



TITLE: GRANT APPLICATION POLICY

DATE: October 18, 2017

Adoption: October 18, 2017 through Council Resolution No. 2017-363

Amendment: November 15, 2017 through Council Resolution No. 2017-383

**Amendment: November 29, 2017 through Council Resolution No. 2017-415 and
Council Resolution No. 2017-417**

Amendment: January 16, 2019 through Council Resolution No. 2019-029

Amendment: March 22, 2023 through Council Resolution No. 2023-093

**SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION POLICY
File No. A09 GRA**

1.0 Purpose

To establish a set of guidelines for providing support to not-for-profit organizations and unincorporated community groups that maintain and improve the quality of life for residents of the Township of Puslinch ("Township").

2.0 Organization Eligibility

Organizations applying for grant funding must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be in existence for at least one year; and
- have its principal address in the Township; and
- be a not-for-profit organization or an unincorporated community group; and
- offer services that benefit the Township and its residents; and
- demonstrate financial need; and
- be in good financial standing with the Township and not in litigation with the Township;
and
- be in compliance with any other Township by-laws and policies.

For the purposes of this policy, Puslinch Minor Sports Organizations and the Aberfoyle Agricultural Society are deemed to meet the eligibility criteria.

For the purposes of this policy, services that benefit the Township and its residents include:

- Charitable community services

- Artistic endeavours, including literature, dance, music, theatre, painting, sculpture, movies, photography and live performances
- Specific cultural and heritage activities
- Programs that improve the health and well-being of the community
- Programs that encourage participation in organized athletic activities
- Services or events directed for youth and older adults
- Public safety enhancement services

The following organizations are not eligible for funding:

- Adult sports organizations ie. Old Timers, Puslinch Kodiak's, Morriston Men's League, The Aberfoyle Dukes.
- Groups or organizations of a religious nature unless the funding request is for a local, non-denominational event, program, service, or activity open to the entire community which demonstrates a benefit to the Township and its residents. The funding request must demonstrate a distinct separation between religious events, programs, services or activities.
- County, Provincial, and Federal organizations.
- Groups or organizations affiliated with any political party or event.
- Individuals, commercial organizations, and coalitions such as ratepayer associations.
- Hospitals, hospital foundations and hospital auxiliary groups or agencies.
- Educational institutions including universities, colleges, schools and associated auxiliary groups.

For the purposes of this policy, the Wellington County Farm and Home Safety Association and the Wellington County Plowmen's Association are deemed to meet the eligibility criteria.

3.0 Funding Criteria

The following requests are not eligible for funding:

- Donations to charitable causes.
- Travel or accommodations, uniforms, personal equipment, banquets, entertainment.
- Attendance at conferences, workshops or seminars.
- Personnel costs including bartending.
- Insurance and accounting costs.
- Food and beverages.
- Office equipment, furniture, and supplies.
- Retroactive costs for purposes which have already occurred.
- Funding of prior year deficits.

- Political campaigns, parties or events.

4.0 Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate grant applications submitted to the Township:

- Demonstrates collaboration, positive community engagement and civic pride
- Promotes volunteerism, participation and leadership development
- Fosters a healthy, safe and active community
- Fiscal and overall accountability
- Responsiveness to existing community need

5.0 Categories of Funding

Category 1 – Donation (funds requested – less than \$500)

Grants for organizations that are community-based and fairly represent both their own interest and those of the community in which they serve. Services, programs and activities must demonstrate a benefit to the Township and its residents.

Category 2 – Sponsor or Contributor (funds requested - \$500 to \$3,000)

Grants for organizations for the purpose of a community event or program that benefits the Township and its residents. Examples include the Santa Claus Parade, Aberfoyle Fall Fair, Canada Day, and Family Day.

Category 3 – Project Funder (funds requested – greater than \$3,000)

Grants for organizations for special purposes and/or projects for an activity deemed to be of significant value to the Township and its residents.

6.0 Annual Application Requirements

- The grant application form must be completed in full with all requested information attached. Only complete and accurate proposals will be forwarded under a staff report to Council for consideration at the Operating Budget meeting.
- An organization applying for multiple grants must complete an application form for each separate funding request.
- Organizations requesting grants of greater than \$3,000 (Category 3) are required to present their requests to Council during the budget process.

- A copy of the most current budget.
- A copy of the most current financial statements.

7.0 Initial Application Requirements

- A copy of the letters patent or articles of incorporation, if applicable.
- A copy of its Notification of Charitable Registration letter from the Canada Revenue Agency with any supporting documentation indicating the applicant's status and terms of registration, if applicable.
- A copy of mandate, constitution and by-laws, as applicable.

The completed grant application form and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically on the Township's website at www.puslinch.ca by **2:00 pm on the last business day of August** or to the attention of the Finance Department at the address noted below:

The Corporation of the Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON, NOB 2J0
Attention: Grant Application Program

8.0 Conditions of Funding

- Grant funding assistance may not be used for purposes other than the purposes described in the application.
- Recipients awarded a grant of greater than \$3,000 are required to submit an annual report. The annual report must include a financial statement and/or receipts and outline how the funding was utilized and how it contributed to the overall goals and objectives of the organization. The annual report must also be presented to Council.
- Adherence to all applicable municipal by-laws, policies and procedures is required.
- Organizations will not be considered for future grant funding until all required reports are received by the Township's Finance Department. Any grant recipient that does not comply with the requirements may not receive future grant funding.

9.0 Approval – Budget

A report will be prepared by the Finance Department as part of the annual budget process outlining the summarized information obtained from organizations requesting grant funding.

Funds available under this program are limited to a maximum of 0.50% of the previous year's taxation levy per calendar year. The granting of financial assistance in any year is not to be regarded as a commitment by the Township to continue such assistance in future years.