

Who Gets OAC Grants?

OAC continually analyzes data and statistics about granting programs. We do this for a number of reasons: so we know what the trends are in the arts community; to advocate on behalf of artists and arts organizations across the province; and to try to make sure our programs are as responsive as possible.

One of the ways we look at grant statistics is by success rate. The success rate is the proportion of applications that receive a grant. If a program receives 90 applications at a deadline and OAC is able to fund 30 of them, the success rate is 33%. One-third of applications received are funded.

Success rates vary across programs, change year-to-year, and vary by region. The following table examines success rates in the 8 regions of the province (click here to see the map for the province with these regional divisions).

Success Rates, all OAC programs, 2004-05			
Region	Success rates, all applicants	Success rates, individual applicants	Success rates, organizational applicants
East	56%	46%	73%
Central	62%	60%	68%
Northeast	71%	64%	81%
South Central	42%	37%	58%
Toronto	53%	47%	69%
Southwest	63%	59%	73%
Northwest	77%	73%	87%
Far North	82%	78%	88%
Total	56%	50%	71%

For all types of grant, the overall OAC success rate is 56% – for every 100 applications we receive, 56 are funded. The rate in most regions of the province is higher than that – in those regions, applications are more likely to be funded. The most successful regions, in order, are: Far North, Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Central. The Eastern region has the same success rate as the overall OAC rate; Toronto’s rate is slightly lower than the overall average, and the only region with a significantly lower success rate is South Central (the Greater Toronto Area surrounding the city of Toronto).

The success rates, of course, don’t speak to the number of grants. A high success rate from the Far North results in far fewer grants than a moderate success rate in Toronto, because many more applications are received (and funded) from Toronto.

The overall success rates are higher for organizations than for individuals. There are a number of reasons for this, including the fact that all operating grants go to organizations and operating programs have a very high rate of successful applicants. Also, some of the most popular and oversubscribed programs at OAC are available to individuals only.

The patterns, however, are not dissimilar when you compare overall success rates, success rates for organizations and those for individuals. The three northern regions are always home to the highest success rates, and the South Central region the lowest. The Eastern and Southwestern regions have far higher rates for organizations than individuals, and Toronto registers just below the average in every case.

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