




CITY OF HAMILTON
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Government and Community Relations

TO:	Chair and Members Audit, Finance & Administration
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 1, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2022 City Enrichment Fund Status Update (GRA22003) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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INFORMATION

The City Enrichment Fund is the City of Hamilton's municipal investment in a wide range of program areas that supports the City's Strategic Plan and 25 Year Community Vision. This information report provides a current overview of the fund which identifies changes that have been made and implemented for the upcoming cycle, including upcoming tasks that contribute to an evolved strategic direction for the fund.

The City of Hamilton has played a significant role in enriching the community through the City Enrichment Fund direct investment in a variety of programs throughout the City. As the needs of the Hamilton community continues to grow and evolve, the population and supports within the community have transformed as well. Evolution of the program has been driven with the applicant experience and community benefit at the forefront with staff making recommendations to Council to ensure the program is meeting the current needs of the community and its continuously changing landscape.

The granting mechanism currently offers funding to community organizations within seven program areas: Agriculture; Arts; Communities, Culture and Heritage; Community Services; Digital; Environment; and Sport and Active Lifestyles. It is important to note the Digital program area is a pilot with \$150,000.00 dollars associated for the next two funding cycles. Each year, local community organizations apply to the City Enrichment

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Fund (CEF) and applications are reviewed and scored accordingly by adjudication committees with resulting recommendations being forwarded to the Grants Sub-Committee for consideration and approval by Council.

Over the course of the past 2 years, community needs, and the delivery of programs have shifted as a result of the pandemic. It also put a spotlight on existing inequities in our community.

With staff recommendation and Council's support, below is a summary of the recent enhancements to the fund that have been made:

1. Implementation of a new full cycle grant platform with automation, logic and auto data features providing increased efficiencies for applicants, adjudicators and internal staff
2. A new two-year pilot project in Digital Equity program area
3. Translation and accessibility services embedded in the application process
4. Increased CEF promotion at Municipal Service Centre locations, libraries and other local avenues
5. Phase one stages of embedding an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) lens by data tracking in the application intake process to further understand our evolving community, in alignment with Term of Council Priorities

With staff recommendation and Council's approval, the following items are currently being advanced to further build upon transparency, consistency and equity across the fund including:

1. Staff will be incorporating a consistent adjudication process across all program streams and maintain category ratings to ensure equality, equity, inclusivity, and transparency in the fund.
2. Over the years the annual budget for the City Enrichment Fund has fundamentally remained the same. The challenge continues to be meeting the funding requests with the budget available hence, review is being done if the allocation procedure is providing the best value for money reinvested into the community; The funding allocation has been fairly static and has not necessarily adapted to the changing needs of the community;
3. With approval from Council, staff have been directed to review the fund's current overall funding guidelines, program stream guidelines, related funding caps and report back to the Grants Sub-Committee with recommendations to ensure the fund is evolving with the needs of community.

CEF staff are committed to implementing consistent, strategic, equitable and transparent processes across the fund and rely on Council's direction and approval to implement further enhancements to the fund.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to GRA22003 – Overview of the City Enrichment Fund