

Information Report



Service Area	Public Services
Date	Friday, June 26, 2020
Subject	Guelph Community Grant 2020 Allocation Report

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To report on the Guelph Community Grant Allocations for 2020.

Key Findings

The City supports not-for-profit, non-governmental community groups through the Guelph Community Grant program (formerly the Wellbeing Grants). Applications from eligible organizations received within the designated period were adjudicated by the Grants Allocation Panel between November 2019 and January 2020, and allocations were made. Decision letters were mailed February 12, 2020 to all applicants.

Financial Implications

Funds for the grant program were approved in the 2020 operating budget. The total 2020 Community Grants budget is \$307,200.

Report

Details

The City works with and supports many local organizations in the community to improve the wellbeing of Guelph residents. These organizations deliver a range of services from organizing sports and recreational activities to staging arts and culture events to meeting basic human needs such as food and shelter.

The Council-approved Community Investment Strategy (CIS) provides the City with a strategy for providing funding and in-kind supports to local not-for-profit organizations. The Guelph Community Grant Program is one such funding method of the CIS. The grant program is designed to direct City funding to not-for-profit, non-governmental community organizations which promote the wellbeing of Guelph residents. Eligible organizations can apply for a small operating grant for up to three years of funding.

Authority to make grant allocation decisions on behalf of City Council was delegated to a panel of community members with appropriate skills and knowledge. This Panel helps ensure that the grant program is supporting areas of importance to Guelph residents and increases community participation in municipal decision-making.

The Panel's decisions follow a set of guidelines outlined in the [Guelph Community Grants Policy](#) and funding decisions are aligned to the City's [Community and Strategic Plans](#). Applicants must clearly show how they benefit Guelph residents and support the goals of the City.

Organizations were able to submit a 2020 Guelph Community Grant Application through an online application form between September 24 and October 31, 2019. The Grant Allocation Panel reviewed and adjudicated all eligible applications.

Over the period of November 2019 to January 2020, the Grants Allocation Panel held eight meetings, totaling approximately 21 hours for distribution of eligible applications, reviewing/discussing each application, and determining grant allocations. Each application was reviewed by two Panel members and presented to the larger Panel for discussion. Panel members reviewed their assigned applications outside the scheduled meetings. Review of applications outside of meeting times can take up to 25 hours per Panel member.

Staff hosted two information sessions on October 10 and October 15, 2019 for organizations to familiarize themselves with the Community Grants and support the development of funding applications. Over 40 organizations attending the information sessions.

The total 2020 Guelph Community Grants budget is \$307,200. A total of 103 organizations registered with the City, and 88 completed grant applications were received. Applicants requested a total amount of \$948,735 in funding, representing an increase of 13% over 2019. Of the 88 applications, 49 organizations were awarded funding.

By sector type, funds were allocated to:

Grants by Funding Category	Number of Applications Received	Number of Grants Issued	Total Amount of Asks	Total Amount Granted
Arts and Culture	29	21	\$280,500	\$122,700
Environment	7	4	\$65,550	\$21,500
Human and Social Services	39	17	\$501,900	\$125,000
Recreation and Sport	6	3	\$44,260	\$13,500
Other	8	4	\$92,525	\$24,500

Organizations which self-identified using the "Other" category for sector type included cross-sectoral and education category applications.

Funds awarded in 2020 aligned with the goals of the City of Guelph Community Plan. Of the Community Plan goals, the funds were allocated towards the following goals:

Community Plan Goals	Number of Applications Received	Number of Grants Issued
We are home	8	3
We create value	12	9
We feel well	33	17
We move freely	2	2
We play and explore	24	15
We protect our environment	9	3

On February 12, a letter was sent to each applicant communicating the Panel's decision. Consistent with the Council-approved policy, all decisions are final.

Year-End Reporting by 2019 Grant Recipients

Grant recipients are required to report at the end of the year on how the grant funding was spent and the impact made by the grant. Failure to submit the year-end report precludes an organization's eligibility for future grant funding until the City is satisfied that the report has been submitted in full.

In 2019, 55 organizations were awarded a grant and 53 of those organizations submitted a year-end report. For the events, services, programs, and capital projects funded by the City's grant, in summary, the organizations reported that cumulatively \$302,484 city residents benefited; 5,280 volunteers provided 239,165 volunteer hours; \$886,028 in funding from other sources was leveraged in the community by 35 not-for-profit organizations as the result of the City's grant.

Financial Implications

Funds for the grant program were approved in the 2020 operating budget. The total 2020 Wellbeing Grants budget is \$307,200.

Consultations

None

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Guelph Community Grant program contributes directly to the Guelph Community Plan and Strategic Plan priorities. Grant applicants must demonstrate how their work benefits residents and supports the goals of the City of Guelph. As much of the work of the Community and Strategic Plans can only be done with support of partners and not-for-profits, the Guelph Community Grant is one

mechanism to both strengthen those partners to do important work for our residents and to ensure that there is strong alignment with the City.

Attachments

Attachment-1: 2020 Grant Recipients

Departmental Approval

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