

Town of Whitby

Staff Report

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Report Title: Grant Summary 2024

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: January 20, 2025

Report Number: CAO 04-25

Department(s) Responsible:

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by:

Sarah Klein, Deputy CAO & Director,
Strategic Initiatives

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Officer**

For additional information, contact:

Melissa Weatherbie, Sr. Manager,
Government Relations & Grants Ext
2332

1. Recommendation:

1. That Report CAO 04-25 be received for information.

2. Highlights:

- This report provides an update regarding Town of Whitby 2024 grant opportunities and successful applications.
- The Town has had an unprecedented year, achieving over \$56 million dollars of grant commitments from the Federal and Provincial Governments.
- The Town has over \$60 million dollars in pending applications for grant funding with more applications on the horizon.
- Resolution #23-24 has enabled expedient grant applications, which is necessary for the current environment with short application timeframes.
- A dedicated staff position overseeing grant submissions has furthered the Town's capacity to submit competitive applications as well as complete required reporting and follow up on funding dispersion.

3. Background:

The municipality continues to actively pursue grant opportunities to support key initiatives and advance community priorities. By leveraging available funding programs, the Town can reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers while delivering significant projects that benefit residents. In 2024, staff from across the Town of Whitby, including Finance, Creative Communities, Recreation, 55+, Facilities, Sustainability, TIS, Planning, Building, Engineering, Operations, and Fire & Emergency Services, worked collaboratively to maximize Federal, Provincial, and other grant opportunities, resulting in increased resident services and improvements to infrastructure at a reduced cost to residents.

4. Discussion:

In 2024, Whitby was successful with 12 grant applications, resulting in a total of \$56,277,446 in grant funds and 400 smoke alarms. In the same year, Whitby was informed of 5 unsuccessful grant applications, noting oversubscription and a shortage of funds to meet application demand. Finally, 11 grant applications are pending decisions/announcements, with a total grant ask of more than \$60 million.

The increased numbers of both successful and pending applications speak to the Town’s commitment to action 4.1.1 of the Community Strategic Plan to advocate for funding to support current and anticipated community priorities.

The following chart summarizes the successful applications received in 2024:

Submission Year	Grant Name	Town of Whitby Project	Grant Value Awarded	Funder Type
2023	Infrastructure Canada – Green and Inclusive Community Buildings 2023	Whitby Sports Complex	\$25,000,000	Federal
2023	Housing Accelerator Fund	9 Town Initiatives	\$ 24,990,434	Federal
2023	Celebrate Canada Grant (2024 Events)	Whitby Canada Day Celebrations	\$12,000	Federal
2023	Canada Summer Jobs Program	Summer Staff	\$155,333	Federal

2024	Seniors Active Living Centre Program 2024-25	Brooklin Community Centre & Library Age-Friendly Programs	\$51,137	Provincial
2024	Seniors Active Living Centre Program 2024-25	Town of Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre	\$51,137	Provincial
2024	EV ChargeON Program	Whitby Sports Complex	\$300,000	Provincial
2024	Tourism Growth Fund	Rowe House and Waterfront Placemaking	\$200,000	Federal
2024	My Main Street – Community Activator	Roebuck Street & Grass Park Placemaking	\$91,000	Federal
2024	Enbridge Gas	Combination Smoke/Fire Alarms	N/A – 402 Smoke/Fire Alarms	Private Business - Enbridge
2024	Building Faster Fund	White Bridge	\$5,385,253	Provincial
2024	Fire Protection Grant 2024	Stormstick Decontamination Systems for Firetrucks and Additional PPE	\$41,152	Provincial

The following chart summarizes the unsuccessful applications in 2024:

Submission Year	Grant Name	Town of Whitby Project	Grant Value Requested	Funder Type
2024	Inclusive Community Grants	Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch	\$60,000	Provincial

	Program 2024-25	(Gordon Street Boat Ramp)		
2024	EV ChargeON Program	Whitby Parking Lot #5	\$45,000	Provincial
2024	EV ChargeON Program	Whitby Town Hall	\$30,000	Provincial
2024	EV ChargeON Program	Fire Hall 1	\$30,000	Provincial
2024	RBC Community Infrastructure Fund	Roof Replacement, Improved Insulation and Solar Panels on Fire Hall 5	\$704,655	Private Business – Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

The following chart summarizes the pending applications at the end of 2024:

Submission Year	Grant Name	Town of Whitby Project	Grant Value Request	Funder Type
2022	Natural Infrastructure Fund	Williamsburg Stormwater Management Revitalization Initiative	\$292,000	Federal
2024	FCM – Growing Canada’s Community Canopies	800 Trees Planted Across Whitby	\$240,000	Federal
2024	Housing Enabling Core Services Fund	Columbus Road Expansion – Country Lane to Ashburn Road	\$20,000,000	Provincial
2024	Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure	Anne Ottenbrite Pool and Change Room Renovations	\$1,900,000	Provincial

	Fund – Stream 1			
2024	Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2	Whitby Sports Complex	\$25,000,000	Provincial
2024	Infrastructure Canada – Green and Inclusive Community Buildings – Small-Medium Retrofit	55+ Deep Energy Retrofit	\$876,486	Federal
2024	Infrastructure Canada – Green and Inclusive Community Buildings – Large Retrofit & New Builds	IPSC Deep Energy Retrofit	\$10,863,137	Federal
2024	Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund – Round 2	Brawley Rd Ditch Work	\$365,000	Province
2024	Canada Summer Jobs Program	Summer Staff	\$618,254	Federal
2024	Ontario Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Grant Downtown Whitby (with DRPS)	CCTV Cameras in Downtown Whitby - Provincial grant applied for through DRPS in collaboration with Town	\$8,000	Provincial

2024	Celebrate Canada Grant (2025 Event)	Canada Day Celebrations	\$12,000	
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The expediency of these grant submissions was made possible through the support of Council and Resolution #23-24 as follows:

4. That the Treasurer and the CAO be delegated authority to award all contracts related to Federal or Provincial grant-funded projects, including the Housing Accelerator Fund, that are within budget until December 31, 2027;
5. That staff be delegated the authority to submit all Federal or Provincial grant applications, normally requiring Council authorization beforehand, until December 31, 2027, subject to the agreement of the Treasurer and CAO; and,
6. That staff report on grant applications submitted, grant agreements executed, and procurements awarded, which normally would require Council approval.

In addition, a dedicated position of the Senior Manager, Government Relations & Grants has been fundamental in supporting these grant opportunities and the \$53 million increase in grant funding for the Town over the previous year. This position supports the submission of applications, facilitating collaborative work efforts across the corporation, alignment to projects, reporting on existing agreements to ensure compliance/funding issuance and grant advocacy government relations work. This position for the Town is currently a contracted role until December 31, 2027, supported through Housing Acceleration Funding. The Town will be seeking to make this a permanent position in the 2026 budget.

5. Financial Considerations:

The \$56,277,446 in grant funding will enable the completion of additional infrastructure projects, accelerate project timelines, and reduce the Town’s financial contributions/debt financing. A transfer payment agreement accompanies each grant and the Town’s receipt of the full amount of the grant funding is contingent upon complying with agreement terms such as completion of construction by set timelines, the Town funding the portion of the project not covered by the grant, and expenditures meeting the eligibility criteria.

6. Communication and Public Engagement:

Funding announcements are often coordinated with the respective level of government and widely shared through our media channels. For certain projects, such as the [Housing Accelerator Fund](#), a dedicated project webpage has been launched to outline the nine initiatives, provide progress updates, and share additional information.

7. Input from Departments/Sources:

Grant opportunities are tracked throughout the calendar year with collaboration from the grant project leads. The Senior Manager, Government Relations & Grants, housed within Strategic Initiatives, works collaboratively with staff across the organization to develop submissions for grant applications specific to their work area. The level of involvement of Strategic Initiatives staff differs based on the complexity of the grant opportunity and application submission. This model of work and support continues to develop as the Town grows in experience for differing opportunities. An update to F 270, Grant Submission Policy, is planned for early 2026 based on learned experience supported by this new role.

8. Strategic Priorities:

Whitby's Community Strategic Plan identifies advocating for funding as a priority under Strategic Pillar 4: Whitby's Government. This is identified under Action 4.1.1 Advocate for funding from upper levels of government and other partners to support and advance current and anticipated community priorities. The Measures of Progress for this Action include reporting annually on grant funding applications. Grant funded projects continue to focus on supporting efforts outlined within the Community Strategic Plan as well as focus on improving the Town's accessibility and sustainability. Town staff continue to complete high quality grant submissions supporting their work and aligning to key priority areas identified by the Town and residents. As an important part of this work, Town staff continue to monitor and review grant opportunities. This effort ensures that those opportunities in which the Town is eligible for and that align to our strategic goals are applied for.

9. Attachments:

Not Applicable