



GRAND VALLEY

REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor Soloman and Members of Council
From: Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk
Meeting Date: September 24, 2024
Subject: Current Grant Opportunities and Recommendations

Recommendation

THAT Council receives the Report – Current Grant Opportunities and Recommendation

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with an application to the Ontario Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 1 to seek funding for the replacement of the roof at the Grand Valley and District Community Centre.

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with an application to the Ontario Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2 to seek funding for the creation of an outdoor multi-sport playing field at the Concession 2-3 park.

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with an application to the Dufferin County Municipal Emergency Preparedness Grant to seek funding for emergency back up power for the Town's drinking water system, and authorizes staff to work with the drinking water system operator to determine a cost effective system for ensuring that the Town's drinking water system is prepared for emergencies.

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with an application to the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund Round 2 to seek funding toward the construction of the Town's second elevated water tank.

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with an application to the Housing Enabling Core Servicing Stream to seek funding for the Scott Street Redevelopment Project.

Purpose

To present Council with a list of open Grant application opportunities and recommendations of projects for which the Town could submit applications and to present a request for additional suggestions.

Background

A significant number of funding opportunities has arisen that the Town could apply for in order to attempt to find funding for projects already planned and projects for which the Town has been considering but not moved forward with planning due to lack of funding.

Discussion

The following list details the grants that have opened up for application. For some of these, one or more suggestions are presented. For others, staff either present information on why we are not eligible for council information, or request suggestions for potential projects.

In the Recommendation section of the report, separate recommendations are presented. Should Council concur with any of the recommendations, independent resolutions are requested so that the resolution can accompany each application. Should Council have ideas on other projects for which funding could be requested, that information would be taken back by staff for review against the funding's criteria.

Table - Current Opportunities and Recommendations

Grant Name and description	Recommendation
<p>Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program- https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/gicb-bcvi/index-eng.html</p> <p>a. Grant for the creation and build new community buildings or to improve the quality and resilience of existing buildings.</p> <p>b. Projects with total eligible cost from \$100,000 to \$2,999,999 can apply from August 1, 2024, until October 16, 2024, 3 pm</p> <p>c. Projects with total eligible costs from \$3 million to \$25 million can apply from September 4, 2024, until October 16, 2024, 3pm</p>	<p>The application process for this Program is very technical, requiring expert analysis of Green House Gas emissions of the current assets and then evidence that the proposed project will decrease the GHD emissions by a predetermined target.</p> <p>It may be possible for future Town projects to include these types of analysis to the planning stages of a project. We do not have sufficient time to conduct the studies needed to apply during this funding window.</p>
<p>Ontario Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund- https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-</p>	<p>Two projects that the Town is working on would meet the criteria for these streams.</p>

Grant Name and description	Recommendation
<p>funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-3</p> <p>a. Capital funding program to revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and support the construction of new facilities across the province. The CSRIF is a two-stream, application-based funding program:</p> <p>Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation – funding between \$150,000 and \$1 million to extend the lifespan of existing community sport and recreation facilities/spaces and improve local programming and accessibility features to meet community need</p> <p>Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds – funding up to \$10 million to invest in new, transformative community sport and recreation infrastructure, including assets that do not currently exist in a community or the replacement of existing assets that have reached the end of their lifespan</p> <p>b. Stream 1 is open until October 29, 2024, at 5:00 PM, stream 2 is continuously open until all funding has been allocated</p> <p>c. This grant is a 50/50 cost sharing (50% of project cost from province, 50% is to be covered by municipality). However, eligible applicants can submit a special consideration form to have 70% of project costs covered by the province.</p>	<p>Stream 1 – replacing the roof at the Community Centre. The Community Centre Board has already asked the consultant that is planning the expansion to also include the roof in the design and scope of the project. With Council permission, staff would work with the consultant to submit an application for the roof replacement part of the total project. This grant cannot be used to offset municipal costs of the expansion, funded in part by an ICIP grant, as “stacking” is not permitted. But if care is taken to break out the different elements of the project, the roof would be an eligible project. Council permission to apply is requested.</p> <p>Stream 2 – When planning the ball diamond project at the Concession 2-3 park, the original design also included the construction of “soccer fields.” Given that much of the planning for those fields has been completed, the Town could review those original plans, amend and update as needed, then apply to Stream 2 to obtain funding to construct the fields as “multisport outdoor playing fields.” Council permission is requested.</p>
<p>Dufferin County Municipal Emergency Preparedness Grant-</p> <p>a. Projects must align with the County-wide emergency management program and enhance the resilience of the community as a whole.</p> <p>b. Lower tier municipalities can receive matching funds up to a maximum of</p>	<p>Staff have identified the need for improved emergency power in the drinking water system.</p> <p>With Council’s permission, the Town will apply for a grant toward the cost of appropriate back up power for either the water tower, Cooper Street pumping station or Melody Lane pumping station. Currently, there is no back up capacity at</p>

Grant Name and description	Recommendation
<p>\$12,500 for requests that meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>c. Municipalities of Dufferin County can apply for 2025 emergency readiness projects</p> <p>d. Open until September 30th, 2024</p>	<p>the water tower and Cooper and Melody’s systems are aging. The rest of the project’s cost would be paid from water revenues in 2025.</p> <p>If authorized to do so, staff will work with our Drinking Water System Operator to determine a cost-effective way to provide emergency power to these two facilities.</p>
<p>Intact Insurance’s Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants:</p> <p>https://www.intactfc.com/in-the-community/municipal-climate/mcrg-program-details</p> <p>a. Application form:</p> <p>https://forms.benevity.org/d046af5d-8423-4b05-88e1-36ed57b19baf?lang=en-us</p> <p>b. Applications open until January 31, 2025</p> <p>c. “The 2024 Municipal Climate Resilience Grants Program is Intact’s climate adaptation granting program to build climate resilient communities, with a focus on municipalities. Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from the impacts of climate change. We are investing \$2 million over 2 years, across Canada in communities to fund practical and effective solutions to protect people from floods or wildfires. Each project will be allocated a maximum of \$200,000.”</p> <p>d. Project focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Flood resilience ii. Wildfire resilience 	<p>Staff have reached out to our Intact advisor for details on this project. Depending on the results of this conversation, one project that could be considered is the creation and execution of a plan to restore the shoreline of the Grand River under and around the Main Street Bridge, so that flooding might be reduced in future events. More details to follow on this opportunity. Council could consider other potential ideas for climate resiliency projects for future discussion.</p>
<p>Ontario Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund:</p> <p>https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-9</p>	<p>This is the second round of funding announced for this Fund. Given that the Town’s application in the first round was unsuccessful due to the high level of competition for the first round, staff recommend reapplying for the same</p>

Grant Name and description	Recommendation
<p>a. Second round of applications for this opportunity. Only municipalities who did not receive funding in the first round of this grant can apply for this second intake</p> <p>b. Applications open until November 1st, 2024, at 4:59pm</p> <p>c. The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund will help municipalities develop, repair, rehabilitate, and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. In response to the high demand for funding under the first intake of the program, we are investing an additional \$250 million and accepting a second intake of applications to allow even more municipalities to apply for funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water infrastructure projects funded through the program will help to: • enable growth and housing development • increase access to clean drinking water • protect communities by increasing treatment and/or management of wastewater and stormwater <p>d. Projects must start no later than September 30, 2025, and must be completed by March 31, 2028, under this second application intake</p>	<p>project, being the Town’s second water tower, as this project’s outcomes align exactly with the Fund’s criteria, and the application process is identical so no new information will be needed to reapply (no new studies, no new analysis, etc.). Council permission to apply is requested.</p>
<p>Ontario Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program — Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream: https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-15</p> <p>a. Applications open until October 18th, 2024, at 4:59pm</p> <p>b. “The Housing-Enabling Core Servicing stream will help municipalities build, maintain and repair municipal roads, bridges and culverts. These projects will</p>	<p>Upon review of the growth-related projects that the Town has planned, the opportunity to apply for funding to help cover the costs of the Scott Street redevelopment seems to best fit the criteria for this program. Since the project has to have a direct correlation with the construction of new homes, and since we are not in any planning stage for any other road or bridge projects that have that correlation, the Scott Street project would be a good fit for this fund.</p>

Grant Name and description	Recommendation
<p>unlock new housing opportunities and ensure communities have safe and reliable roadways and transit infrastructure.”</p> <p>c. “Province will fund a maximum of 50% (up to \$20 million) of eligible project costs with the municipality required to fund all remaining project costs, including any cost over-runs or escalations. applicant can apply for up to \$20 million in provincial contribution on total eligible costs, times the number of applicants. For example, a joint project with three eligible co-applicants can submit a project with a combined provincial contribution of up to \$60 million.</p>	<p>Council permission to apply is requested.</p>
<p>Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Grow Grant</p> <p>Take a successful project to a new level. Grow grants provide a higher level of funding over 2-3 years to help proven community projects increase their impact.</p> <p>Next deadline November 6, 2024, 5:00 pm ET</p> <p>This page is under development.</p> <p>Updated information for this grant stream will be available fall 2024.</p>	<p>This application opportunity has just been announced and information is pending. Should the criteria for the grant align with any planned Town projects, we will bring a recommendation report back to Council for consideration.</p>

Financial Impact

The opportunity to offset the costs of otherwise tax-funded or user fee-funded projects will be of significant benefit to the community.

Additionally, growth related projects would potentially occur faster than anticipated if funding becomes available to assist the Town to pay for these high dollar value projects.

Respectfully submitted by,

Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk