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Town of Aurora

Information Report

No. FIN25-033

Subject: 2024 Grant Update

Prepared by: Laura Sheardown, Financial Management Advisor

Department: Finance

Date: June 10, 2025

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 2024 grant applications, as well as some of its grant applications currently under development.

- The Town applied for \$13.7M in grants during 2024 and has been successful in obtaining approvals for \$5.5M so far
- There are currently 11 grant opportunities under consideration for potential application submission
- Additional resources will enable the Town to apply for more grant opportunities

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 capital 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 channels including the federal and provincial governments, as well as the private sector.

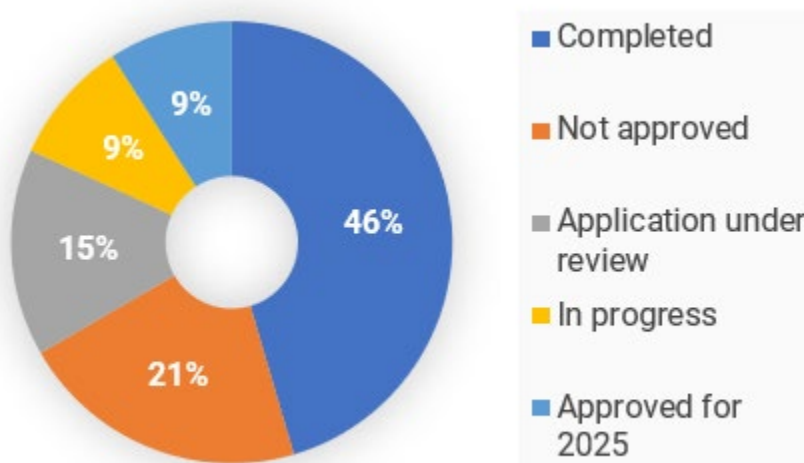
Analysis

The Town applied for \$13.7M in grants during 2024 and has been successful in obtaining approvals for \$5.5M so far

During 2024, staff worked on 33 grant files at different stages of their lives. At a high level, 46 percent of grants applied for have been completed with final reports filed and funding received by the town; nine percent have been approved and are in progress; 21 percent of applications submitted were not successful; 15 percent are still under review; and nine percent relate to 2025 projects.

Figure 1

Summary of Grant Status



Attachment #1 lists all the grant programs to which applications were submitted in 2024, including any that were approved. A status of each application is also provided.

Please note that some grant applications may take several 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 hopeful approval
- execution of a grant agreement, if application 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 11 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

Organization	Grant Description
Active Transportation	Funds initiatives that support the expansion and enhancement of active transportation infrastructure
The Blanket Fund (Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund)	Provides support for Indigenous cultural, artistic and educational activities
Canadian Trees for Life	Support the planting of native trees where Canadians live, work and play
Community War Memorial	Provides restoration funding of war memorials (Indigenous memorial)
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 – Municipal Fleet Electrification	Funding to support the completion of a feasibility study for the electrification of Town vehicles

Organization	Grant Description
Inclusive Communities	Offers funding for the development of local age-friendly 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
York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program	Funding for the implementation of streetscape and master plans by lower tier municipalities

Staff continue to successfully leverage annual grant programs such as Canada Summer Jobs, Seniors Active Living Centres and Jumpstart.

Additional resources will enable the Town to apply for more grant opportunities

As the volume of available grant programs and the complexity and competition to access these programs continue to grow, the amount of effort necessary to monitor, apply and manage grant agreement obligations has grown substantially. At present, these responsibilities for the most part have rested with Financial Management Services division, representing one of many responsibilities for a Financial Management Advisor.

The dedicated grant position that was approved as part of the 2025 Budget which will be filled in early July will greatly assist Financial Management in its grant management responsibilities.

Advisory Committee Review

Not applicable.

Legal Considerations

None.

Financial Implications

Grant funding 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. In support of the Town's maximization of its successful access to grant revenue opportunities, a new position dedicated to grant management was approved as part of the 2025 operating budget.

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 adaption.

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 \$5.5M. Staff continue to explore grant opportunities to fund town operations and special projects, and to explore potential partnerships within the community.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – Summary of Grant Applications for 2024

Previous Reports

None.

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on May 22, 2025

Approvals

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

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary of Grant Applications for 2024

Grant Program	Project Description	Grant Value (\$)		Status
		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - North summer position subsidy (2024)	283,259	53,323	Completed
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - North summer position subsidy (2025)	320,350	52,976	Approved for 2025
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - South summer position subsidy (2025)	155,291	39,413	Completed
Canada Summer Jobs	Aurora - South summer position subsidy (2025)	201,627	tbd	Application under review
Celebrate Canada	Canada Day Celebrations 2024	69,150	35,900	Completed
Community Emergency Preparedness	Modernization of Emergency Operations Centre	46,875	0	Not approved
Community War Memorial	Aurora War Memorial 100th Anniversary	23,650	tbd	Application under review
Digital Museums	Aurora War Memorial 100th Anniversary	24,400	0	Not approved
Enabling Accessibility	Bringing Sledge Hockey to Aurora	85,996	0	Not approved
EnAbling Change	Implementation of Aurora's Recreation Plan for Persons with Disabilities	75,000	0	Not approved
Enbridge - Municipal Action Plan Offer	Support of the Town's Climate Action Plan	10,000	10,000	Completed
Experience Ontario	Winter Special Event support	20,000	20,000	Completed
Federal Gas Tax (Canada Community Build Fund)	Funding calculated by formula and applied to various Asset Management projects	1,978,474	1,978,474	Completed
Green Municipal Fund	Greener Homes Feasibility Study	174,420	174,420	Approved for 2025
Green Municipal Fund	Growing Canopy	635,350	tbd	Application under review
Green and Inclusive Community Buildings	Upgrades and improvements for AFLC	6,126,817	tbd	Application under review
Inclusive Community	Town Park Renovation	60,000	0	Not approved
Invasive Species Action Fund	Dog Strangling Vine & Garlic Mustard	2,100	2,100	Completed
Jumpstart	Strong in Sport	2,500	2,500	Approved and in progress
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	Various storm water projects	882,880	882,880	Approved and in progress
Museum Assistance Program - Access to Heritage	Aurora War Memorial 100th Anniversary	33,000	tbd	Application under review
National AccessAbility Week	AccessAbility Week 2024 Activities	65,040	0	Not approved
National Safe Swimming Recovery Program	Lifeguard training & course reimbursement	30,514	30,514	Completed
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	1,985,334	1,985,334	Completed
Participation	Skate with Pride and LeadHER Play Day	1,900	1,900	Completed
RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund	Making Town Park Playground Accessible	200,000	0	Not approved
Seniors Active Living Centres	Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2024	63,258	63,258	Completed
Seniors Active Living Centres	Seniors Centre Operating Grant - 2025	100,000	100,000	Approved for 2025
Seniors Community Grant	Fitness & Healthy Living Apprenticeship Program	25,000	25,000	Completed
York Tourism Fund	CONTACT Photography Display	5,000	5,000	Completed
Young Canada Works	Museum internship	15,000	15,000	Approved and in progress
		13,727,810	5,503,617	