



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Economic Development
Date: April 7, 2025
Prepared by: RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations
Report Number: Economic Development-2025-03
Subject: Corporate Grant Funding Update
Number of Pages: 8

Recommendation(s)

That Economic Development-2025-03 entitled “Corporate Grant Funding Update” prepared by RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations, dated April 7, 2025, be received.

Purpose

To provide Council with a quarterly update of grant funding applications submitted to support various strategic initiatives and projects in the Town of Essex.

Background and Discussion

The Town of Essex has implemented strategic measures to improve its ability to secure external funding opportunities as identified in the Town of Essex Strategic Action Plan 2023-2027. Through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program, the Town has acquired GrantMatch,

a specialized grant tracking software that streamlines the identification, tracking, and management of funding opportunities, for two (2) years ending in September 2026.

GrantMatch plays a vital role in enhancing administrative efficiency, ensuring funding opportunities for economic development and corporate-wide projects are effectively identified and monitored. Grant applications often undergo a lengthy review process, ranging from eight (8) weeks to one (1) year depending on the funding organization. GrantMatch has assisted Administration in efficiently tracking the application progress, deadlines, compliance requirements, reporting, and contribution documentation. This capacity enhances the Town's ability to manage multiple applications simultaneously while ensuring accurate recordkeeping of each application.

In addition, the RED program has enabled the Town to allocate a dedicated staff member to support and assist various departments in preparing and submitting grant applications for Town projects and initiatives. This dedicated role strengthens the Town's ability to pursue funding opportunities that align with strategic priorities, driving economic growth within the community, and alleviating municipal capacity issues in pursuing external funding.

To secure additional funding opportunities for the Town, Administration continues to actively collaborate with local non-profit organizations on grant applications. These partnerships strengthen funding proposals for the Town, increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

Administration remains committed to pursuing external funding opportunities to support municipal projects and initiatives, thereby reducing the reliance on the municipal tax base.

Grant Applications Overview

The following table highlights grant applications in GrantMatch between Q3 2024 through Q1 2025, listed by value, highest to lowest.

Funding Organization	Grant Project	Grant Amount	Submission Date	Status
Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund	Construct a new outdoor multi-use sports complex (Essex Centre Sport Fields), providing the opportunity for sport and recreational activities in the Town of Essex	\$7,500,000.00	October 23, 2024	Pending Decision
Active Transportation Fund: Capital Project Stream	Stormwater trunk sewer upgrades on Maidstone Avenue from Bell Avenue to Allen Avenue, watermain replacement and improvements through the Maidstone-Talbot intersection, Maidstone-Talbot intersection improvements, and a 1.5-km multiuse trail from Talbot Street to South Talbot Street	\$2,953,578.00	February 26, 2025	Pending Decision
Short Term Rental Enforcement Fund	Improve STR regulation by enhancing compliance and enforcing targeted interventions to ensure long-	\$444,285.00	January 24, 2025	Declined

	term housing availability and affordability			
Intact: Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant Program	Implement a proactive residential property inspection program focusing on assessing flood resiliency and mitigation	\$200,000.00	January 29, 2025	Pending Decision
AVIVA Charged for Change Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program	Install 2 dual electric vehicle charging stations at Heritage Gardens and 2 dual electric vehicle charging stations at Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre to promote sustainable transportation	\$109,696.69	February 19, 2025	Pending Decision
FCM Climate Adaptation Implementation Projects: Adaptation in Action	Install an air conditioning unit and generator on the second floor of the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre	\$97,300.00	October 10, 2024	Approved
Ontario Trillium Foundation:	In collaboration with the Essex Rotary Club, funding will provide necessary equipment for the soccer	\$81,000.00	March 5, 2025	Pending Decision

Capital Project Stream	fields at the new Essex Sports Park			
Rural Economic Development (RED) Program	Acquire an additional Economic Development staff member, retain a consultant to explore the feasibility of a Community Improvement Plan, and purchase grant tracking software to support local businesses and Town initiatives	\$65,230.00	February 20, 2024	Approved
Experience Ontario	Essex FunFest 2025: Production costs of performers and entertainers, and rental costs of festival stages and equipment	\$55,000.00	December 18, 2024	Pending Decision
Nuclear Emergency Management Program	Properly equip the primary and secondary Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) with essential supplies and resources for effective EOC operations	\$50,000.00	December 6, 2024	Approved
Rural Transit Solutions Fund	Complete a Rural Transit Feasibility Study to identify	\$50,000.00	March 4, 2024	Approved

	transit solutions for the Town of Essex			
Canada Summer Jobs	11 summer job positions to support various Town departments on their initiatives, projects, and strategic objectives	\$49,364.00	November 27, 2024	Approved
Enbridge Fueling Futures Program	Tree nursery at the Harrow Soccer Complex to enhance green space and support environmental initiatives	\$30,000.00	March 5, 2025	Pending Decision
Seniors Community Grant Program	8-Month ZEALL (Zoomers Essex Active Lunch and Learn) Senior Program offering diverse monthly activities and educational resources for seniors across all four Town communities	\$24,998.61	January 16, 2025	Pending Decision
Fire Protection Grant	Acquire personal protective equipment to protect Essex firefighters from hazardous exposures	\$24,691.35	July 23, 2024	Approved

Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund	Acquire 3 battery-powered positive pressure ventilation fans and 6 battery packs to enhance firefighter safety, improve response efforts, and protect residents more effectively	\$24,553.77	March 14, 2025	Pending Decision
Trees Canada: Treemendous Communities	Plant 75 trees at the Harrow Soccer Complex to enhance green spaces, improve air quality, and support local biodiversity	\$10,000.00	December 6, 2024	Declined
Veterans Affairs Canada: Community Engagement Funding	Acquire banner arms for streetlights in Essex Centre to support the Salute Our Vets Banner Program	\$5,000.00	April 1, 2025	Pending Decision
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant	Develop a naturalized butterfly and pollinator garden between South Talbot Road and Highway 3	\$1,591.99	January 8, 2025	Pending Decision

In summary:

- \$286,585.35 in approved grants

- \$10,985,416.06 in pending grants

The following table highlights applications that are upcoming and have been identified in GrantMatch. Please note that the following table is not exhaustive, as new grant and funding opportunities arise regularly. Administration remains committed to monitoring and assessing emerging funding opportunities to ensure that the Town remains well-positioned to secure financial support for key projects and initiatives.

Funding Organization	Grant Project	Grant Amount	Status
Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program - Health and Safety Water Stream	Pump station upgrades at the Harrow lagoons	The province would fund up to 73% (maximum \$30 million) of eligible costs, with the applicant covering at least 27%	Applications are currently deferred
Green Municipal Fund and FCM: Climate-Ready Plans and Processes	Develop, update, and implement climate plans, assessments, and policies related to Municipal Climate Adaptation Plan.	Funding for up to 70% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$140,000 in funding	Applications will open in Spring/Summer 2025

Ontario Trillium Foundation: Seed Grant Stream	In collaboration with a local organization, funding will support organizational planning, pilot a new program, and enhance the capacity to deliver programs and services that build a healthier community	Funding for up to \$100,000	Applications will open July 23, 2025
FCC AgriSpirit Fund	Acquire a new accessibility lift at the Essex Recreation Complex lap pool	\$25,000	Applications are closed and will re-open June 25, 2025
FCC Community Funding	Project currently undefined	\$10,000	Applications are accepted on an on-going basis

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of this report. Where financial impacts occur, Council receives information in the form of prior/future reports and/or during prior/future budget deliberations. Additionally, any grant funding received can be utilized to assist in alleviating further pressure on the municipal tax base.

Consultations

Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Corporate Grant Funding Update - Economic Development-2025-03.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 30, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sweet". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 30, 2025 - 9:34 AM