



## Report to Council

Department: Development Services  
Division: Economic Development  
Date: February 2, 2026  
Prepared by: RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations  
Report Number: Economic Development-2026-01  
Subject: Corporate-Wide Grant Funding Annual Update  
Number of Pages: 10

### **Recommendation(s)**

**That** Economic Development-2026-01 entitled Corporate-Wide Grant Funding Annual Update prepared by RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations, dated February 2, 2026, be received for information.

### **Purpose**

To provide Council with an annual update of funding applications submitted to support various community initiatives and improvements in the Town of Essex.

### **Background and Discussion**

Grant funding remains a key tool in supporting the Town's strategic priorities by leveraging external funding to advance infrastructure, economic development, and community well-being while reducing pressure on the municipal tax base.

Administration proactively monitors, evaluates, and pursues grant opportunities through a coordinated, cross-departmental approach to ensure alignment with approved plans, operational capacity, and long-term community benefit.

The following table provides Council with the Annual Overview of all corporate-wide grant applications in 2025, including those that are approved, declined, or pending a funding decision.

Funding Organization	Grant Project	Grant Amount	Status	Submission Date
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	Pending Decision	February 26, 2025
Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program - Health and Safety Water Stream	Upgrades to the Harrow Raw Sewage Pumping Station to increase pump and electrical capacity to withstand extreme storm events	\$1,078,552.19	Declined	June 25, 2025
Short Term Rental	Improve STR regulation by enhancing compliance and enforcing targeted	\$444,285.00	Declined	January 24, 2025

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
Enforcement Fund	interventions to ensure long-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	Declined	January 29, 2025
Green Municipal Fund: Safe and Active School Routes Program	Maidstone Avenue multi-use trail and intersection improvements	\$125,000.00	Pending Decision	December 11, 2025
Rural Ontario Development (ROD) 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, Business Concierge Service, Housing Needs Assessment, and various Economic Development initiatives	\$122,000.00	Declined	September 22, 2025
AVIVA Charged for Change Electric Vehicle	Install 2 dual electric vehicle charging stations at Heritage Gardens and 2 dual electric vehicle charging stations at	\$109,696.69	Approved	February 19, 2025

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
Infrastructure Program	Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre to promote sustainable transportation			
Ontario Trillium Foundation: Capital Project Stream	In collaboration with the Essex Rotary Club, funding will provide equipment for the soccer fields at the new Essex Sports Fields	\$81,000.00	Declined	March 5, 2025
Canada Summer Jobs 2026	30 youth summer counsellors for recreation and culture activities	\$79,200.00	Pending Decision	December 10, 2025
Green Municipal Fund and FCM: Climate-Ready Plans and Processes	5-year review and update of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan	\$70,000.00	Pending Decision	September 16, 2025
Canada Summer Jobs 2025	30 youth summer counsellors for recreation and culture activities	\$69,660.00	Approved	November 27, 2024
Experience Ontario 2025	Production costs for entertainers, and rental costs of festival equipment for the 2025 Essex FunFest	\$55,000.00	Approved	December 18, 2024
Experience Ontario 2026	Production costs for entertainers, and rental costs of festival equipment for the 2026 Essex FunFest	\$55,000.00	Pending Decision	December 16, 2025

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
Canada Summer Jobs 2026	14 summer job positions to support various departments	\$51,920.00	Pending Decision	December 10, 2025
Nuclear Emergency Management Program 2025-2026	Enhance the Town's Nuclear Reception Centre's emergency response capacity through parking upgrades, building controls, and HVAC improvements, and the acquisition of a mobile storage unit equipped for operational support	\$50,000.00	Approved	October 30, 2025
Fire Protection Grant 2025-2026	Acquire a decontamination unit, accessories, and personal protective equipment to aid in cancer prevention for firefighters	\$48,444.50	Approved	September 19, 2025
Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant	Acquire two pool accessibility lifts for the Essex Recreation Complex	\$37,708.06	Approved	August 13, 2025
Enbridge Gas Fueling Futures Program 2025	Tree nursery at the Harrow Soccer Complex to enhance green space and support environmental initiatives	\$30,000.00	Approved	March 5, 2025
Canada Summer Jobs 2025	11 summer job positions to support various departments	\$26,488.00	Approved	November 27, 2024

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
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	\$25,000.00	Approved	March 14, 2025
Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel (MHS4PSP) Grant Program 2025-2026	Acquire mental health services for firefighters to support well-being	\$25,000.00	Approved	June 20, 2025
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation 2025	Acquire 6 multi-use gas detectors to help identify the presence of hazardous gases	\$23,920.97	Declined	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	\$23,398.00	Approved	January 16, 2025
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation 2026	6 lifting bags to assist in extrication rescue operations	\$22,769.50	Pending Decision	January 28, 2026
Windsor-Essex Community Foundation: Community	Downtown Essex Centre parkette revitalization in collaboration with the Essex Centre BIA	\$15,000.00	Approved	August 21, 2025

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
Impact Grant Program				
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 Fueling Futures Program 2026	Acquire 6 multi-use gas detectors to help identify the presence of hazardous gases	\$10,000.00	Pending Decision	January 20, 2026
Enbridge Gas Fueling Futures Program 2025	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 phragmites through mapping	\$5,000.00	Approved	February 12, 2025
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	\$1,591.99	Declined	January 8, 2025

In summary for 2025:

- \$525,395.25 in approved grants
- \$3,367,467.50 in pending grants
- \$1,991,940.15 in denied grants

In 2024, the Town received \$287,847.00 in approved grant funding, representing an approximately 83% year-over-year increase in approved funding in 2025.

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.

Funding Organization	Grant Project	Grant Amount	Status
Rural Ontario Development Program	Re-Apply for Intake 2: 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, Business Concierge Service, Housing Needs Assessment, and various Economic Development initiatives	Funding for up to 50% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$150,000.00 in funding	Applications are accepted from January 19, 2026, to February 26, 2026
Green Municipal Fund and FCM: Planning Stream – Early Support Grant for Sustainable Affordable Housing Projects	Supports the planning phases of various activities of an affordable housing project including project initiation, needs assessments, basic financial assessments, and stakeholder engagement activities	Funding for up to 80% of eligible costs, with a maximum of \$30,000.00 in funding	Applications are accepted year-round

## **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 Annual Update - Economic Development-2026-01.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 27, 2026

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



**Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services - Jan 27, 2026 - 12:57 PM**



**Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Jan 27, 2026 - 12:59 PM**