



Subject: *Community Partnership Fund 2024/2025*
To: Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: January 9, 2023
Prepared by: Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Summary

This report brings forward the annual review of the Community Partnership Fund (CPF) program for 2024/2025 budget considerations.

The seven current recipients have applied to continue their funding. No new applications were received for consideration. Hants Senior Safety ceased operations in 2023, and didn't apply for the release of their 2023/2024 funds prior to dissolution. Staff Grant Review Committee have reviewed the annual reporting for each organization, and are recommending minimal changes to budgeted grant amounts for the coming year.

Financial Impact Statement

Funds have been included in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget to provide Community Partnership Funding to the following community organizations:

Organization	2024/2025 Draft Operating Budget
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$20,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$16,503
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
East Hants Youth Links	\$6,000
Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program)	\$10,000
Total	\$122,503

Recommendation

Staff are recommending the organizations and funding in chart above be included in the 2024/2025 draft budget under the Community Partnership Fund.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2024/2025 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:

- *Corridor Community Options for Adults, \$15,000*
- *East Hants Community Rider, \$50,000*
- *East Hants Family Resource Centre, \$20,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society, \$16,503*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society, \$5,000*
- *East Hants Youth Links, \$6,000*
- *Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$10,000*

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, 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

The Community Partnership Fund will 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 that provide programs or services that support the key Municipal strategies.

The Community Partnership Fund will:

1. Build and foster relationships with non-profit community-based organizations;
2. Provide seed funding to non-profit community-based organizations during their infancy to allow them to build capacity; and
3. Provide annual financial support that assists with core operating costs of the organization, including salaries of full-time staff, facilities, equipment, communications, and the direct operational expenses.

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.

4.4. Fund recipients will be required to report the following information by October 31st of each year:

- 4.4.1. Financial statements from the previous year;
- 4.4.2. Current year's budget; and
- 4.4.3. Annual report summarizing the past year of service provision (services, new trends, and other applicable statistics) and proposed programs and services for the coming year.

Discussion

CURRENT FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Staff have reviewed annual submissions from the seven (7) organizations that received the CPF in 2023/2024. These organizations continue to meet grant objectives and submission requirements. A summary of each organization is provided below. Documentation provided for annual reporting is for 2022/2023.

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.
- CCOA has not fully returned to pre-pandemic norms in some of the programs they offer. The thrift store and café and other programs aren't at full capacity which also creates a loss in revenue.

- 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.
- Currently 40 participants involved in regular programming and there has been some movement on waitlist.
- The CCOA Expansion Project continues despite the increased cost of the new building due to the pandemic and economic pressures. Funding has been secured from all levels of government and the project is moving forward.
- Annual operating budget (aside from capital campaign) exceeds \$1,100,000.
- 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 has mission of ‘empowering individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence through accessible learning opportunities, transportation and food security’.
- 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 is comprised 3 accessible 7-8 passenger vans and 4 SUVs, two of which are hybrid vehicles.
- 2022/2023 statistics include 469,978 traveled, and 12,271 rides to 522 passengers. Ridership was up more than 50% over the year before but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- This past year the organization has refreshed their strategic plan and launched a corporate sponsorship program.
- Annual operating budget greater than \$400,00, and they rely heavily on grants from multiple sources.
- 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 increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in 2015/2016. Council voted to increase funding to \$50,000 in 2022.

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 2022/2023 include:
 - 357 families served - yet another increase in clients over previous years.
 - Total attendance/contacts to the EHFRC were 3364 Families or 6932 individuals - 1000 more individual contacts than last year.
 - Popular programs include Mommy2B, Roots of Empathy, Thursdays in the Park (summer family programming), Run and Tumble at the Sportsplex, and annual Spring into Summer Picnic.
 - Continued day-to-day support to families by providing diapers, formula, food and gas cards. Provided 92 families school supplies.
 - 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. They also distribute covid test kits and work with COAT Association to provide winter gear to families in need.
- EHFRC has an annual operating budget of over \$250,000 with four 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. Council approved an increase to \$20,000 beginning in 2023/2024.

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-September), provides lectures and presentations and develops and shares resources on geology and local cemeteries. Approximately 460 visitor to the Museum.
- Online presence continues to grow with presentations conducted online reaching attendees beyond East Hants. Work has been done on filming and editing future program content.
- Plans underway for more necessary renovations to the Museum building in 2024.

- Eighth year operating Archives & Research Centre, which is located on Park Road in Elmsdale and is open to the public. New searchable lateral file database is in place.
- Annual operating budgets varied based on planned projects and programs, but typically average \$60,000.
- EHHS has received funding specifically identified by Council to cover rent of Park Road facility since 2016. Funding amount over the last seven years has been specific to rental agreement with slight annual increases. Funding for 2024/2025 totaled \$16,503.

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.
- Hall of Fame induction celebration changed format this year, separating from Tide Fest to reduce costs. Event was held in October and it was well received.
- East Hants Sport Awards celebrated Super Six in 2023 and recognized an impressive group of athletes with recent accomplishments.
- Videos of inductees have been viewed more than 5000 times on YouTube.
- 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.’
- Operations have seemingly resumed to pre-pandemic levels. Programming continues weekly at Riverside Education Centre after school, averaging 25 participants. Community sessions are also held evenings and weekends in partnership with Riverside United Church.
- Programming and Partnership summary:
 - Virtual activities and contests through Facebook (arts/crafts, baking, photography, etc.).
 - Open free swims and water polo programming at the East Hants Aquatic Centre.
 - Hosted open free skates for youth through Actives Community Fund (provincial funding).
 - Partnered with EH Curling for Youth Rocks (averaging 40 participants).
 - Free yoga, fitness and self-defense classes at the Strides Health and Fitness Centre.
 - Regular hikes were popular so some themed walks were hosted for holidays.
- Annual operating budget is around \$20,000 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 in 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.
- Programming highlights include:
 - Playgroups have grown with weekly sessions being held at both the centre and Findley Park.
 - Splash and Play at EHAC with monthly attendance of 30 to 40.
 - Increased programming added for school aged children and families have been successful.
 - Christmas Angels program provided support to 78 people.
 - Baby groups focusing on infants 0 - 12 months include: Baby Daze, Baby Walk & Talk, and Move with Me which all work to connect caregivers/parents at a critical time.
- The group has many key community partners including Hants North Food Bank, SchoolsPlus, West Hants Family Resource Centre, Sipekne’katik First Nations, NS Public Health, and Hants North Recreation and Development Association.
- Kids Action received \$10,000 through the Community Partnership Fund beginning in 2021 with funding specific to Hants North.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

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. 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.

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 by offering opportunities and resources, and by helping make East Hants a place people want to live.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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The Staff Grant Review Committee have reviewed and are recommending the allocated amounts as per the above table. Changes from 2023/2024 include;

- East Hants Historical Society allocation has increased by \$345 to reflect increased rent at their Park Road facility.
- Removing the Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County’s funding as the group has dissolved.

Alternatives

An alternative for Council’s consideration is to revise the list of recipients and/or funded amounts.

Attachments

Community Partnership Fund Annual Submissions for each of the seven associations.