



CITY OF HAMILTON
CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 9, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Canada Community Revitalization Fund Initial Intake (FCS21077) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	John Savoia (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7298
SUBMITTED BY:	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary documentation, including Funding Agreements to receive funding under the Canada Community Revitalization Fund with content satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (b) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare any necessary by-laws for Council approval, for the purpose of giving effect to the City's acceptance of funding from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 23, 2021, the Federal government announced the launch of the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) which aims to help non-profit organizations, municipalities, Indigenous communities and other community groups across Canada to build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, assist with community vitality, support social and economic cohesion and help reanimate communities.

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Regional development agencies across Canada are delivering \$500 M over two years (2021-2022 to 2022-2023) for community infrastructure projects, with FedDev Ontario delivering \$144.7 M in southern Ontario via competitive intakes.

Eligible projects will be prioritized in the following order of importance:

- Revitalize downtown cores and main streets
- Reinvent outdoor spaces
- Create green infrastructure
- Increase accessibility of community spaces

Priority will be given to projects that are “shovel ready” such that:

- a) plans and specifications of the project have been complete
- b) the project is ready to accept bids for contracts
- c) has secured all necessary environmental approvals
- d) projects will be substantially completed by March 31, 2023

Additionally, selected projects must help communities rebound from the effects of the pandemic and are able to demonstrate measurable direct or indirect social and economic benefits.

A one-time special scheduled intake will accept applications and focus on eligible projects that are ready to proceed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications by July 23, 2021. Should there be remaining funding after the scheduled intake period, applications will continue to be accepted and funded on a continuous intake basis over the next two years or until such a time as the allocated funding is fully distributed. Organizations that submit multiple applications are required to rank the priority of each application. A resolution of support from municipal councils is not required under the CCRF program guidelines.

CCRF contributions will be determined based on the minimum amount required to carry out a project and may represent up to 75 percent of total eligible costs. Recipients could receive up to \$750 K. All contributions will be non-repayable. Eligible expenses must be incurred between April 19, 2021 and March 31, 2023.

For the aforementioned reasons, staff has identified the following projects for which applications have been submitted by the scheduled intake’s submission deadline of July 23, 2021. The following are listed in priority ranking that staff determined by assessing the project’s scope of work achieving CCRF program priorities (refer to the Analysis and Rationale for Recommendation(s) section of Report FCS21077 for more details of the submitted projects’ alignment with the Program’s assessment criteria).

Projects Submitted to FedDev Ontario for CCRF Program Funding Consideration

Priority Ranking	Project Title
1	St. Mark's Cultural Space Enhancements
2	Beasley Park Rehabilitation Phase 2
3	Victoria Park Spray Pad Replacement
4	Children's Museum Accessibility Improvements
5	Washroom Touchless Accessories

Alternatives for Consideration – N/A

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: As reflected in Appendix “A” to Report FCS21077, five projects have been submitted with a total gross cost of \$14.3 M. CCRF requested funding share of \$2.96 M with a City contribution of \$8.75 M. It should be noted that in February 2021, the Children’s Museum Accessibility project received funding approval for \$2.58 M from the Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) funding stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

The City share is included in 2021 – 2023 Capital Budgets and as such, funding provided by the CCRF Program will free up capital funding capacity that may be reallocated to other priority needs.

It is anticipated that there will be no significant operating expense impacts associated with the completion of the five projects submitted for funding consideration under CCRF.

Staffing: No impact to current staffing levels.

Legal: It is anticipated that the City will be required to enter into a funding agreement to receive CCRF grants and may need to enter into other ancillary agreements or pass by-laws to receive funding.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On June 23, 2021, the federal government announced the launch of the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) which aims to help communities, towns and cities across Canada to build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, assist with community vitality, support social and economic cohesion and help reanimate communities.

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Regional development agencies across Canada are delivering \$500 M over two years (2021-2022 to 2022-2023) for community infrastructure projects, with FedDev Ontario delivering \$144.7 M in southern Ontario via competitive intakes.

Eligible applicants:

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Co-operatives and business improvement areas (BIAs)
- Municipal or regional governments established by or under provincial or territorial statute
- Public-sector bodies that are established under provincial or territorial statute or regulation, or that are wholly owned by provincial, territorial, municipal or regional governments, that provide municipal-type infrastructure services to communities
- Indigenous organizations

Eligible activities

The Fund will provide support for the following types of projects:

- Adapting and reimagining / re-envisioning community spaces and maintaining accessibility standards so that they may safely be used by communities in accordance with social distancing and local public health guidelines to help revitalize areas and support future planning efforts. Projects could include community transformation infrastructure to help rejuvenate communities, downtown cores, main streets and shared spaces.
- Building or improving community infrastructure through the expansion, improvement or creation of community spaces to encourage Canadians to re-engage in and explore their communities and regions.

Eligible costs

Eligible costs include reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the activities listed above. This includes, but is not limited to, construction materials and contractor fees for building or improving a community asset. Consult the Application Guide for further details.

Ineligible costs

Ineligible costs include expenses associated with maintenance and operational activities that typically need to be undertaken on a recurring / annual basis, motorized vehicles, the purchase of a building and land.

A one-time special scheduled intake will accept applications and focus on eligible projects that are ready to proceed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications by July 23, 2021. Should there be remaining funding after the scheduled intake period, applications will continue to be accepted and funded on a continuous intake basis over the next two years or until such a time as the allocated funding is fully distributed. Organizations that submit multiple applications are required to rank the priority of each application. A resolution of support from municipal councils is not required under the CCRF program guidelines.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The following departments provided project proposals for submission consideration under the CCRF Intake:

- Planning and Economic Development Department
- Public Works Department

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Eligible projects will be prioritized in the following order of importance:

- revitalize downtown cores and main streets
- reinvent outdoor spaces
- create green infrastructure
- increase the accessibility of community spaces

Examples may include projects involving:

- downtown cores and main streets
- green projects and projects that reduce environmental impacts
- improvement of accessibility
- farmers' markets
- community and cultural centres
- museums and libraries
- public outdoor community sports facilities and spaces
- waterfront and tourism facilities
- multi-purpose centres
- other existing community facilities for public benefit that have a local community impact and underpin local economies

Projects to be selected will be those that are able to demonstrate how the project aligns with the priorities of the CCRF:

- priority will be given to projects that are “shovel ready” such that:
 - a) plans and specifications of the project have been complete
 - b) the project is ready to accept bids for contracts
 - c) has secured all necessary environmental approvals
 - d) projects will be substantially completed by March 31, 2023
- bring in other partners to leverage project funding
- are of a smaller scope, where the project will be completed quickly so the program benefits will be shared broadly
- help communities rebound from the effects of the pandemic and contribute to the reanimation of communities, towns and cities
- can demonstrate measurable direct or indirect social and economic benefits
- encourage the participation of underrepresented groups and take into consideration the unique challenges of rural and remote communities
- are submitted before July 23, 2021

As previously noted, organizations that submit multiple applications are required to rank the priority of each application. There is no indication as to the weighting of applicant’s priority ranking as projects are assessed for potential funding under the CCRF Program.

Staff carefully assessed projects for the best alignment with the CCRF Program’s funding selection criteria. The projects that have been submitted to FedDev Ontario for funding consideration are listed in Appendix “A” of Report FCS21077, reflect a list of five projects requesting CCRF funding of \$2.96 M. Additionally, the priority ranking is noted with corresponding rationale for each project ranking.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report FCS21077 – Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)
Program Project Submissions

JS/dt