

Township of Centre Wellington

Grant Application Policy

The purpose of this policy is for the Township of Centre Wellington to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit organizations by means of a grant to enhance the overall wellbeing of the community.

1.0 APPLICANT QUALIFICATION

Organizations applying for funding must meet the following qualifications:

1.1 Qualifications For Funding

- 1.1.1 The organization must be operating as a not-for-profit organization.
- 1.1.2 The organization must be comprised of an independent volunteer committee and or belong to an educational organization and must meet regularly and maintain appropriate minutes and records of proceedings.
- 1.1.3 Be based in the Township of Centre Wellington, with at least a majority of members being Township residents. Membership and programs must be open to all Township citizens, and services, programs and activities must be of benefit primarily to Township citizens.
- 1.1.4 The organization's programs or services must serve clearly identified community needs not already adequately addressed by another organization, be it government, corporate or another not-for-profit organization.
- 1.1.5 The applicant's organization must be organized for at least one year.
- 1.1.6 The organization must provide evidence that the community has shown a commitment to their programs through participation in the organization or attendance at functions sponsored by the organization.
- 1.1.7 The organization should have demonstrated support from some other source than public funds. Other sources of income should include substantial financial support from audiences through ticket sponsorships or membership sales, where the functions of the organization are such as to serve audiences.
- 1.1.8 Financial responsibility should be demonstrated through the preparation and submission of operating budgets and complete financial statements. Complete financial statements include both a balance sheet and income statement, prepared by a licensed accountant operating independently of the applicant, for organizations with annual gross revenues in excess of \$50,000. The Township recognizes that financial statement preparation costs can be prohibitive to smaller organizations, and therefore will accept a current, internally prepared, balance sheet and income statement for entities with annual gross revenues less than \$50,000.

1.1.9 The organization is in good standing with the Township. The organization must be current on accounts receivable and not in litigation with the Township.

1.1.10 Marketing for a new event or project in it's first year.

1.2 **Ineligible For Funding**

1.2.1 Organizations which are profit-oriented.

1.2.2 Individuals.

1.2.3 Marketing for the organization applying, travel or accommodation, uniforms, personal equipment, banquets, trophies or entertainment.

1.2.4 Rent (excluding Township facilities), utilities or debt repayment (i.e. mortgages).

1.2.5 Attendance at conferences, workshops or seminars.

1.2.6 Request for contributions to fund prior year deficits incurred by the organization.

1.2.7 Organizations who have failed to provide satisfactory reports, including financial statements, as to the success of the previous year and specifically with respect to the allocation of grant funds.

1.2.8 Requests for grants to an individual, or to an individual group that is controlled by a parent organization (in this case the parent organization should apply for the grant).

1.2.9 Organizations that receive other subsidies from the Township.

1.2.10 Organizations operating as service clubs, except under the Specific Annual Grants category.

1.2.11 Capital Projects

1.2.12 Applications that arrive late (after the posted deadline date) will be deferred to council for approval.

1.3 Council may grant special consideration to entities that do not meet all the above criteria, but are unique in nature and fulfill a specific need in the community.

2.0 **GRANT CATEGORIES AND FUNDING ALLOCATION**

2.1 A separate annual budget (approved by Council) will be allocated to each grant category, and will be included in the Township's annual operating budget.

2.2 Consideration of grant applications will be made under the following categories:

A. Community Impact Grant

Objective - The intent of the program is to provide financial assistance to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Township of Centre Wellington by fostering and strengthening special events, the arts and culture, supporting artistic excellence and stimulating wider community appreciation and participation in social and/or environmental activities.

Specific Annual Grants

Objective - The intent of the program is to provide financial assistance to enhance the quality of life in the Township of Centre Wellington by fostering, strengthening and stimulating wider community appreciation and participation in the community.

The applying organization must demonstrate the social need of their program and must have a history of the program by applying through the Community Impact Grant application process for a minimum of 5 years.

In order to be eligible for funding, a letter must be received by the Township from the exempt organization. The letter must identify the need for the grant and the general intent of use of the funds. The Township must receive the letter annually, prior to July 31st, before any grant funds are to be considered by Council.

If an exempt organization wants to submit a request for increased funding, the organization must identify the need and the amount of increase within the required letter noted above.

Council will review the Grant Application Exempt Organizations listed above, annually in September, as part of the preliminary annual budget process. Any changes (additions or deletions) to the section will be communicated to the affected organizations in writing prior to the advertisement described in section 4.1.

- 2.3 Grant funds available to an organization in a budget year are limited to a maximum of \$5,000. This maximum includes requests for subsidized Township parks and recreation facility rental under section 3.1.

3.0 REQUESTS FOR SUBSIDIZED TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY RENTAL

- 3.1 Organizations requesting a reduction in the Township's fees as per the approved Fees and Charges Schedule for the purpose of Parks and Recreation facility rental/service are required to submit a written request directly to Council.

4.0 GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 In the fall of each year, the Township will advertise (in local papers) and on social media all relevant information relating to the upcoming grant application process. The advertisement will indicate where applications can be picked up, and when they are due.
- 4.2 Applications must be delivered to the Parks and Recreation Department by the date and time outlined in the advertisement discussed in section 4.1.
- 4.3 All grant applications (excluding Grant Application Exempt Organizations) will be forwarded to the Community Services Advisory Committee for review. This committee will prepare a report outlining its funding recommendations and a summary of funding justification for each application to the Committee of the Whole. The total allocation recommended by the committee will be within the budget approved by Council for Community Impact Grants under Section 2.2A.
- 4.4 The Committee of the Whole will review the Community Services Advisory Committee report during regularly scheduled budget meetings.
- 4.5 Applications falling under section 1.3 will go directly to Council for review and consideration.
- 4.6 The Community Services Advisory Committee and the Budget Committee will review the applications based on the applicant qualifications listed in section 1.0, and the following measures:
 - 4.6.1 Professional standards
 - 4.6.2 Fiscal and overall accountability of the applicant
 - 4.6.3 Administrative accountability
 - 4.6.4 Economic impact
 - 4.6.5 Merit and achievement
 - 4.6.6 Community service and participation
 - 4.6.7 Responsiveness to existing community need
 - 4.6.8 Degree of accessibility
- 4.7 The Community Services Advisory Committee and/or Council reserves the right to request any applicant to participate in an interview in order to further clarify information within their application.
- 4.8 The grant allocation decisions made by the Committee of the Whole will be included in the budget approval recommendation that is forwarded to Council. Upon Council approval, successful grant applicants will be notified in writing. Grant cheques will be issued in a timely manner.
- 4.9 The granting of financial assistance in any year is not to be regarded as a commitment by the Municipality to continue such assistance in future years. In addition, the Municipality will not provide guaranteed funding beyond the current year. In making grants, the Municipality may impose conditions as it sees fit.

5.0 CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

- 5.1 Grant recipients must acknowledge the support of the Township of Centre Wellington in all printed materials including marketing materials.
- 5.2 **Grant recipients must provide a written statement of use of funds within two months of the event/program/service. Organizations will not be considered for future grant funding until all required reports are received by the Township of Centre Wellington's Parks and Recreation Department.**
- 5.3 Grant Application Exempt Organizations awarded Specific Annual Grants under section 2.2B are exempt from the requirements of section 5.2.

6.0 REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY & DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

- 6.1 Consideration of grants under this section must fall under one of the following categories:
 - 6.1.1 Emergency Funding – Funding for organizations that are experiencing extensive financial hardship as a result of an unforeseen short-term increase in expenditures or decrease in revenues.
 - 6.1.2 Disaster Relief Funding – Funding for organizations or communities whose property and possessions have been extensively damaged in an unexpected natural disaster. Natural disasters include, but are not restricted to floods, tornados, fires, and storms.
- 6.2 Applications for funding under this section must come in the form of a report or letter. The report or letter must outline the extent of the emergency/disaster, the estimated financial impact, and the requested amount of funding. This report or letter may come from one of the following sources:
 - 6.2.1 The organization or community requesting the funds.
 - 6.2.2 A staff or Council member of the Township of Centre Wellington.
 - 6.2.3 A third party (such as a resident of Centre Wellington).
- 6.3 Applications for funding under this section may be forwarded to the Township of Centre Wellington at any time throughout the year.
- 6.4 The report or letter must be forwarded to the Financial Services Department of the Township of Centre Wellington, 1 MacDonald Square, Elora, Ontario, N0B 1S0. After the report or letter has been examined, the Financial Services Department will issue a report to the Committee of the Whole. This report will include a copy of the original report or letter received under section 6.2 of this policy as well as a recommendation (including possible funding sources, if applicable). The Financial Services Department report will be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Township before it is forwarded to the Committee of the Whole.
- 6.5 The Committee of the Whole will consider the Financial Services Department report and make a recommendation to Council. Upon Council approval, funding will be issued by the Financial Services Department in a timely manner.
- 6.6 Consideration by the Committee of the Whole and Council will be based on the criteria described in section 4.6 of this policy.