



Council report

Meeting date:	December 1, 2020
Title:	Grant applications: ICIP – COVID 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, and ICG grant
Prepared by:	Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston, CAO

Recommendation

That council receive report “Grant applications: ICIP – COVID 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, and ICG grant be received; and

That council approve the submission of a grant funding application under the Active Transportation Stream of the ICIP – COVID-19 Resilience Stream – Local Government Intake for the replacement of and repairs to existing playground structures and for the purchase of wayfinding signage for trails; and

That council approve the submission of a grant funding application under the Inclusive Community Grant (ICG) for accessibility upgrades to the Durham Town Hall.

Executive summary

On October 28, 2020, Ontario announced the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (“COVID stream”) under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in Ontario. Under the new COVID stream, \$250 million in combined federal-provincial funding will be dedicated to local governments across the province. West Grey’s allocation is \$100,000 for this new stream.

The Inclusive Community Grant (ICG) program was announced in early November as a “new program to help people with disabilities and senior stay safe and engaged in their neighbourhoods.” This grant allocates up to \$60,000 for projects that support community inclusivity.



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Background and discussion

ICIP – COVID-19 Resilience Stream – Local Government Intake

The federal government has indicated that investments under this stream are to support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including temporary infrastructure related to pandemic response, primarily for public use and/or benefit. Projects are limited to one of four categories:

- **Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- **COVID-19 Response Infrastructure**, including measures to support physical distancing;
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure**, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

Municipalities will not be required to cost-share under this stream. The federal government will cover 80% of the total eligible costs associated with any approved project and Ontario will cover 20%, however, total eligible costs for all submitted projects cannot exceed our municipal allocation. The deadline for submitting an application is Dec. 21, 2020. Projects must have started construction by Sept. 30, 2021 and be completed construction by Dec. 31, 2021. For those municipalities receiving a maximum of \$100,000 there is a project cap of one, however projects can be bundled under the same category and asset type.

Our insurance providers have completed inspections on all of our playground structures and they have identified several deficiencies that need to be addressed. This funding could be used to complete the work as a bundled project under the active transportation infrastructure category.

West Grey council has also discussed developing the community trail system. Trails are eligible in this grant program and staff will include a request for wayfinding signage in the application.



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Inclusive Community Grant (ICG)

The provincial government announced the Inclusive Community Grant (ICG) as an investment of \$2 million over two years to strengthen communities and provide local opportunities for older adults and people with disabilities. Through the ICG, municipalities can receive up to \$60,000 for projects that foster inclusive community involvement for older adults and people of all abilities, using the province's age-friendly community planning guide.

Staff's recommendation to submit an application to the ICG for upgrades to the Durham Town Hall is also supported by the West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee (LACC). At their November 26, 2020 meeting, the LACC passed the following motion:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Municipality of West Grey seeks funds from the Inclusive Community Grants for up to \$60,000 to make the Durham Town Hall accessible, including a new ramp, washrooms and entranceway.

As one of the eligible categories of this grant program is retrofitting buildings with ramps and accessible washrooms, and given West Grey has \$10,000 in reserves, this is a shovel-ready project and an appropriate fit to the intent of the ICG.

Other Grants

West Grey has submitted a grant to Tree Canada for fruit trees, under the Treemendous Communities program. West Grey is also pursuing funds under the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Community Fund from \$5,000 to \$150,000 (recreation and library programming/supplies).

Legal and legislated requirements

None.

Financial and resource implications

The ICIP grant program would provide \$100,000 from the federal and provincial governments and does not require any matching funding from the municipality.

The ICG grant program would provide \$60,000 from the provincial government. West Grey has allocated \$10,000 in reserves as well.



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Staffing implications

Staff will undertake completion of the applications. If the applications are approved then plans would begin to implement the project with various suppliers/contractors.

Consultation

Laura Johnston, CAO
Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: build a better future

Goal: vibrant community

Strategy: maintain and invest in our infrastructure; be responsible stewards of the tax dollars

Attachments

None.

Next steps

Submit grant applications, which are due December 21, 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Kerri Mighton

Director of Finance/Treasurer