



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 9, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ontario Seniors Secretariat Grant (CES15013) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Mark Weingartner 905-546-2424 ext. 6095
SUBMITTED BY:	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Emergency and Community Services Committee, at its meeting of December 17, 2014, provided the following direction:

“Staff to report to ECS and Seniors Advisory Committee about the Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program”.

Information:

On November 24, 2014, the Ontario Seniors Secretariat (OSS) announced a new Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program for local governments and community organizations. The purpose of this grant program is to “help communities become age-friendly by ensuring that the needs of seniors are considered at every stage of community planning and developments”. Planning related projects must be directly related to at least one of the steps outlined in *Finding the Right Fit: Age-friendly Community Planning*, a planning guide produced by the Province of Ontario in late 2013. These steps are:

- i) defining local principles;
- ii) needs assessment;
- iii) developing an action plan; and,
- iv) implementation and evaluation.

Larger communities with populations greater than 100,000 residents are eligible for up to \$50,000 between June 15, 2015 and March 31, 2017.

The Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA), in partnership with the City of Hamilton’s Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division and the Hamilton Social Planning

and Research Council (SPRC), applied to the OSS for the maximum grant amount of \$50,000. The proposal will address step iv) implementation and evaluation, and includes:

- developing a utilization focused evaluation plan;
- identifying local age-friendly indicators;
- monitoring and evaluating progress on short, medium and long term actions and activities; and,
- reporting to Council, city staff, residents and other stakeholders

While the HCoA is the primary applicant and will be the recipient of the funds, the evaluation will be conducted by a subcommittee which includes the HCoA, the City, SPRC and McMaster University. It is anticipated that successful applicants will be notified in June, 2015.

The City of Hamilton's Seniors Advisory Committee provided a letter of support for this application following their meeting of January 9, 2015 when this submission was discussed with the Committee.

This funding will contribute to the achievement of Action 7.2.3. in *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City* which is to "Develop an evaluation framework using emerging national and international practices to monitor implementation of the plan".

In addition to the funding opportunity described above, on January 28, 2015 the Ontario Seniors Secretariat announced a new funding opportunity entitled the Seniors Community Grant Program. The program is focused on encouraging initiatives and projects in the non-profit sector that encourage greater social inclusion, volunteerism, education, and community engagement for seniors across the province. Applications are being accepted until March 27, 2015. Grants range from \$500-\$8,000. Local partners have been made aware of this funding opportunity.