

City Enrichment Fund Multi-Year Funding Pilot Framework

Objective and Background: To offer returning A rated City Enrichment Fund (CEF) grantees with an option to receive funding through a multi-year funding (MYF) commitment. A 3-year MYF period provides predictable and sustained funding to not-for-profit organizations that maintain good financial operations and are providing recurring programs and services.

The 3-year pilot period begins with the 2025 CEF cycle, with qualifying MYF grantees receiving a commitment of funding for years 2 and 3.

Multi-Year Funding was identified during the 2023 community consultation as a long-term strategy to provide sustained equitable funding and meets three of the initial community recommendations in the design of the CEF program:

- Increased community impact – strategic and equitable
- To be more consistent with best practices
- Flexible to address the needs of the community

Eligibility: In addition to meeting all of the general CEF and specific program area eligibility requirements, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identify as a multi-year candidate within the year 1 application
- Have received CEF funding for the same program in the prior year
- Submit a 3-year programming outline as part of the year 1 application
- Is in a healthy financial position according to the CEF financial review process and, if applicable, provides a deficit reduction plan and surplus justification
- Is providing the program and/or service described in the year 1 application over the 3-year MYF period
- Some Program Areas/Streams will not be eligible for MYF due to the one-time nature of the projects/intention of these funding streams, the following are those not eligible for MYF:
 - Arts
 - Capacity Building
 - Creation & Presentation
 - Communities Culture & Heritage
 - New Projects
 - Capacity Building
 - Community Services
 - Emerging Needs and Program Innovation
 - Environment
 - Capacity Building

- Sports & Active Lifestyles
 - Long Term Athlete Development Planning & Implementation
 - Sports Awareness
 - Capacity Building
 - Sport Development & Inclusion
 - Accessibility
 - Active For
- Any other one-time project as arising
- Any Anniversary related program

Implementation and Process:

Qualifying multi-year funding organizations will receive a 3-year funding commitment, subject to annual Council budget approvals. MYF organizations are required to submit a program report and funding agreement each year.

Funding Levels: The funding level allocated in year 1, will establish the base funding for years 2 and 3. Pending CEF budget availability, MYF organizations may receive a minor increase within the MYF period. Funding levels established during a MYF period are not a commitment of funding in perpetuity and does not guarantee funding outside of the set multi-year period.

The Multi-Year Funding Pilot will be implemented within the established CEF timeline for each stage: application, reporting, agreements, and funding payments.

Multi-Year Funding 3-year Pilot 2025-2027 Implementation and Timeline	
Year 1 (2024 July)	Staff update guidelines, webpage, grant portal to ensure public awareness of all CEF changes
Year 1 (2024 Oct)	2025 intake - Applicants indicate preference for MYF consideration within the application
Year 1 (2025 Jan)	Applications are reviewed by the adjudication teams, A rated MYF applications are noted
Year 1 (2025 May)	Annual CEF recommendations presented to Council for consideration
Year 1 (2025 May)	Approved MYF grantees are notified and must confirm entering into a 3-year funding commitment.
Year 1 (2025 June)	Year 1 funding released
Year 2 (2026 Feb)	Interim Report - MYF grantees submit a report for approval (no application is required)
Year 2 (2026 June)	Year 2 funding agreement and payment
Year 3 (2027 Feb)	Interim Report - MYF grantees submit a report for approval (no application is required)
Year 3 (2027 June)	Year 3 funding agreement and payment
Year 3 (2028 Feb)	Final Report – MYF pilot closed

Next Multi-Year Funding Period	
Year 1 (2027 Oct)	2028 intake: Applicants indicate preference for MYF consideration within the application.

Evaluation:

In year 3 and conclusion of the multi-year timeline, staff will assess the pilot to determine:

- The impact and satisfaction of applicants
- Measure staff workplans and efficiencies provided through the pilot
- The viability of a permanent multi-year process

Summary of Municipal Scan

Municipality	Grant Program
City of Toronto	<p>3 Year - Community Service Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Core Operations ○ Program <p>3 Year - Community Service Youth Violence Prevention</p> <p>2-3 Year - Cultural Festivals</p> <p>Overview and/or Eligibility: Youth Violence offered to priority neighbourhoods identified; Cultural Festival open to returning successful applicants.</p>
Toronto Arts Council (TAC)	<p>3 Year – Arts Operating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between 70-65% of funds go towards <p>Overview and/or Eligibility: On behalf of the City of Toronto, TAC administers the arts funding program. Organizations may apply within the annual or multi-year categories.</p>
City of Ottawa	<p>3 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arts Operating ○ Heritage Operating ○ Agricultural Fairs ○ Festivals (Arts and Cultural) <p>5 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Services Sustainability ○ Arts Festivals – 4yr operations, demonstrate financial stability, have received prior funding

	<p>Overview and/or Eligibility: Funding priorities are applied to successful applicants following adjudication; Interim reports submitted annually.</p>
<p>City of London</p>	<p>3 Year - Community Services, Community Development Grants</p> <p>Overview and/or Eligibility: Organizations are eligible to apply for both Multi-Year and Annual funding opportunities in the same funding cycle.</p>
<p>City of Cambridge</p>	<p>MYF by Council commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MYF organizations submit a report to Community Grant Program, but it's unclear how an org qualifies for MYF.
<p>City of Burlington</p>	<p>3–4-year Community Services - Community Development Fund</p> <p>Overview and/or Eligibility: Open year-round, rolling deadline.</p>
<p>City of Guelph</p>	<p>1-2 Year Community Grants</p> <p>Overview and/or Eligibility: Established in 2019, grantees submit annual financial reports.</p>