

Council Policy No.:	2024-xx
Council Policy Name:	Economic Development Fund
Date Approved by Council:	
Date revision approved by Council:	
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Forms	

Policy Statement and Rationale:

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes acknowledges the efforts of volunteer organizations located within the City.

The City has the opportunity to provide an avenue to create partnerships with these volunteer organizations to provide for the betterment of the City.

The City wishes to support volunteer organizations yet not have such organizations become reliant on such supports thereby potentially eroding the strength and independence of such organizations.

The City wishes to provide financial assistance and support to these community organizations and associations in recognition of these groups as a valuable resource in helping the municipality provide a strong community focus.

The Municipal Act, Section 107 (1), General power to make grants, acknowledges Council’s authority to provide financial assistance through the following statement,

Despite any provision of this or any other Act relating to the giving of grants or aid by a municipality, subject to section 106, a municipality may make grants, on such terms as to security and otherwise as the council considers appropriate, to any person, group or body, including a fund, within or outside the boundaries of the municipality for any purpose that council considers to be in the interests of the municipality.

The City therefore establishes this policy to guide the distribution of grant funds for the purpose of providing operating funding support to various community-based, Not-For-Profit organizations.

Scope:

The Economic Development Fund is for Not-For-Profit organizations operating within the City of Kawartha Lakes for the benefit of the residents and visitors of the City in the focus areas of local economic development and culture.

The Fund provides funding for organizations to advance the strategic priorities of the City as detailed in the Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan, Kawartha Lakes Cultural Master Plan, Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Strategy, and other associated plans or policies.

The Fund will support the stability and sustainability of local organizations, supporting their contribution to the community while ensuring organizations retain their independence.

The Fund will strengthen partnerships between the City and local organization for the betterment of the economic vibrancy of the City.

Definitions:

In reading and interpreting the policy, the following definitions apply:

"City" means the Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

"Culture" means a project or initiative which enhances the area of arts, historical importance, and intellectual achievement.

"Cultural Organization" means a local community group or association which operates as a Not-For-Profit organization, is volunteer based, and provides a valuable "Cultural" resource or service, project or initiative which enhances the area of arts, historical importance, and intellectual achievement.

"Cultural Master Plan" refers to the Council approved Cultural Master Plan as updated from time to time

"Economic Development Strategy" refers to the Council approved Economic Development Strategy as updated from time to time

“Grant” a one time, annual, or multi-year allocation of funds provided by the City to a specific purpose which meets the criteria in a specific program as published in the respective Guideline.

“Guidelines” a published document containing comprehensive information about a specific grant program. Guidelines may be amended from time to time.

“Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan” refers to the Council approved corporate Strategic plan as updated from time to time

“Local economic development” a community driven place-based process where communities identify and initiate their own solutions to economic, social and environmental issues to build healthy, economically viable local communities.

“Program” a funding opportunity provided by the City, governed by published guidelines. Eligibility, funding levels and processes vary between programs. Programs may be one-time, temporary or ongoing and are subject to change.

Policy:

1. Council established the following focus areas for Not-For-Profit grant programs:
 - 1.1. Culture
 - 1.2. Local Economic Development
2. Grant funds may include both operating and project related programs and will advance the Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan, Kawartha Lakes Cultural Plan, and/or Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Strategy, and other strategies or policies as appropriate.
3. Guidelines will be developed and published for all grant programs.
4. Applications will be reviewed and authorized by the Director of Development Services, or designate, and reported to Council for information.
5. Grant recipients are required to complete annual reporting, remain in good standing, and be working towards the financial sustainability and independence of their organization.

6. Budget

- 6.1. Council will establish base operating funding allocations for each focus area.
- 6.2. Funds not expended in a program in any given year will be transferred to the General Contingency Reserve at year end and available for funding the program in a subsequent year(s).
- 6.3. Should the funding ask of eligible organizations exceed the program budget, funds will be distributed to organizations on a proportional basis.
- 6.4. Annual amendments to the funding program base budget will be made in line with the cost of living index as established by Council.
- 6.5. Council may, through the annual budget process, increase or decrease funding allocations for any program.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of Changes	Requested By
0.0	[Date]	Initial Release	