

Staff Report to Council

Title: Recreation Financial Assistance Program Update

Report Number: Recreation and Community Programs-2024-06

Director: Community Services

Manager: Recreation & Community Programs

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council repeal By-law No. 2024-061 and enter into an updated Child Activity Assistance Program Partnership Agreement with the County of Bruce.

Executive Summary:

At the April 24, 2024 meeting, Council approved entering into a Program Partnership Agreement with the County of Bruce who offer a Child Activity Assistance Program (CAAP) which will permit Municipality of Kincardine residents to benefit from a \$5,000 annual contribution to the program. On May 24, 2024, staff met with County of Bruce to further discuss the agreement and some of the questions that arose from Council, particularly regarding how to manage surplus funding. An updated agreement outlines that if there are unused funds they will be held by the County in reserve to be applied to the program in future years for Municipality of Kincardine residents.

Strategic Priorities:

C.11-Create improvements in inclusion, diversity, equity and access

Financial Considerations:

The Municipality of Kincardine would continue to budget \$5,000 in the annual department operating budget to participate in the County of Bruce Child Activity Assistance Program.

Policy:

Council approval

Context and Background Information:

In 2019, Council approved PR.2.1 Recreation and Leisure Financial Assistance Program Policy. The policy was designed to assist families with economic need to participate in recreation programs offered in the Municipality of Kincardine. Residents who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the policy are able to receive a maximum of \$300 per participant per calendar year. There has been \$5,000 allocated to the Recreation Financial Assistance Program since 2020, however, due to a variety of factors very little has been used from this fund. In 2023, \$500 was utilized.

The County of Bruce offers a Child Activity Assistance Program, which is a fund available for those with economic need. The fund assists families with the cost of activities including extra-curricular activities, sports and leisure activities, arts and cultural programs, Scouts/Brownies, etc. Bruce County families can access this program for dependent children under the age of 18, and receive up to \$500 per child, per year. This funding may be accessed for multiple activities per child in a calendar year up to the maximum of \$500.

The Municipality of Kincardine has stipulated that our \$5,000 be specifically designated for Municipality of Kincardine residents approved through Bruce County's funding criteria. Bruce County staff will provide an annual report outlining the number of residents accessing the program and the amount of funds dispersed. This will assist with ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the program.

To date, 13 residents from the Municipality of Kincardine have accessed this funding. Through continued joint efforts to promote this program we expect the number of residents who benefit from this fund to increase.

Staff have prepared a media release informing residents of the program and sharing the process for applying for financial assistance through the County of Bruce Child Activity Assistance Program.

Consultation Overview:

Municipal staff consulted with the County of Bruce staff regarding this program and how to best assist each other in terms of combined efforts and promotions.

Origin:

PR.2.1 Recreation and Leisure Financial Assistance Program

Implementation Considerations:

Once approved and the new partnership entered into commences, a media release would follow and the program would start in Q2 2024, with annual updates provided by the County.

Risk Analysis:

Attachments:

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