

Finance Policy		Policy #:	
		Section:	
Policy:	Community Grant Policy	Effective:	
Application:	Organizations Requesting Financial Assistance	Approved:	2024
Exclusion(s):	N/A	Bylaw:	By-law 42/2024
Supercedes:	By-law 40/2020	Resolution:	

1. POLICY

Many programs and services are provided through the volunteer efforts of non-profit organizations and registered charities to enhance the life experience of citizens, complementing and often supplementing programs beyond the Municipality’s capability. In addition, individuals, groups and teams represent and highlight the Municipality at events. Community Grant funding demonstrates Council’s commitment to working with these non-profit organizations and registered charities to provide beneficial programs and services to the community.

This policy establishes eligibility requirements, expectations, and the application/review process.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Municipality of Port Hope may, at the discretion of Council, provide direct monetary grants to non-profit organizations and registered charities who demonstrate their eligibility based on the following:

- Initiate or deliver programs and services to the citizens of Port Hope;
- Provide events of a Municipal, Provincial or National significance, which could be expected to bring economic, and/or public relations benefit to the Municipality;
- Provide programs and services to address any urgent and pressing events and natural disasters (i.e. fire, flood, earthquake);
- Initiate programs or services for individuals, groups or teams who require assistance to participate in recognized regional, provincial, national or international championships; and
- Organizations must be either a non-profit organization or a registered charity.

3. PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

Grants may be provided to eligible applicants, as defined above, for:

- General operating and capital expenses including administrative costs and program-related expenses;
- Activities/functions generally occurring within the Municipal boundaries; and

- Programs/activities/functions addressing a community need, responding to an under-served demand, or contributing to the positive image of the Municipality.

4. Restrictions

- Organizations who are requesting for funds less than \$2,500 will not be accepted as a Community Grant request and may complete a Donation Request form;
- Organizations can only submit one community grant or donation application per year;
- If the programs or services proposed in the organization's application are not commenced or not completed within the current fiscal year and there remain Municipality's funds on hand, or are completed without requiring the full use of the Municipality funds, such Municipality funds will be returned to the Municipality;
- The granting of assistance in any year is not to be considered a commitment to providing grant funding assistance in future years; and
- Funding is provided only for the sole purpose for which it was awarded within the current fiscal year.

The Grant Program is NOT intended to provide funding:

- On a retroactive basis for events that have already occurred;
- To coalitions such as ratepayer or tenant/landlord associations, or to support programs or services geared specifically to these organizations;
- To organizations aligned with any political party, or to support programs or services which are political in nature;
- To support programs or services which are operated under the authority of another level of government, such as social services;
- As donations to charitable causes;
- As a replacement for other funding sources;
- For debt retirement; or
- To an applicant that has an overdue amount owing to the Municipality.

5. APPLICATION

Applications are available from the Finance Department or on the Municipality's website starting on or before the first week of September each year. Completed applications are due by mid-October or as outlined in the public notice published each year.

A completed application is provided on the Municipal website as an example of what meets the criteria of this policy.

Application Requirements:

Please note the requirements listed below will be used as conditions when screening the applications to indicate whether the application is completed in full.

Each organization submitting an application is required to provide:

- Information about the organization and its programs or services;
- A statement of the organization's goals and objectives;
- A description of how the organization's program or service advances Council's strategic plan;
- A description of how the organization intends to measure the success of the program or service if the funding request is approved;
- Demonstrated need for financial assistance;
- Which stream of funding the organization is applying to as the program will be administered in two streams: up to \$5,000 or up to \$10,000, and applicants will no longer be specifying a requested grant amount;
- There is community support for the programs or services;
- Adequate funding for the programs or services is not available from other sources;
- It is presently exploring, or has fully explored, the potential funding from other sources, from other levels of government, the private sector, memberships, donations, and fundraising activities;
- Efforts have been made to decrease reliance on Municipal funding so other emerging needs or opportunities may be met; and
- If a grant was received in the preceding year, the Municipalities financial support was acknowledged in all information pertaining to activities for which funds were granted per the policy.

6. REVIEW PROCESS

Staff will provide the applications to Finance Committee for their review. Finance Committee will review and determine successful applicants. Finance Committee will use the application requirements as conditions when screening each application to distinguish whether the application meets the requirements and should be considered for funding. Finance Committee will determine the community grant budget amount for each stream and how this budget amount is to be divided across successful applicants. Council will approve this amount when the annual budget is approved.

Applicants will be advised of the scheduled meeting date at which their application will be considered. Applicants may be requested by Finance Committee to appear as a delegation to speak on behalf of their organization's application (maximum of 10 minutes per organization).

The results will be posted on the website following final Council approval of the annual budget. Grant recipients will be required to acknowledge the support of the Municipality of Port Hope in all advertising, publicity, programs, and signage for which funds are granted. The recipient may not represent the Municipality as a partner or hold the Municipality responsible for any obligations relating to the grant initiative.

Payments will be issued to successful applicants by electronic funds transfer only. Successful applicants will be required to provide required banking information and evidence that the bank account is in the name of the organization applying for the funds.