



Subject: *Community Partnership Fund 2022/2023*
To: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee
Date Prepared: January 11th, 2022
Related Motions: N/A
Prepared by: Catherine Jobin, Community Development Coordinator
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Summary

This report brings forward the annual review of the Community Partnership Fund along with one new application for the program for 2022/2023.

Eight (8) current recipients have applied to continue their funding. VON Colchester East Hants did not reapply for funding. One (1) new application was received. The After Trauma Empowerment Network (ATEN) has applied for \$17,753.52.

Applications have been reviewed by the Staff Grants Review Committee, and are being brought to Council for direction on inclusion in the Community Partnership Fund budget for 2022/2023.

Financial Impact Statement

Funds have been included in the 2022/2023 draft operating budget to provide Community Partnership Funding to the following community organizations:

Organization	2022/2023 Draft Operating Budget
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000*
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$10,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$15,813
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
East Hants Youth Links	\$6,000
Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County	\$20,000
Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program)	\$10,000
Total	\$131,813

The new grant application from After Trauma Empowerment Network (ATEN) has applied for \$17,753.52 and is outlined in this report. The new application was not included in the draft 2022/2023 budget as it has not yet been presented to Council.

* \$50,000 for the East Hants Community Rider is pending further budget discussion

Recommendation

Staff are recommending the following organizations be included in the 2022/2023 draft budget under the Community Partnership Fund:

Organization	2022/2023 Grant
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000*
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$10,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$15,813
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
East Hants Youth Links	\$6,000
Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County	\$20,000
Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program)	\$10,000

* \$50,000 for the East Hants Community Rider is pending further budget discussion

Recommended Motion

Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends to Council, that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2022/2023 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:

Organization	2022/2023 Grant
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000*
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$10,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$15,813
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
East Hants Youth Links	\$6,000
Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County	\$20,000
Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program)	\$10,000

* \$50,000 for the East Hants Community Rider is pending further budget discussion

Background

MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM POLICY

This is an overarching Council policy that provides a framework for how Municipal grants will be applied for, reviewed and awarded.

The policy states that Municipal grants are provided to support organizations whose efforts and mandates align with the Municipality's strategic objectives.

The delivery of the Municipal Grant Program will be based on sound and defensible administrative and risk management practices reflected in a process that is timely, consistent, supportive, and transparent for all grant applicants.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND POLICY

Council adopted the Community Partnership Fund Council Policy in 2014. The purpose is to build partnerships and provide multi-year core funding to help maintain and build the capacity of non-profit community-based organizations. Funding will be available to non-profit community-based organizations providing socially inclusive universal programs or services to the Municipal community that support the key strategies of the Municipality.

The objectives of the Community Partnership Fund are to:

1. Build and foster relationships with non-profit community-based organizations.
2. Provide multi-year seed funding to non-profit community-based organizations during their infancy to allow them to build capacity.
3. Provide multi-year financial support that assists with basic “core” organization and administrative costs of the organization, including salaries of full-time staff, facilities, equipment, communications, and the direct expenses of day-to-day work.

Providing multi-year core funding frees up time normally spent on fundraising and reporting and allows non-profit staff/volunteers to concentrate on building their capacity while focusing on their mission. This capacity building includes identifying communications strategies, improving volunteer recruitment, developing a leadership succession plan, identifying more efficient uses of technology, and engaging in collaborations with community partners.

The intent is that a Community Partnership Fund recipient could receive funding year over year however, the Policy requires an annual renewal of commitment from Council. To facilitate the annual commitment review, the Policy requires annual reporting from the organizations receiving funding. Each year, organizations receive notification of their (continuing) funding in April. In order to have funds released, annual reporting is submitted.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1. No later than October 31st of each year, organizations receiving funding shall provide the following:
 - 6.1.1. financial statements from the previous year showing the organization’s revenues and expenditures and demonstrating the need and proper expenditure of allocated Community Partnership funds;
 - 6.1.2. current years’ budget;
 - 6.1.3. statistical report summarizing the past year of service provision (numbers of clients, services, new trends, etc.) and proposed programs and services for the projected year.

Discussion

CURRENT FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Staff have reviewed annual submissions from eight (8) of the organizations who received the Community Partnership Fund in 2021/2022 and a summary is provided below. VON Colchester East Hants is not reapplying for funding this year.

The eight (8) organizations are continuing to meet the grant objectives as outlined above. In relation to the Municipality’s Key Strategies all of these organizations demonstrate a clear connection to “*Strong Community*” strategy, and our Vision as a “*vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living - a place where everyone feels connected.*” The organizations in this funding program are supporting our residents, offering opportunities and resources, and helping make East Hants a place people want to live.

Documentation provided for annual reporting is for 2020/2021. Staff have been in touch with each organization regarding the effects the pandemic is having and as applicable, COVID-19 impact may be included in summaries. Each organization has adapted and pivoted operations and support to continue serving East Hants residents through the pandemic.

Corridor Community Options for Adults (CCOA)

- CCOA’s mission is ‘to provide residential and vocational environments to individuals living with intellectual disabilities.’ Currently there are 13 different programs/opportunities offered to participants providing greater opportunities for personal growth, life skills and often employment. Several participants have found work in the community and have moved on to full time employment after skill building at CCOA.

- After shutting down in March 2020, CCOA worked with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Department of Community Services to develop COVID-19 operation plan and was able to open programs in stages in September 2020.
- Vocational environments such as Thrift Shop, Wood Products, Catering and Café all provide meaningful opportunities to CCOA clients. Other services include Job Coaching program, Day Program, Youth Day Program and Home Services for Seniors. Waitlist has grown to 60 individuals with the number climbing each month.
- Expansion Plan and Capital Campaign are in full swing with support from multiple levels of government and many local businesses, organizations, and supporters.
- Annual operating budget (aside from capital campaign) exceeds \$1,000,000.
- CCOA began receiving \$15,000 in CPF funding in 2020.

East Hants Community Rider

- East Hants Community Rider is under the umbrella of East Hants Community Learning Association, an organization that ‘believes in a stronger, more connected community and through individualized programming, we are opening the doors to education and transportation’.
- EHCR helps people of all ages and mobilities overcome transportation barriers with high quality, cost effective transportation. Clients use services to access childcare, medical appointments, job interviews, education, personal errands, vaccinations and social events.
- Fleet includes 3 accessible 7-8 passenger vans, two cars and one hybrid SUV.
- 2020/2021 statistics include 215,325 km traveled, and 5,355 in total rides. Ridership was down 50% during the pandemic since people were not traveling during the shutdowns. To maintain social distancing, the vans were predominately used and there were limited number of people allowed.
- Annual operating budget greater than \$600,000.
- EHCR has been receiving funding from the Municipality since 2005, using the General Government Grant Program before creation of Community Partnership Fund. Funding level over 15 years has increased from \$10,000 to current \$15,000 (since 2015/2016).
- Following a presentation at Executive Committee in November 2021 by EHCR, Council voted to include an increase of \$35,000 to \$50,000 be included in the draft budget discussions.

East Hants Family Resource Centre

- East Hants Family Resource Centre’s mission is to nurture and support family life through quality programs.
- Serving primarily the corridor area of East Hants their programs include prenatal, new parent, positive parenting, family literacy, along with recreation, social activities and events.
- EHFRC also supports families with advice, community connections, and referrals through phone, email, 211 and social media.
- Highlights from 2020/2021 include:
 - Significant increase in families served, up to 1,845 (over 600 new families supported).
 - Mid-week Meals provided 3,777 plates of food.
 - Pivoted to provide support online and over the phone, had staff onsite to continue providing diapers, formula, food and gas cards. Provided 316 food and gas cards.
 - Continued providing programming during the pandemic over zoom and outside when able to.
 - Established a workplace health plan for their staff through the East Hants Chamber of Commerce
 - Community and national partners continue to work with EHFRC for programming, events, and fundraising but also for providing pandemic support to families such as gift cards, hand sanitizer and wipes.
- EHFRC has an annual operating budget of over \$215,000 with five staff members.
- EHFRC has been receiving \$10,000 funding from the Municipality since 2011 using the General Government Grant Program before creation of Community Partnership Fund.

East Hants Historical Society

- East Hants Historical Society has been operating for more than 50 years as a non-profit organization focusing on the promotion and preservation of history throughout East Hants.
- EHHS operates the Lower Selma Museum (June-Sept), provides lectures and presentations, and develops and shares resources on geology and local cemeteries. Visitors to the Museum were down again, but better than last year.
- Online presence continues to grow with presentations now online and reaching attendees beyond East Hants.
- Project to add an accessible washroom to the Lower Selma Museum & Heritage Cemetery has started.
- Addition of Hennigar Grist Mill Stones site in Upper Kennetcook.

- Sixth year operating Archives & Research Centre, which is located on Park Rd in Elmsdale and is open to the public.
- In 2020/2021, EHHS had a budget over \$60,000.
- EHHS has received funding specifically identified by Council to cover rent of Park Road facility since 2016. Funding amount over the last five years was specific to rental agreement, with slight annual increases. Funding for 2021/2022 totaled 15,467.50.

East Hants Sports Heritage Society

- East Hants Sports Heritage Society (EHSHS) was incorporated in 2013 with the mandate of operating the East Hants Hall of Fame and to host annual sport awards recognizing those athletes and coaches currently competing.
- Used COVID-19 slowdown to run Friends of the Hall of Fame donation campaign and was able to complete Phase 1 of the Hall of Fame area at the East Hants Sportsplex.
- 2020 and 2021 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies were cancelled due to COVID-19 with plans for greater celebration in Spring 2022.
- 2021 East Hants Sports Awards were moved online with a social media campaign profiling all nominees. Many posts received more than 4000 views.
- Without the large events of 2020 the society didn't ask for annual sponsorship money from Presenting Partners. The annual golf tournament was still held as a fundraiser.
- Installed plaque in Hall of Fame that recognizes the support and annual contribution from the Municipality of East Hants.
- Operating Budget is around \$40,000 annually.
- EHSHS has received \$5,000 annually from the Municipality since 2014, one year through General Government Grant before the creation of the Community Partnership Fund.

East Hants Youth Links

- East Hants Youth Links (EHYL) has the mission 'to provide a safe, inclusive environment where youth can connect with their peers and engage in activities that develop confidence, life skills and links within their community.'
- COVID-19 impacted ability to deliver programming directly to students within the schools (in-school weekly sessions aren't allowed due to public health restrictions, but online and community engagement increased).
- COVID-19 precaution-friendly programming included:
 - Virtual activities and contests through Facebook (arts/crafts, baking, photography, etc.).
 - Open free swims and water polo programming at the East Hants Aquatic Centre.
 - Free yoga and High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) classes at the Strides Health and Fitness Centre.
 - Training to youth including Youth First Aid, Home Alone and Babysitting courses; 81 youth participated over 7 sessions.
 - Programmed hikes on local trails (snowshoeing and photo scavenger hunts)
- Other highlights from the 2020/2021 (school) year include
 - Number and range of activities offered has expanded, level of engagement with community has increased.
 - Fostered relationship with SchoolsPlus program provided in person EHYL programming at both Riverside Education Centre and Hants East Rural High in-between provincial lockdowns.
- Annual operating budget is \$23,000 including part-time staff salary.
- EHYL has been receiving Community Partnership Funding in amount of \$6,000 since 2017.

Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program for Children)

- Kids Action Program has the mission to develop and deliver services that promote the health and well-being of young children and their families in the Annapolis Valley-Hants area. The Kids Action Program for Hants is based out of Kennetcook and provides services within the Hants North area.
- Support is provided to families through pre/post-natal care, play groups, car seat education, field trips and parenting support. Furthermore, they also assist families navigate systems and find resources.
- Throughout the pandemic an increase in support came from the community, especially for food access. Another challenge highlighted during the pandemic is the lack of access to internet and devices in Hants North.
- COVID-19 precaution-friendly programming this year included:
 - Summer outings to parks with small groups.
 - Virtual Anger Management program (internet and device support provided).
 - Outreach for families in crisis via phone, social media or driveway visits.
 - Adventure fun pack deliveries containing snacks and activities.

- Kids Action first received \$10,000 through the Community Partnership Fund in 2021, this is their second year receiving.

Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County

- The Seniors' Safety Program Association of Hants County (SSPAHC) revitalized in 2014/15, providing programs that support the well-being, independence and health and safety of seniors.
- Programs include learning opportunities to increase awareness about health issues, personal safety and home security as well as social/recreation opportunities.
- Grant reporting was based on year end of December 31, 2020 and some highlights include:
 - 59 new clients and 10 home visits (for East Hants specifically, 14 new clients and 1 home visit)
 - Referrals were from RCMP, Halifax Senior Safety, Municipality of East Hants, 211, and self-referrals.
 - During COVID-19 lockdowns services pivoted to making phone calls, dropping off recreation and care packages, virtual cooking classes, free meals and holiday cheer packages.
 - Offered discount transportation through the East Hants Community Rider
 - The SSPAHC deals with the following issues - isolation, safety, abuse, continuing care, health care support, transportation, caregiver information/support, direction to find legal advice, housing, unsafe living conditions, help with heating rebates, fraud, mobility, information on food banks and community gardens, grants available, hoarding, financial difficulties, depression, snow removal, and health care (lack of family doctor).
- Annual operating budget for combined East/West Hants operations is around \$70,000
- SSPAHC has been receiving funding from the Municipality since 2015 through the Community Partnership Fund. Funding level increased from \$18,369 to current \$20,000 (after 2-year pilot program).

The information summarized above demonstrates that these community associations meet the objectives of Community Partnership Fund Policy. These groups continue to provide valuable services to the community.

NEW APPLICANT

Staff have reviewed one (1) new application and supporting documentation for the Community Partnership Fund. A copy is attached for your reference. A summary of the application is below. This organization applied for a Community Partnership Fund in 2020/2021 and was not approved by Council.

After Trauma Empowerment Network

The After Trauma Empowerment Network (ATEN) is a newly formed not-for-profit community group operating in Shubenacadie, servicing the corridor and surrounding communities. This organization has the mission to 'empower and improve the quality of life of individuals, families and communities affected by trauma by providing trauma informed counselling, support, intervention, education and resources.'

ATEN formed early in 2020, and in their first year provided support and services to 117 individuals ranging in age from 13-72 years old. In addition, they have done presentations educating people on trauma, have provided court support and began a women's group. There is demand for these services as many mental health programs come at a high cost, or aren't easily accessible.

Services and Activities provided by ATEN include (but are not limited to):

- Educational presentations/workshops on trauma related topics, healthy relationships and healthy living
- Peer support group for women
- Court/Police/ Forensic exam accompaniment
- Community education and awareness campaigns
- Safe Space/Ally for LGBTQ+ individuals

ATEN is requesting core funding that would help with rent and telephone/internet. To date, organizational and administrative costs have been paid by the founding members with services being provided in-kind. With more sources of funding, more services can be provided and more clients can be helped.

Summary of funding request:

Rent (\$1,380 per month)	\$16,560.00
Telephone / Internet (\$99.46 per month)	\$1,193.52
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST	\$17,753.52

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

From Council’s 2021 Strategic Plan, the key strategy of Strong Community:

A strong community is where people feel a sense of pride, are safe, connected and active. This is achieved through long-range community planning and by supporting those who live, work and visit in East Hants. Our goal is to provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.

Objectives: 1. Facilitate and advocate for the creation of community infrastructure and opportunities/ services that lead to a healthy, active and engaged community for all.

The staff grant committee reviewed the application and are not recommending it be approved. It was noted by the committee that Mental Health Services is a mandate of the Province under the Department of Health and Wellness. A significant portion of the services being provided by ATEN are Counselling services. However, ATEN formed to fill a service gap of trauma informed counselling support and resources at the local level. Council should consider if this application meets the overall intent of the Municipal Grant Program Policy and aligns with Municipal strategic objectives.

While ATEN has not qualified for a Community Partnership Fund grant, the Community Development Coordinator can work with the organization to seek support for specific programming that brings people together, building a strong community.

Alternatives

Alternatives for Council’s Consideration:

- A. Approve the recommended list of Community Partnership Organizations, 2022/2023 presented by staff
- B. Revise the list and funded amounts.

Conclusion

This report has brought forward a summary of eight (8) currently funded Community Partnership organizations that currently meet the eligibility criteria of Community Partnership Fund Policy and continue to advance Municipality’s key strategy of Strong Communities.

One new application was received. Staff are not recommending funding the After Trauma Empowerment Network application.

Recommendation

Staff are recommending the following organizations be included in the 2022/2023 draft budget under the Community Partnership Fund:

Organization	2022/2023 Grant
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000*
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$10,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$15,813
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
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* \$50,000 for the East Hants Community Rider is pending further budget discussion