

Township of Southgate

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Staff Report CAO2021-042

Title of Report: Federal Government/Infrastructure Canada Funding
Opportunity – Green and Inclusive Community Building
Program and Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant
Update Report

Council Date: May 19, 2021

Council Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive staff report CAO2021-042 as information; and

That Council direct staff to proceed to develop a Dundalk Pool Upgrade project in Southgate as the best fit for an application based on the funding guidelines under the Infrastructure Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program by the end of June, 2021 deadline; and

That Council receive a verbal update from staff on the May 18, 2021 Downtown Public Consultation meeting and the next steps related to the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant.

Background:

Infrastructure Canada has introduced a new funding program that aims to improve community infrastructure to make it more energy efficient, more resilient, and higher performing. The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Program will invest \$1.5 Billion over the next five years to support municipalities with green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings.

The GICB Program will fund two types of projects:

1) Retrofits, Repairs, and Upgrades to Existing Community Buildings:

The following community buildings/assets are eligible for retrofit projects:

- Community, culture, and recreation facilities (e.g. community centres, public sports and recreation facilities, cultural buildings, child and youth centres, community adult learning centres, seniors centres etc.)
- Mobile community structures (e.g. mobile libraries, health clinics, youth service facilities etc.)
- Community health and wellness facilities (e.g. food safety and security, community food storage facilities, greenhouses, food banks, community health centres, addiction and mental health centres, rehabilitation centres etc.)
- Indigenous health and social infrastructure facilities (e.g. community health centres, clinics, paramedic facilities, long-term care facilities/elder lodges etc.)

- Indigenous education facilities (e.g. schools, universities and colleges, adult learning centres, early childhood and daycares etc.)

All retrofit projects must be planned to be completed within the timeframe between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2026.

Eligible Green Retrofits:

- Upgrading lighting systems
- Adding insulation
- HVAC upgrades
- Implementation of new energy management systems and sensors
- Significant reconfigurations to the interior for the purpose of energy savings
- Roof replacement
- Climate resilience retrofits
- Solar PV array
- Wind turbines
- Geothermal exchange systems

Eligible Accessibility/Safety Measures:

- Wheelchair ramps
- Visual fire safety devices
- Slip resistant floors
- Widened, automated doorways
- Washroom renovations for wheelchair access
- Assistive listening and communication enhancement technologies
- Auditory/visual output redundant with information on visual displays and auditory output
- Labels in large print and/or braille on equipment control buttons

2) Construction of New Community Buildings

Eligible new buildings construction projects must be facilities that are accessible to the public and provide a community service. They include the following:

- Community, culture, and recreation facilities (e.g. community centres, public sports and recreation facilities, cultural buildings, child and youth centres, community adult learning centres, seniors centres etc.)
- Mobile community structures (e.g. mobile libraries, health clinics, youth service facilities etc.)
- Indigenous health and social infrastructure facilities (e.g. community health centres, clinics, paramedic facilities, long-term care facilities/elder lodges etc.)
- Indigenous education facilities (e.g. schools, universities and colleges, adult learning centres, early childhood and daycares etc.)

New construction projects will be required to meet the following minimum standard:

- Built to be **net-zero carbon**
- Built to be **net-zero carbon ready**

All construction projects must be planned to be completed within the timeframe between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2026.

The GICB will be accepting applications under two intake streams:

- Small and Medium Retrofit Projects: Applications ranging in total eligible costs from *\$100,000 to \$3 Million* will be accepted on a continuous basis and funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for the continuous intake stream will be accepted until total funding has been allocated for this stream.
- Large Retrofits and New Community Buildings Projects: Applications ranging in total eligible costs from *\$3 Million to \$25 Million* will be accepted through a competitive intake process. The deadline to submit an application under this stream is July 6, 2021.

Funding:

The GICB Program will provide funding up to the following limits:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| • Retrofits up to \$9,999,999: | 80% |
| • Retrofits over \$10,000,000: | 60% |
| • New builds up to the first \$9,999,999 of costs: | 60% |
| • New build costs of \$10,000,000+: | 50% |

Staff Comments:

Infrastructure Canada Funding Opportunity – Green and Inclusive Community Building Program

This grant funding is a significant opportunity for a municipal project in Southgate. Based on discussion last week with Grant Match and in review of the program guidelines, the project that is the best fit for Southgate is the Dundalk Pool Retrofit Project. This project would rebuild the main part of the swimming pool building (admin., change rooms and washrooms) and retain the new filter building addition and equipment. The project would make the building and pool publicly accessible and look to incorporate solar energy features into the building and pool system as part of a climate change initiative and the net-zero focus of this funding intake.

The costs estimate for the project is unknown at this time and is being worked on for another report at the June 2, 2021 Council meeting.

Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant

The Mayor and staff hosted a public consultation meeting with the Dundalk Downtown businesses and property owners to discuss the revitalization for building accessibility as well the future streetscape look and design of Proton Street North between Main and Holland, our Community Action Plan goals received and our Community Improvement Plan program.

A verbal update will be provided at the Council meeting as part of this staff report.

Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications

There is no financial cost impact to the municipality in making an application for this grant in the 2021 budget as financial requirement to tender and upgrade or construct would be in the 2022 or beyond budget discussions.

Infrastructure Canada Funding Opportunity – Green and Inclusive Community Building Program

The Dundalk Pool Retrofit project if approved would receive 80% of the project in grant funding and at the present time the Recreation Pool Reserve has \$62,891.86 to support a project cost of over \$300,000.00 without other taxpayer funding.

Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant

The available funding in the program is \$31 million investment by the Federal Government and support projects. The minimum funding for a project is \$5,000.00 and maximum amount is \$250,000.00 for each application approved. Grant Match staff completed the research for this applicable funding program opportunity and they feel it is a good fit for our Downtown Dundalk project.

At the present time we have reserves to support this project with \$30,000 for Downtown Improvements and EcDev signage \$24,568.26, with some required to support the RED Fund project. Additional funding if the project application was approved could be from the Township's Tax Stabilization reserve (\$997,091.88) and possibly the Modernization Funds (\$498,919.37).

Our agreement with Grant Match charges their service fees for the approved funding.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Goal 4 - Adequate and Efficient Public Facilities

Action 4: The residents and businesses of Southgate expect the Township to plan and adequately provide for public facilities for gatherings, recreation and doing business with the Township, while recognizing at the same time that facility needs can change with age and a changing population.

Concluding Comments:

1. That Council receive this staff report as information.
2. That staff undertake further research with Grant Match on how the Township should proceed to apply for an Infrastructure Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program Project.

Respectfully Submitted,

CAO approval: Original Signed By

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