project and timeline, and capacity to grow and benefit from participation in the program

Funding Request Rationale

1. Reasonability & Scalability
 - i. The funding request (\$1500, \$3000, or \$5000) is reasonable for the potential scalability and scope of the service project.
 - ii. Details of how the anticipated financial need is likely to be used is described and realized in detail.

APPLY NOW!

