



Subject: *General Government Grants 2026/2027*
To: Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: January 5, 2026
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Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Summary

This report provides an overview of funding and the organizations currently included in the General Government Grants program. The Staff Grants Review Committee has reviewed and are bringing forward this report for direction on inclusion in the General Government Grant budget for 2026/2027.

Financial Impact Statement

Organization	2026/2027 Draft Operating Budget	2025/2026 Approved Budget	2025/2026 Actual Funds Released	Notes
Remembering Canada's Heroes	\$1,000	\$1,000	0	
Hants County Exhibition	\$500	\$500	\$500	
Dr. Snow Bursaries	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	
East Hants Foodbanks /Christmas Programs	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	Divided by 7 organizations as outlined in report
COAT Association	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
4H Sponsorship	\$200	\$200	\$100	One of 2 zones requested funds in 2025/2026
Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club)	\$500	\$500	\$500	
Braeden Bannister HERH/RCMP	\$650	\$650	\$407	Event moved from fall to March 2026
Safe Grad Activities	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$5,936	
EH Farmers Market	\$4,000*			*Up to \$4000 in facility rental expenses.
Contingency	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,550	Curling Bonspiel, Library Gala Sponsorship, Key to Municipality/Wyatt Sanford
TOTAL	\$37,850	\$26,850	\$25,993	

The "Grants to Organizations" line item in the 2026/2027 Draft Operating Budget includes a \$4,000 contingency to fund General Government Grants requests that are approved by Council. These requests will be brought to Council as they are received. This \$37,850 is an increase of \$11,000 over the 2025/2026 budget for General Government Grants.

Recommendation

The General Government Grants identified in the draft budget and discussed in this report be approved as presented.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of 2026/2027 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2026/2027:

• Remembering Canada's Heroes	\$1,000
• Hants County Exhibition	\$ 500
• Dr. Snow Bursaries	\$3,000
• East Hants Foodbanks /Christmas Programs	\$14,000
• COAT Association	\$2,000
• Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP	\$1,000
• 4H Sponsorship	\$ 200
• Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club)	\$ 500
• Braeden Bannister HERH/RCMP	\$ 650
• Safe Grad Activities (facility fees up to a max of)	\$7,000
• EH Farmers Market (facility fees up to a max of)	\$4,000

Background

In April 2009, Council approved the General Government Grants Policy with most recent update and amendment being approved in June of 2023. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for the awarding of grants to non-profit organizations who apply to the Municipality for financial assistance.

The Eligibility Criteria from the General Government Grants Policy guides the review of applications and is as follows:

1. Program/Service Obligation ~ supports a service delivered by the Municipality.
2. Public Need/Benefit ~ service or program is broad-based and all residents will derive a benefit versus special interest group needs and benefit to specific residents.
3. Financial Need ~ application demonstrates financial need and identifies all other grants and fundraising activities. Copies of most recent Financial Statements and the current year's budget should accompany the request.
4. Quality of Life ~ service or program enhances the quality of life of residents.

As per the Municipal Grant Program Policy, the General Government Grant requires a Motion of Council to approve the budgeted General Government Grant recipients. Before the monies are released, each organization has to send their financial statements, operating budget and a letter of request to the CAO. The Foodbank/Christmas Programs receives their funding as a donation and we do not require the formal request or financial statements.

Discussion

A summary of each organization in the General Government Grant Program is provided below. Each of these organizations are continuing to meet the grant objectives as outlined above.

REMEMBERING CANADA'S HEROES

Remembering Canada's Heroes applies for funding annually to support their educational outreach program, where they visit Grade 8 and Grade 11 classrooms. In 2022, they were able to return to classrooms after COVID-19 limitations affected the previous 2 years, but haven't been able to do as many presentations as hoped. The group will apply for these funds once they have used the funds provided in years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but didn't apply for their funding the last three years. The organization has begun to create some digital content and have plans to expand their offerings on YouTube which may be easier to for teachers to work into their curriculum.

A budgeted amount of \$1,000 for this organization is in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

HANTS COUNTY EXHIBITION

Hants County Exhibition has received a General Government Grant of \$300 for 10 years, with the exception of an expanded sponsorship in 2015 for their 250th anniversary. Since 2020, they have been receiving \$500 annually, which has aligned with their bronze level event sponsorship, although some sponsorship benefits have changed in recent years, and levels are expected to change in the coming years.

The budgeted amount of \$500 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

DR. SNOW BURSARIES

These are for the funding of three (3) \$1,000 grants within the schools. These are given every year and the schools select each recipient. The Dr. Snow Bursaries are part of the Council's Municipal Grant Program Policy.

The budgeted amount of \$3,000 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

EAST HANTS FOOD BANKS/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

In October 2020, Council made a motion to provide all established food banks in East Hants with \$500 to help replenish stock after receiving a request from the Caring and Sharing Food Bank. In November 2021, Council made a motion to increase that amount to \$1,000 per foodbank [C21(346)]. In November 2021, Kids Action Program's Angel Tree Program was added this list. In 2023, Hants County Christmas Angels was moved to this list, having been part of General Government program for several years. There are seven established recipients in East Hants:

1. Caring and Sharing Foodbank (Enfield)
2. Hants North Food Bank
3. Sipekne'katik Food Bank
4. Shumilacke Food Bank Society
5. Uniacke Wish Givers (Uniacke and District Jr. Fire Department Emergency Fund)
6. Kids Action Program (Angel Tree Program)
7. Hants County Christmas Angels

There is \$14,000 proposed in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government to provide \$2,000 to each established food bank.

Due to limited volunteer capacity and nature of these donations, documentation is not required for the release of funds to these organizations.

COAT ASSOCIATION

In September 2022, Council received a request for funding support from the COAT Association. COAT stands for Community Offering Assistance Together, and this organization collects warm coats, snowsuits, hats, mittens and more to those in need across East Hants. This will be the fourth-year funding this organization.

The budgeted amount of \$2,000 is included in the 2026/2026 draft operating budget under General Government.

CST. HEIDI STEVENSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, RCMP (BURSARY FUND)

In April 2024, Council received a sponsorship request from RCMP members organizing the 2nd Annual Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament. RCMP and East Hants Crime Prevention partnered to raise funds that are used to fund the Cst. Heidi Stevenson Humanitarian bursary awarding students in East Hants that are pursuing an education in criminology, emergency services or associated professions such as social work, human services or psychology and Council supported the request with a \$1000 General Government Grant.

The budgeted amount of \$1,000 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

4H SPONSORSHIP

Council has supported Halifax East Hants 4H by providing trophy sponsorship for their 4H Day annual event held in August. \$100 covers 4 trophies. This was provided for 2 years and following the 2024 request, Council motion C24(193) passed that staff look into 4H sponsorship to understand if amounts given to the two regional zones.

There are four 4H clubs in East Hants. They are split into different zones/regions with 2 clubs being part of Halifax-East Hants zone of Central Region and 2 clubs in Hants County zone of Valley Region. Staff did follow up with Hants County zone for comparable funding opportunity, and while interested, no request was received this year.

The budgeted amount of \$200 (\$100 for each region with East Hants clubs) is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

RECYCLE YOUR CYCLE

Since 2023, Council has received annual requests from Rotary Club of Sackville and Area for funding towards their Recycle your Cycle program, which collects used bikes for children, works with a local business to repair and refresh, and then provides to children in need. The \$500 grant provides new helmets to accompany the bicycles as they are given to children in need. Mount Uniacke families have received dozens of bikes over the last three years, and the Rotary club uses East Hants funding for these helmets.

The budgeted amount of \$500 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

BRAEDEN BANNISTER HERH/RCMP

Since 2023, the Hants East Rural High hockey team has applied for funding to cover the ice rental at the East Hants Sportsplex for their charity hockey game against the local RCMP in support of Braeden Bannister Memorial Fund. The 2025/2026 game has been scheduled for March 7, 2026.

The budgeted amount of \$650 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

SAFE GRAD

Staff have received an initial request from HERH regarding 2025 Safe Grad for the use of both the East Hants Aquatic Centre and Sportsplex facilities. The use of the facilities would have to be paid for by a General Government Grant, and this is something that was done for EHAC rentals for both HERH and HNRH in the past. In 2025, HNRH confirmed they didn't require facility but may consider in the future. Motion from Council is 2025 stated funding could be used for all East Hants graduates, which would include supporting Mount Uniacke area students at Avon View should they reinstate Safe Grad programs.

The budgeted amount of \$7000 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

CONTINGENCY

A contingency of \$4,000 is included in the draft operating budget. This amount is used for any other potential grant applications that are received throughout the year. Should the applicant(s) meet the requirements for receiving a General Government Grant, separate report(s) will be brought to Council for approval.

Contingency funding has been used for initial requests, such as the ones above and for things such as CEHP Library Gala Sponsorship in 2025, and other requests that fall outside other grant programs offered. As the Municipality continues to receive these smaller requests, contingency funding is important.

NEW APPLICATION - EAST HANTS FARMERS MARKET

A Community Partnership Fund application was received by the newly formed East Hants Farmers Market Cooperative and the organization presented to Council in December. Council supported this organization in 2025 with their pop-up markets to trial the East Hants Sportsplex as a venue. These pop-up markets were very successful with sales just under \$20,000 across the three events.

For 2026/2027, they plan to operate a monthly market (April to December) and the East Hants Sportsplex remains the preferred location. They have requested facility support along with limited operational funding. The revised application for the monthly market shows a request of \$5543, with priority being to secure space at the Sportsplex. Facility space rental makes up nearly one half of their projected \$8500 operating budget for the upcoming year.

The majority of facility rental support funding through the Municipality is processed through General Government Grant (policy section 1.1.1), and staff are recommending this program over Community Partnership Fund. The group would also be eligible for Not-for-Profit Insurance Grant while receiving General Government funding.

The 2026 budget submitted with the application shows a small surplus without grant funding, but in the start-up year there are many unknowns. Staff Grant Review Committee recommend supporting the East Hants Farmers Market through facility support with *up to* \$4000 in rental fees for the Sportsplex.

The budgeted amount of \$4000 is included in the 2026/2027 draft operating budget under General Government.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

From Council's 2025 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.

Organizations that receive General Government Grant Funding demonstrate a clear connection to *Strong Community* strategy. By helping, supporting, educating and connecting East Hants residents, the General Government Grant program recipients help make East Hants a place people want to live.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support the organizations outlined above, it is a total of \$33,850. The Grants to Organizations line item in the 2026/2027 Draft Operating Budget includes a \$4,000 contingency to fund new General Government Grants requests that are approved by Council. These requests will be brought to Council if received.

The total for General Government Grants is \$37,850, which is an increase of \$11,000 over the 2025/2026 budget.

Alternatives

Council may recommend alternative funding amounts be identified for the General Government Grant recipients.

Council could also consider changing the contingency funding budget from \$4000.