




INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 1, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Update: Investigate Potential Matching Funding Opportunities (GRA22001(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Morgan Stahl (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2178 Director, Government Relations & Community Engagement City Manager's Office Grace Mater (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4979 General Manager City Manager's Office
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COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the Grant's Sub-Committee Meeting of January 17, 2022, the following direction was approved:

That up to \$500,000 of the City Enrichment Fund reserve funds, be ear marked to investigate potential matching opportunities, throughout the City, to bring to a total fund of \$1M in support for communities and organizations that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic more broadly, with any funds not allocated to be evenly distributed and returned back to their respective reserves, and report back to the Grants Sub-Committee.

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.

INFORMATION

The total budget for the 2021/2022 City Enrichment Fund program was \$6,088,340. During the year, City Enrichment Fund program funding recommendations were conditionally approved for operating grants, and conditionally approved for event and programs. As at the 2021 year-end, the City Enrichment Fund budget showed an unspent balance of \$501,044. In passed practise, these funds would be transferred to reserves to form part of the City's overall surplus or deficit. As of February 2022, the City Enrichment Fund Reserve # 112230 currently had a balance of \$836,025.

Prior to the final year-end closing entries, staff prepare a final draft of the City Enrichment Fund actual costs, in order to provide the Grants Sub-Committee and Council a review of any unclaimed, unspent or unallocated Grant Funds. That report (GRA22001) outlined all the grants paid, due or allocated for the year ending December 31, 2021. This is consistent with the practice of previous years and is common practice for staff overseeing the City Enrichment Fund.

In January 2022, the Grants Sub-Committee opted not to transfer the surplus to the City Enrichment Fund Reserve # 112230. The surplus would form part of the City's overall surplus/deficit for 2021. Following this decision, staff were directed to utilize up to \$500,000.00 of the City Enrichment Fund reserve funds, in addition to investigate potential internal matching opportunities, throughout the City, to bring to a total fund of \$1M in support for communities and organizations that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic more broadly, with any funds not allocated to be evenly distributed and returned back to their respective reserves, and report back to the Grants Sub-Committee.

Staff met across departments during the months of February to May 2022 to discuss the potential of matching funds, however, due to on-going pandemic financial pressures that the City faced there were no other viable financial sources within the City which provided an additional \$500,000.00 in matching dollars within existing departments, in reserves or throughout the City in discretionary envelopes.

There continues to be a deep need in the community for support, specifically, for organizations that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic more broadly. Through conversations and a series of meetings with community groups and City Enrichment Fund applicants, these organizations have demonstrated there is a significant need and a gap within existing funding resources as the City Enrichment Fund did not provide COVID-19 funding, relief or funds allocated to support programming for organizations that had been heavily impacted by the pandemic and were providing essential services in the community.

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Staff have developed criteria for the utilization of up to \$500,000.00 of the City Enrichment Fund reserve for a One-Time Enhancement Grant Relief program based on the original Council direction to demonstrate how \$500,000.00 would be utilized to support communities and organizations that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, the required criteria outlining eligibility and an overview of how funds will be distributed. One-time Enhancement Grant Relief program targets projects and programs that demand greater speed and flexibility than traditional funding methods can offer and will aim to reach as many projects or programs that have an immediate impact on the community in the City of Hamilton.

Target Audience: This one-time allocation is open to organizations that experienced abnormal financial pressures or constraints to deliver their project or service to the community due to COVID-19 impacts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on, and further magnified inequalities in our community and this grant will make every effort to include an equity lens in a redistribution of funds.

The criteria is as follows:

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria;

1. The project and/or program must take place within the City of Hamilton.
2. The program must serve Hamiltonians, priority status will be given to those organizations and agencies providing services for equity-deserving communities.
3. The legal status of the organization and/or applicant must be a non-profit, registered charity, community organization and/or volunteer organization with non-profit goals.
4. The organization must have a community impact affecting the groups impacted by COVID-19
5. Are seeking funding to supplement an existing, on-going or continued operation that was significantly impacted by COVID-19 and/or the pandemic.

In-eligible expenditures are capital costs and applications from for-profit entities.

Intent: The intent for the One-time Enhancement Grant Relief program is for immediate dispersal for on-going or continued operations. This funding is not to be expected in perpetuity (year over year) or for new programs.

Large scale initiatives may be asked to disclose other sources of funding.

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Submissions: Applications will be accepted via in-take form available through the City of Hamilton Website and submitted to the Grants Coordinator email at Grant.Coordinator@hamilton.ca in the following formats:

By Form and/or by Video Submission will be accepted.

Requests: The final awarded amount will depend on the scale of the initiative, overall scoring of submission and impact on the community, however, requests for up to \$25,000 per organization are welcome.

Renewability: This is a one-time grant and will be not be renewed on an annual basis.

Application in-take: January 1, 2023 onward (until all funds are dispersed on a first-come first-serve basis)

Distribution of funds: The first review of applications will occur after 15 days of the application intake deadline. Funding decisions will be made within 90 days. The grant department manages many priorities, they will be in contact with all applicants following the first review phase to communicate decisions and/or seek clarity regarding applications.

Following the distribution of the total value of the One-time Enhancement Grant Relief funds \$500,000.00, staff will report back to the Grants Sub-Committee with an overview of successful applicants and organization list which were approved for funding and a brief program description regarding the community investment.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A