



Date: Jan 5, 2026
To: Kim Ramsay
cc: Alana Tapper
From: Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
Re: Community Grant Overview & Update

Summary

The Community Grant Policy allows staff to process small grants throughout the year and the Council approved allotment has historically lasted through the entire fiscal year.

The annual budget of \$33,000 for Community Grant Program was fully spent as of the September 2025 with half of 2025/2026 fiscal year remaining. Council approved up to an additional \$12,000 from General Government Reserve to support Community Grant applications that were received for the remaining 2025/2026 fiscal year with the motion C25(346).

An increase of \$20,000, for a total of \$53,000 is allocated to Community Grant Program in the draft 2026/2027 operating budget.

Background

The Community Grant is a first come, first funded program and has several categories that fund community groups and also supports individuals. Grants range from \$100 to \$1500. Applications are reviewed against policy and processed by staff as they are received throughout the year. The annual allocation for the grant program has been \$33,000 for the last 8 years.

There have been some minor policy changes over the years. In 2022/2023, amounts for athletes was changed from \$25 to \$100 and eligibility for insurance expenses was removed with the creation of the Not-for-Profit Insurance Grant as of April 2023.

Grant Usage

Staff are continuing to see increased grant program usage, along with general funding inquiries. Organizations and community groups are reliant on funding for new equipment, general maintenance, annual upkeep and event hosting, including parade insurance.

Many groups are using this funding annually, this is especially common for organizations with few revenue stream options (parks/trails groups) or for community halls and recreation facilities where maintenance costs

have grown substantially in the last few years. While the Event Hosting grant is usually only a maximum of \$250, there is also the option for parade insurance up to \$500 and that option was used 4 times this fiscal year.

- Recreation Operating category is most well used, comprising approximately two-thirds of the funds spent annually, most applying for the max \$1500. Annually, this impacts:
 - 5-8 community halls who use this for routine maintenance and small capital improvements
 - 8-10 parks and trails groups supporting maintenance, upgrades and wages
 - 3-6 sport and rec facilities, for wages, facility upgrades, or coach training
- Parks and trails are most likely to use funding year or year, with limited sources of revenue
- Youth Athlete support - in last 3 years:
 - \$14,325 has been spent supporting EH residents under age 25
 - Athletes from across all 11 districts have received funding
 - Athletes travelled to provincials and nationals and even to international competitions, in at least 12 different sports; Hockey, softball, volleyball, to rugby, lacrosse, gymnastics and dance
- Event Hosting - in last 5 years:
 - \$10,555 have been spent on event hosting applications, with more than 75% being annual applicants

2026/2027 Budget

The annual allocation for the grant program has been \$33,000 for the last 8 years. For the balance of 2025/2026 Council provided additional \$12,000 from General Government Reserve. Given the uptake in the grant program and applications, further funding is required to meet the demand, which is only expected to grow.

\$53,000 for Community Grant Program is in the draft 2026/2027 operating budget.

Supporting tables follow on the next page.



Supporting Data

Community Grant Program Summary

Fiscal Year	Budget	Total Spent	Date Expended	Total Applications
2017/18	\$23,000	\$17,575		35
2018/19	\$33,000	\$33,000	2019-02-20	46
2019/20	\$33,000	\$32,918	2020-02-25	41
2020/21	\$33,000	\$31,459		27
2021/22	\$33,000	\$26,844		25
2022/23	\$33,000	\$29,993		31
2023/24	\$33,000	\$29,061		32
2024/25	\$33,000	\$33,000	2025-03-25	43
2025/26	\$33,000	\$33,000	2025-09-15	43
2025/26 (additional funds)	\$12,000	\$5,421		7

Community Grant Usage by Category

Year	Rec Operating		Equipment		Travel (Youth)		Event Host/Parade Ins.	
	Applications	Value	Applications	Value	Applications	Value	Applications	Value
2017/18	3	\$4500	7	\$6250	14	\$4250	11	\$2575
2018/19	14	\$19,970	7	\$6920	9	\$2200	16	\$3910
2019/20	16	\$22,543	4	\$4000	7	\$2625	14	\$3750
2020/21	21	\$28,684	2	\$2000	3	\$525	1	\$250
2021/22	17	\$23,019	2	\$2000	1	\$300	5	\$1525
2022/23	17	\$23,050	3	\$3000	5	\$1850	6	\$2093
2023/24	14	\$20,513	1	\$986	10	\$4600	7	\$2962
2024/25	17	\$23,555	1	\$1000	15	\$4800	10	\$3975
2025/26	16	\$21,777	2	\$2000	14	\$4925	11	\$4298
2025/26*	3	\$3671	1	\$1000			3	\$750

*Additional funds, since October