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Title of Proposal

Math in the Community

Contact information

The one person and place to communicate with the applicant(s).

Name

E-mail

Telephone

Fax

Institution or department to administer grant funds

Name

Address

Contact

E-mail

Telephone

Fax

Summary

Less than 100 words

Total amount requested in this competition \$

We are seeking funding to continue expanding our outreach into elementary, middle, and high schools across Ontario. We are continuing to coordinate robust programs that put emphasis in creating an engaging and interactive experience to foster the love of learning mathematics. The funding will help support our Count Me In Program and various community initiatives that we run each year. Our programs are targeted to students, teachers, and families across Ontario, with an effort in reaching those in under-served, lower income or rural areas who would not otherwise have access to these math enrichment activities.

Applicants

Put any specific information on the relevant experience or expertise of an applicant in "Other".

Name(s)	<input type="text" value="Robert Jerrard"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text" value="robert.jerrard@utoronto.ca"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Position	<input type="text" value="Professor and Chair"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Employer	<input type="text" value="University of Toronto, Depart"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="40 St. George Street, Room"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text" value="Toronto, ON"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text" value="M5S 2E4"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text" value="Canada"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CMS Member #	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Current grants	NSERC Promoscience	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What you propose to do

at most 40 lines

The Mathematics Outreach Office at the University of Toronto offers many high-caliber math enrichment programs, but our flagship brand—what we are most proud of and most passionate about—is our programs that offer hands-on math activities to inspire youth to love mathematics. There are two main parts of the outreach to school initiatives, that being community programs, and the Count Me In program.

The math community programs make up the backbone of our programming year, including our youth clubs, camps, pavilion events (Science Rendezvous, Alumni Weekend, math fairs), and youth conferences. These events connect the math community through fun and interactive events to foster the love of learning mathematics.

Count Me In is designed to address the need for knowledge sharing amongst teachers in Mathematics, and working with under-represented and racialized groups to build learning communities around mathematical resources supporting effective pedagogical practices. The objective of the Count Me In program is to improve attitudes and beliefs about math for students and teachers. The program focuses on exposing and encouraging math teachers to interesting math topics, resources useful for their classroom and teaching strategies that show the breadth, power and relevance of mathematics. The Count Me In program will work towards this objective through three initiatives, a math conference for teachers, a math learning community and in-school program.

It should be noted that Math Outreach is already involved with trying to improve the crisis in elementary math teaching through the Count Me In Teachers’ Institute in collaboration with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Its summer conference is designed specifically for teachers who do not enjoy teaching math and/or feel underprepared to do it. We had approximately 200 participants attend in the most recent conference in August 2025, with more than 50 participants registered for the math learning community.

The motivation to work with schools in low-income areas comes from a few directions. First, stagnant and falling EQAO math scores in low-income areas indicate that math learning is in a crisis. Furthermore, many students participating in our math community programs have tended to be from higher income areas, including some from private schools. Though, by organizing hybrid options for our initiatives, we intend to keep our programs accessible to all schools across Ontario. We want to make our programming accessible by bringing it directly to students and schools that are least likely to access high quality math enrichment activities.

Our existing community programs and experience with the Count Me In Institute puts us in a good position to continue expanding these initiatives to schools across Ontario and into areas that may not have such resources.

Budget

Use Tab key to navigate

Description	Revenue		
Community Programs	0	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NSERC Promoscience	32,400	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Self-Funded	92,100		

CMS Endowment Grant requested 2500

Total Revenue \$ 127,000

Expenses

Community Program (Training, Supplies and Tools)	10,000		
Count Me In Program	117,000		

Total Expenses \$ 127,000

Other Funding, partners, revenue potential, information on applicants such as publications or awards, at most 20 lines.

Such programs require considerable coordination with schools and volunteers and as Math Outreach is a fully self-funded unit, we are seeking your assistance to help pay for salary costs for the coordinator, as well as supplies needed for the workshops. The CMS endowment grant will be split among the two main initiatives.

We are currently receiving funding from NSERC PromoScience for the Count Me In program in the amount of \$32,400. With our aim to expand the Count Me In Program this year, the program is projected to cost \$117,000 to run the conference, on-going learning community, and the in-school program. These expenses cover catering, supplies, tools, room bookings, salaries, honourariums and many more. In addition to the funding from NSERC, we have various other sources of support such as the Pillar Institute and in-kind contributions from OISE and the Mathematics department.

We hope CMS can continue supporting our initiatives bringing these initiatives to under-represented communities that may not have access to these resources!

Project start date January 2026

Finish date December 2026

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