



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Economic Development
Date: September 2, 2025
Prepared by: RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst,
Economic Development and Business Relations
Report Number: Economic Development-2025-09
Subject: Corporate-Wide Grant Funding Update
Number of Pages: 18

Recommendation(s)

That Economic Development-2025-09 entitled Corporate-Wide Grant Funding Update prepared by RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations, dated September 2, 2025, be received.

Purpose

To provide Council with an overview of funding applications submitted to support various community initiatives and improvements 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. 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.

GrantMatch plays a vital role in enhancing administrative efficiency, ensuring funding opportunities for economic development and corporate-wide projects are effectively identified and monitored. Given that grant applications often undergo a lengthy review process, ranging from eight weeks to a year depending on the funding organization, GrantMatch helps Administration efficiently track application progress, deadlines, and compliance requirements. This capacity enhances the Town's ability to manage multiple applications simultaneously while ensuring accurate documentation 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.

To secure additional funding opportunities for the Town, Administration actively collaborates 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 all grant applications currently recorded in GrantMatch.

Funding Organization	Grant Project	Grant Amount	Status	Submission Date
Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund	Construct a new outdoor multi-use sports complex, providing the opportunity for sport and recreational activities in the Town of Essex	\$7,500,000.00	Declined	October 23, 2024
Active Transportation Fund: Capital Project Stream	Stormwater trunk sewer upgrades on Maidstone Avenue from Bell Avenue to Allen Avenue, watermain	\$2,953,578.00	Pending Decision	February 26, 2025

	<p>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</p>			
<p>Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program - Health and Safety Water Stream</p>	<p>Upgrades to the Harrow Raw Sewage Pumping Station to increase pump and electrical capacity to withstand extreme storm events</p>	<p>\$1,078,552.19</p>	<p>Pending Decision</p>	<p>June 25, 2025</p>

<p>Short Term Rental Enforcement Fund</p>	<p>Improve STR regulation by enhancing compliance and enforcing targeted interventions to ensure long-term housing availability and affordability</p>	<p>\$444,285.00</p>	<p>Declined</p>	<p>January 24, 2025</p>
<p>Intact Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant Program</p>	<p>Implement a proactive residential property inspection program focusing on assessing flood resiliency and mitigation</p>	<p>\$200,000.00</p>	<p>Declined</p>	<p>January 29, 2025</p>
<p>AVIVA Charged for Change</p>	<p>Install 2 dual electric vehicle</p>	<p>\$109,696.69</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>February 19, 2025</p>

<p>Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program</p>	<p>charging stations at Heritage Gardens and 2 dual electric vehicle charging stations at Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre to promote sustainable transportation</p>			
<p>FCM Climate Adaptation Implementation Projects: Adaptation in Action</p>	<p>Install an air conditioning unit and generator on the second floor of the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre</p>	<p>\$97,300.00</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>October 14, 2024</p>

<p>Ontario Trillium Foundation: Capital Project Stream</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Essex Rotary Club, funding will provide equipment for the soccer fields at the new Essex Sports Park</p>	<p>\$81,000.00</p>	<p>Declined</p>	<p>March 5, 2025</p>
<p>Canada Summer Jobs</p>	<p>30 youth summer counsellors for recreational and leisure activities</p>	<p>\$69,660.00</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>November 27, 2024</p>
<p>Rural Economic Development (RED) Program</p>	<p>Acquire an additional Economic Development staff member, retain a consultant to explore the feasibility of a</p>	<p>\$65,230.00</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>February 20, 2024</p>

	Community Improvement Plan, and purchase grant tracking software (GrantMatch) to support local businesses and Town initiatives			
Experience Ontario	Production costs of performers and entertainers, and rental costs of festival stages and equipment for the 2025 Essex FunFest	\$55,000.00	Approved	December 18, 2024
Nuclear Emergency Management Program	Properly equip the primary and secondary Emergency Operation	\$50,000.00	Approved	May 12, 2024

	Centres (EOCs) with essential supplies and resources for effective EOC operations			
Rural Transit Solutions Fund	Complete a Rural Transit Feasibility Study to identify transit solutions	\$50,000.00	Approved	March 4, 2024
Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant	Acquire two pool accessibility lifts for the Essex Recreation Complex	\$39,052.36	Pending Decision	August 13, 2025
Enbridge Fueling Futures Program	Tree nursery at the Harrow Soccer Complex to enhance green space and support	\$30,000.00	Approved	March 5, 2025

	environmental initiatives			
Canada Summer Jobs	11 summer job positions to support various departments on their initiatives, projects, and strategic objectives	\$26,488.00	Approved	November 27, 2024
Fire Protection Grant FY24-25	Acquire personal protective equipment to protect firefighters from hazardous exposures	\$25,317.00	Approved	July 23, 2024
Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund	Acquire 3 battery-powered positive pressure ventilation fans and 6 battery	\$25,000.00	Approved	March 14, 2025

	packs to enhance firefighter safety, improve response efforts, and protect residents more effectively			
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation	Acquire 6 multi-use gas detectors to help identify the presence of hazardous gases	\$23,920.97	Pending Decision	July 17, 2025
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	\$23,398.00	Approved	January 16, 2025

	four Town communities			
Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel (MHS4PSP) Grant Program 2025-2026	Acquire mental health services for firefighters to support well-being	\$16,805.00	Pending Decision	June 20, 2025
Windsor-Essex Community Foundation: Community Impact Grant Program	Downtown Essex Centre parkette revitalization – In collaboration with the Essex Centre BIA	\$15,000.00	Pending Decision	August 21, 2025
Trees Canada: Treemendous Communities	Plant 75 trees at the Harrow Soccer Complex to enhance green space	\$10,000.00	Declined	December 6, 2024

All Risk Municipal Grant-Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency	Digitize municipal documents to Laserfiche to enhance security and streamline document access	\$10,000.00	Declined	May 1, 2025
Enbridge Gas: Giving Back to Communities	Community Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program	\$5,000.00	Approved	August 20, 2025
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	Declined	April 1, 2025
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Mitigate the impacts of invasive	\$5,000.00	Approved	February 12, 2025

	phragmites through mapping			
Farm Credit Canada Community Fund	Decorative artistic bench at Harrow Fairgrounds	\$4,500.00	Declined	May 6, 2025
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant	Develop a naturalized butterfly and pollinator garden between South Talbot Road and Highway 3	\$1,591.99	Declined	January 8, 2025

In summary:

- \$637,089.69 in approved grants (January 2024- September 2025)
- \$4,126,908.52 in pending grant approvals

The table below highlights applications that are in progress and/or 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
Ontario Community Environment Fund Program	Supports community-based activities that restore and protect the local environment	Minimum funding of \$5,000. \$1,602,577.85 available for the region of Southwest Ontario	Applications will be accepted until September 24, 2025, at 5 p.m. E.T.
Rural Ontario Development Program: Community Development Stream	Implementation of Industrial Community Improvement Plan (CIP) action items and extend the contract of the Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations to support the CIP program and various Economic Development initiatives	Funding for up to 50% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$150,000 in funding	Applications will be accepted until September 24, 2025, at 5 p.m. E.T.

<p>Green Municipal Fund: Safe and Active School Routes Program</p>	<p>1.5 km multiuse trail from Talbot Street to South Talbot Street</p>	<p>Funding for up to 50% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$125,000 in funding</p>	<p>Applications will be accepted until October 17, 2025</p>
<p>Green Municipal Fund and FCM: Climate- Ready Plans and Processes</p>	<p>5-year review and update of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan</p>	<p>Funding for up to 70% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$70,000 in funding</p>	<p>Applications will be accepted until September 16, 2025</p>
<p>Green Municipal Fund and FCM: Planning Stream – Early Support Grant for Sustainable</p>	<p>Supports the planning phases of various activities of an affordable housing project including project initiation, needs assessments, basic financial assessments, and stakeholder engagement activities</p>	<p>Funding for up to 80% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$30,000 in funding</p>	<p>Applications are accepted year-round</p>

Affordable Housing Projects			
Enbridge Gas: Municipal Energy Solutions	Supports community climate adaptation plans and initiatives	\$10,000.00	Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2025
Fire Protection Grant FY25-26	Acquire a decontamination unit, accessories, and personal protective equipment to aid in cancer prevention for firefighters	Maximum grant amount is dependent on the number of applicants. Projected project cost is \$48,000	Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2025

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of this report. However, it is important to note that if there was a financial impact it would have been previously addressed by past Council reports. Additionally, any grant funding received can be utilized to

assist the Town in addressing its infrastructure deficit, thereby alleviating further pressure on the municipal tax base.

Consultations

Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development

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-Wide Grant Funding Update - Economic Development-2025-09.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 27, 2025

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

No Signature - Task assigned to Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services was completed by workflow administrator Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services

Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services - Aug 27, 2025 - 2:46 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Giurissevich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Aug 27, 2025 - 2:52 PM