



Report to County Council

From: Warden Ed Ketchabaw, Chair of Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee

Date: May 1, 2024

Subject: 2024 Community Grant Program Allocations

Recommendation(s):

THAT Elgin County Council approve the 2024 Community Grant Program allocations as proposed by the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee.

Introduction:

The Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee (RIPA) is responsible for considering grant requests made to County Council through the Community Grant Program (CGP) and making recommendations to Council as to which organizations should be provided funding as part of the Council budget process.

The CGP is currently divided into two streams: Community Services, and Festivals and Events. These two streams are further divided into Cultivate (existing programs and events) and Seed (new programs and events).

The CGP was developed in 2020 to replace the previous grant process and has undergone several minor changes at the direction of the Committee.

Background and Discussion:

The Application Scoring Process

The CGP scoring process has been designed to ensure the Committee is able to objectively review requests for funding using a fair and consistent process. This is particularly important as the program is regularly oversubscribed.

1. Applications are first screened for eligibility against a set of criteria laid out in the CGP application.
2. Applications that do not meet eligibility criteria are removed from consideration.
3. Applications are then reviewed independently by each Committee Member and scored using a standard scoring matrix.

4. Staff compile the scores received from each Committee Member to determine an average total score for each application.
5. Applications must receive an average total score of 60% or higher to be considered for funding. Applications that do not meet this threshold are also removed from consideration.
6. A Weighted Formula is then used to calculate proposed allocations.
7. The Committee is presented with a list of proposed funding allocations to consider for approval.
8. Council is presented with the Committee's recommendations for consideration.

2024 Application Overview

There is \$74,358 allocated for the CGP as part of Council's approved 2024 Budget.

A total of 29 applications were received for the 2024 intake period.

9 applications did not meet the eligibility criteria of the program or achieved lower than an average total score of 60%.

There were 20 applications that were eligible for funding, and total eligible asks were \$147,500.

2024 Recommended Allocations

Overview by Funding Stream

	Ask	% of total ask	Proposed Budget
Community Services - Seed	\$0	0%	\$0
Community Services - Cultivate	\$56,100	38%	\$28,281
Festivals & Events - Seed	\$7,000	5%	\$3,529
Festivals & Events - Cultivate	\$84,400	57%	\$42,548
TOTAL	\$147,500	100%	\$74,358

Community Services

There were no Community Services Seed Applications recommended for funding in 2024.

Community Services - Cultivate	Average Total Score	Ask	Weighting Factor	Recommended Allocation
St. Thomas-Elgin Second Stage Transitional Residents	70	\$10,000	0.0213660	\$4,859
Quad County Support Services	72	\$3,000	0.0065929	\$1,499

STEAM Education Centres Incorporated	69	\$10,000	0.0210607	\$4,790
The Family Central Apartments	75	\$10,000	0.0228921	\$5,206
Mennonite Community Services	72	\$10,000	0.0219764	\$4,998
Multi-Service Centre	73	\$2,100	0.0046791	\$1,064
VON - Student Nutrition Program	77	\$9,000	0.0211523	\$4,810
Elgin 4-H Association	76	\$2,000	0.0046395	\$1,055
TOTAL	584	\$56,100	0.1243590	\$28,281

Festivals and Events

Festivals and Events - Seed	Average Total Score	Ask	Weighting Factor	Recommended Allocation
Tyrconnell Heritage Society - Backus Page	76	\$7,000	1.0000000	\$3,529
TOTAL	76	\$7,000	1.0000000	\$3,529

Festivals and Events - Cultivate	Average Total Score	Ask	Weighting Factor	Recommended Allocation
Bayham Historical Society - Edisonfest	71	\$1,500	0.0015675	\$733
Straffordville Community Committee - Watermelon Fest	72	\$10,000	0.0105973	\$4,958
Port Burwell Periscope Playhouse	68	\$10,000	0.0100085	\$4,683
Elgin County Plowmen's Association	74	\$500	0.0005446	\$255
Bayham Beachfest	70	\$10,000	0.0103029	\$4,821
CALIPSO	79	\$10,000	0.0116276	\$5,440
Wallacetown Ag Society	80	\$10,000	0.0117747	\$5,509
Port Burwell Historical Society	75	\$4,900	0.0054090	\$2,531
Aylmer & East Elgin Ag Society	68	\$10,000	0.0100085	\$4,683
Shedden Ag Society	73	\$7,500	0.0080583	\$3,770
Rodney Ag Society	75	\$10,000	0.0110388	\$5,165
TOTAL	805	\$84,400	0.0909379	\$42,548

Financial Implications:

\$74,358 has been included in the Elgin County 2024 Budget for the CGP.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Serving Elgin	Growing Elgin	Investing in Elgin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need. <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring different ways of addressing community need. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth. <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering a healthy environment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhancing quality of place.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future. <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

None.

Communication Requirements:

After Council's decision is finalized, letters from the Chair of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee will be sent to both the successful and unsuccessful applicants.

Conclusion:

After diligent consideration, Committee Members submitted individual scores for each CGP application received. These scores were combined and then proposed allocations were calculated using a weighted formula. These proposed allocations are before the Council for consideration.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Ed Ketchabaw

Warden and Chair of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee