



100 John West Way  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 6J1  
(905) 727-3123  
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
**Information Report**  
No. FIN26-022

---

**Subject:** 2025 Grant Update

**Prepared by:** Laura Sheardown, Financial Management Advisor

**Department:** Finance

**Date:** June 2, 2026

---

**In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole or Council meeting agenda for discussion.**

## **Executive Summary**

The intent of this report is to provide Council with a summary of Aurora's 2025 grant applications, as well as some of its grant applications currently under development.

- The Town applied for \$17.1M in grants during 2025 and has been successful in obtaining approvals for \$6.5M so far
- There are currently 14 grant opportunities under consideration for potential application submission

## **Background**

Grants are a regular source of much needed funding for the Town. Financial Management Services has the responsibility to continually monitor and seek out grant opportunities which would benefit the town. Staff from other departments support Finance in this responsibility by bringing forward grant opportunities relating to programs that they provide. Further, Financial Management plays a lead role in the active management of most Town grant agreements, ensuring that all reporting obligations are met as per their specific timelines.

Staff have the delegated authority to submit grant applications for:

- Programs that support services provided by the Town
- Currently approved capital projects
- Replacement or refurbishment of current assets that are within four years of recommended replacement or refurbishment

The number of municipal grant opportunities has increased over the past years and shows little sign of slowing. This increase has been experienced from all funding sources including the federal and provincial governments, as well as the private sector.

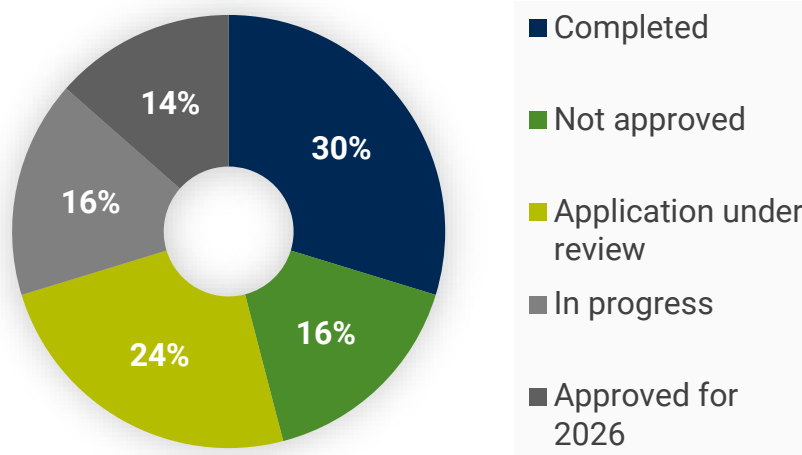
A new dedicated grant management position was adopted as part of the 2025 operating budget commencing on July 1, 2025. This position has now been filled and a strategic action plan devised and commenced.

## **Analysis**

### **The Town applied for \$17.1M in grants during 2025 and has been successful in obtaining approvals for \$6.5M so far**

During 2025, staff worked on 37 grant files at different stages of their lives. At a high level, 30 percent of grant applied for have been completed with final reports filed and funding received by the Town, 16 percent have been approved and are in progress; 16 percent of application submitted were not successful; 24 percent are still under review; and 14 percent relate to 2026 projects. Please note that these numbers do not include grant programs that were reviewed and determined to not fit the Town's needs due to either eligibility, funding use or timeline reasons.

**Figure 1**  
**Summary of Grant Status**



Attachment 1 lists all the grant programs to which applications were submitted in 2025, including any that were approved. A status of each application is also provided.

It is important to note that some grant application lifecycles can vary in timeframe from a few months to as long as two or more years to conclude from beginning to end. There are many steps in the life of a grant application which may include:

- Application research and development
- Application review and funding decision
- Execution of a grant agreement, if application is successful
- Completion of associated work/activity
- Ongoing reporting to grant provider on progress
- Final receipt of grant funds

Each grant program has individual eligibility requirements and funding priorities that must be met to ensure application success.

**There are currently 14 grant opportunities under consideration for potential application submission**

Staff are always searching for new grant opportunities from all sectors. Table 1 presents a summary of the current grant programs under consideration by the Town.

**Table 1**  
**Grant Applications Currently Under Consideration or Development**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>
The Blanket Fund (Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund)	Provides support for Indigenous cultural, artistic and educational activities
Canadian Race Relations Foundation	Support for communities to fight against racism and discrimination
Canadian Trees For Life	Support the planting of native trees where Canadians live, work and play
Collections Management – Museum Assistance Program	Provides funding to improve knowledge, skills and practices related to key museum functions
Community Sport and Recreation Fund	Funding to repair, upgrade or build sport and recreation facilities
Enabling Access to Spaces for Everyone	Improving accessibility in Ontario communities
Fairways Foundation	Funding to naturalize the outside of managed turf properties
Greenbelt Foundation	Eligible projects strengthen or protect the Greenbelt’s natural and agricultural systems
Greening Action Partnership Fund	Supports projects that enhance and rehabilitate natural areas creating a vibrant and sustainable York Region
Green Municipal Fund – Growing Canada’s Community Canopies	Funding to support the expansion of tree canopies within communities
Invasive Phragmites Control Fund	Provides financial support for the implementation of Phragmites prevention and control activities in Ontario
Invasive Species Action Fund	Provides financial support for a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs
Western Financial Group – Community Infrastructure Grant	Funding to enhance public spaces, climate resilience, accessibility and safety
York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program	Funding for the implementation of streetscape and master plans by lower tier municipalities

Staff continue to make good use of annual grants like Canada Summer jobs, Seniors Active Living centres and Jumpstart.

## **Advisory Committee Review**

Not applicable.

## **Legal Considerations**

None.

## **Financial Implications**

Grant revenue has become an important source of funding for multiple program areas and asset replacement strategies. Increasing costs and declining development revenue have placed an even greater importance on alternative funding sources such as those offered through grant programs.

## **Communications Considerations**

The Town of Aurora will use 'inform' as the level of engagement for this project. In order to inform, this report will be posted to the Town's website.

## **Climate Change Considerations**

The information contained within this report does not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

Applying for grant funding contributes to achieving the Strategic Plan guiding principle of 'Leadership in Corporate Management' and providing information reports improves transparency and accountability to the community.

## **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

Not applicable.

## **Conclusions**

The Town applied for funding from several different grant programs, successfully obtaining approval for \$6.5M. Staff continue to explore new opportunities to fund town

operations and special projects and to explore potential partnerships within the community.

## **Attachments**

[Attachment 1 – Summary of Grant Applications for 2025](#)

## **Previous Reports**

None.

## **Pre-submission Review**

Agenda Management Team review on May 14, 2026

## **Approvals**

**Approved by Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, CPA, CMA, Director, Finance**

**Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer**

Grant Program	Project Description	Grant Value (\$)		Status
		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	
Active Transportation Fund	Separate Bike Lane on Henderson Dr	562,800	tdb	Application under review
Active Transportation Fund	Sidewalk on Mary St	363,600	tdb	Application under review
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - North summer position subsidy (2025)	320,350	52,976	Completed
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - North summer position subsidy (2026)	276,892	12,320	Approved for 2026
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - South summer position subsidy (2025)	201,627	43,000	Completed
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - South summer position subsidy (2026)	179,564	56,672	Approved for 2026
Canadian Race Relations Foundation	Aurora's Multicultural Festival	10,000	0	Not approved
Celebrate Canada	Canada Day Celebrations 2025	46,450	25,000	Completed
Commemorative Partnership Program	Aurora War Memorial 100th Anniversary	23,650	23,650	Completed
Commemorative Partnership Program	Indigenous War Memorial	25,000	25,000	Approved for 2026
Community Emergency Preparedness	Digital & AI Powered Emergency Response Solutions Boost	50,000	0	Not approved
Save on Energy - Dollars to Sense	Energy Efficiency training for Facility Operators	8,500	8,500	Approved and in progress
Enabling Accessibility	Bringing Sledge Hockey to Aurora	70,376	0	Application under reassessment
Enbridge - Municipal Action Plan Offer	Support of the Town's Climate Action Plan	10,000	10,000	Completed
Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone	Fleury Park Accessible Playground	60,000	tdb	Application under review
Experience Ontario	Winter Special Event support	20,000	0	Not approved
Federal Gas Tax (Canada Community Build Fund)	Funding calculated by formula and applied to various Asset Management projects	2,032,375	2,032,375	Completed
Green Municipal Fund/ Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Greener Homes Feasibility Study	174,420	174,420	Approved and in progress
Green Municipal Fund/ Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Growing Canada's Community Canopy	635,350	635,350	Approved and in progress
Green Municipal Fund/ Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Fleet Electrification Study	192,200	tdb	Application under review
Green and Inclusive Community Buildings	Upgrades and improvements for AFLC	6,126,817	tdb	Application under review
Jumpstart	Coaching in Sport Pathway	7,500	0	Not approved
Jumpstart	PLF4M Leadership Course Winter 2026	15,000	15,000	Approved and in progress
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	Various storm water projects	882,880	882,880	Approved and in progress
New Horizons	Connect and Learn with the Aurora Seniors Centre	23,125	23,125	Completed
Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario	Seniors Active Living Fair	2,500	2,500	Completed
Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund	Funding calculated by formula and applied to various Asset Management projects	2,283,134	2,283,134	Completed
RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund	Fleury Park Accessible Playground	40,000	0	Application under review
Seniors Active Living Centres	Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2025	59,037	59,037	Completed
Seniors Active Living Centres	Virtual Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2025	56,414	56,414	Completed
Seniors Active Living Centres	Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2026	70,000	55,000	Approved for 2026
Seniors Active Living Centres	Virtual Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2026	68,000	55,000	Approved for 2026
Seniors Community Grant	Seniors Safety Initiative	16,132	0	Not approved
Seniors Community Grant	Living Your Best Life in Aurora	7,650	tdb	Application under review
Western Financial Group - Community Infrastructure Program	Aurora Family Leisure Complex Engagement Retrofit	200,000	tdb	Application under review
Wetland Conservation Program	Wetland Improvements in Aurora	1,930,000	0	Not approved
York Region FDI Partnership Fund	Economic Development	13,000	13,000	Approved and in progress
		17,064,343	6,544,353	