



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE REPORT

Subject: Proposed Changes to the Community Investment Grant
Director: Corporate Services
Manager: Legislative Services
Report Number: Legislative Services-2023-11
Meeting Date: Monday, June 5, 2023

Recommendation:

That Council pass a by-law at the June 19, 2023 Council meeting, to adopt the updated Community Investment Grant Policy including the application form and statement of accountability.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, June 5, 2023

Report Summary:

The Community Investment Grant Evaluation Team met on May 17, 2023 to discuss updating the Community Investment Grant Policy. The Team is recommending four changes to the Policy: 1) Changing the minor sports funding formula to 60/40, with 60% attributed to facility costs incurred by the minor sport group and 40% attributed to enrollment numbers. 2) That the funding amount requested per group and the maximum amount granted must not exceed \$5,000. 3) Evaluate festival applications in the same pool as the other local, non-profit organizations who apply to Community Investment Grant. 4) Remove funding streams.

Origin: LS 2023-07 Recommended Community Investment Grants

Existing Policy: GG.3.5 Community Investment Grants

Background/Analysis:

The Community Investment Grant provides financial assistance to local non-profit organizations for projects and events that will have a positive impact on the quality of life in the community. Five other communities in Bruce County offer

similar grant programs. A brief description of the grants can be found in the attached chart.

During grant application evaluations in April 2023, the Community Investment Grant Evaluation Team requested to meet again before the next grant funding cycle began to review the funding formula for Minor Sports. The Team consists of Deputy Mayor Clarke and Councillors Kennedy and Steinhoff-Gray. Staff support is provided by Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Roxana Baumann, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk Jennifer Lawrie, and Records Management Clerk Jenna Leifso.

The Team met on May 17, 2023 to discuss several updates to the Community Investment Grants Policy, which was last updated on October 19, 2016. The Team has recommended making the following changes to the policy:

1) Minor Sports Funding Formula

The formula is used to determine how much funding minor sports organizations will receive from the Grant. The current formula is an 80/20 formula, with 80% attributed to facility costs incurred by the minor sports group, and 20% attributed to enrollment numbers.

The Evaluation Team determined that using this formula, the funds were not evenly distributed amongst the minor sports groups. The Team is proposing a 60/40 funding formula, with 60% attributed to facility costs incurred and 40% attributed to enrollment numbers.

No group shall receive more than 50% of the funds allocated to minor sports. Any excess funds will be redistributed amongst the other groups. For example, assuming a total funding allotment of \$30,000, if a minor sports group were allocated \$16,780 in funding, they would be capped at a maximum of \$15,000 and \$1,780 would be redistributed to the other eligible minor sports organizations.

2) Set a Maximum Amount of Funding

The new policy proposes to put a cap on the amount of funds groups can request. The funding amount requested per group and the maximum amount granted must not exceed \$5,000. This will give applicants a more realistic expectation of the amount they could receive and allow them plan their projects accordingly.

3) Modify Festival Funding

Currently the Kincardine Scottish Festival, Lighthouse Blues Festival, and the Kincardine Summer Music Festival each receive \$3,000 every year as per Resolution #06/14/17-12. The Team is proposing that the three festival applications be evaluated along with all the Community Investment Grant applications. This will give the festivals the opportunity to apply for up to the maximum amount of \$5,000 in grant funding.

4) Remove Funding Streams

The funding streams were originally introduced with the intention that the four streams (Arts, Culture, Heritage; Sports, Recreation; Social, Health, Environmental, Other; and Tourism) would receive an equal share of available grant funds. Historically, this has not been achievable since one stream tends to receive more applications than the other three streams.

For example, 42% of the funds for the 2023 Grant Cycle were allocated to the Social, Health, Environmental Stream because this stream received the most applications. The Evaluation Team recommends that the funds be allocated based on the merits of the project, rather than the stream.

Integrated Strategy 2020 – 2025: 5.4 Promote Kincardine as a great place to live, work, and celebrate diversity.

Financial Implications: The draft 2024 budget would include a total of \$69,000 in the Community Investment Grant fund, with the \$9,000 previously set aside for festival funding to be added to the \$60,000 Community Investment Grant fund.

Attachments: Policy GG.3.5 Community Investment Grants, Draft Community Investment Grants Policy including an updated application form and accountability statement, Community Grants available in Bruce County Comparison Chart

Prepared by: Jenna Leifso, Records Management Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk