



**Subject:** *Community Partnership Fund 2023/2024*  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee  
**Date Prepared:** January 5th, 2023  
**Related Motions:** C22(339)  
**Prepared by:** Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator  
**Approved by:** Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

### Summary

This report brings forward the annual review of the Community Partnership Fund program for 2023/2024.

The eight (8) current recipients have applied to continue their funding. No new applications were received for consideration. East Hants Family Resource Centre has requested an increase in funding. Staff Grant Review Committee have reviewed the annual reporting for each organization, and are recommending changes to budgeted grant amounts for the coming year.

### Financial Impact Statement

Funds have been included in the 2023/2024 draft operating budget to provide Community Partnership Funding to the following community organizations:

Organization	2023/2024 Draft Operating Budget
Corridor Community Options for Adults	\$15,000
East Hants Community Rider	\$50,000
East Hants Family Resource Centre	\$20,000
East Hants Historical Society	\$16,158
East Hants Sports Heritage Society	\$5,000
East Hants Youth Links	\$6,000
Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County	\$10,000
Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program)	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,158</b>

### Recommendation

Staff are recommending the following organizations be included in the 2023/2024 draft budget under the Community Partnership Fund:

- Corridor Community Options for Adults, \$15,000
- East Hants Community Rider, \$50,000
- East Hants Family Resource Centre, \$20,000
- East Hants Historical Society, \$16,158
- East Hants Sports Heritage Society, \$5,000
- East Hants Youth Links, \$6,000
- Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County, \$10,000
- Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$10,000

## Recommended Motion

*Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council to approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2023/2024 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:*

- *Corridor Community Options for Adults, \$15,000*
- *East Hants Community Rider, \$50,000*
- *East Hants Family Resource Centre, \$20,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society, \$16,158*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society, \$5,000*
- *East Hants Youth Links, \$6,000*
- *Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County, \$10,000*
- *Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$10,000*

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## Background

### MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM POLICY

This is an overarching Council policy that provides a framework for how Municipal grants will be applied for, reviewed and awarded. The policy states that Municipal grants are provided to support organizations whose efforts and mandates align with the Municipality's strategic objectives.

The delivery of the Municipal Grant Program will be based on sound, defensible administrative and risk management practices reflected in a process that is timely, consistent, supportive, and transparent for all grant applicants.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND POLICY

Council adopted the Community Partnership Fund Council Policy in 2014. The purpose is to build partnerships and provide multi-year core funding to help maintain and build the capacity of non-profit community-based organizations. Funding will be available to non-profit community-based organizations providing socially inclusive universal programs or services to the Municipal community that support the key strategies of the Municipality.

The objectives of the Community Partnership Fund are to:

1. Build and foster relationships with non-profit community-based organizations.
2. Provide multi-year seed funding to non-profit community-based organizations during their infancy to allow them to build capacity.
3. Provide multi-year financial support that assists with basic "core" organization and administrative costs of the organization, including salaries of full-time staff, facilities, equipment, communications and the direct expenses of day-to-day work.

Providing multi-year core funding frees up time normally spent on fundraising and reporting and allows non-profit staff/volunteers to concentrate on building their capacity while focusing on their mission. This capacity building includes identifying communications strategies, improving volunteer recruitment, developing a leadership succession plan, identifying more efficient uses of technology and engaging in collaborations with community partners.

The intent is that a Community Partnership Fund recipient could receive funding year-over-year, however, the Policy requires an annual renewal of commitment from Council. To facilitate the annual commitment review, the Policy requires annual reporting from the organizations receiving funding. Each year, organizations receive notification of their (continuing) funding in April. In order to have funds released, annual reporting is submitted.

## 6. Report Requirements

6.1. No later than October 31st of each year, organizations receiving funding shall provide the following:

6.1.1. financial statements from the previous year showing the organization's revenues and expenditures and demonstrating the need and proper expenditure of allocated Community Partnership funds;

6.1.2. current years' budget;

6.1.3. statistical report summarizing the past year of service provision (numbers of clients, services, new trends, etc.) and proposed programs and services for the projected year.

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## Discussion

### CURRENT FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Staff have reviewed annual submissions from the eight (8) organizations that received the Community Partnership Fund in 2022/2023. These organizations continue to meet grant objectives and submission requirements. A summary of each organization is provided below. Documentation provided for annual reporting is for 2021/2022.

### Corridor Community Options for Adults (CCOA)

- CCOA's mission is 'to provide residential and vocational environments to individuals living with intellectual disabilities.' Currently there are 13 different programs/opportunities offered to participants providing greater opportunities for personal growth, life skills and often employment. Several participants have found work in the community and have moved on to full time employment after skill building at CCOA.
- Two years into the pandemic and CCOA has not fully returned to pre-pandemic norms. Continued masking and reduction in program capacity have helped keep participants and staff safe.
- Vocational environments such as Thrift Shop, Wood Products, Catering and Café all provide meaningful opportunities to CCOA clients. Other services include Job Coaching program, Day Program, Youth Day Program and Home Services for Seniors. Waitlist has grown to 60 individuals with the number climbing each month.
- Expansion Plan and Capital Campaign are in full swing with support from multiple levels of government and many local businesses, organizations, and supporters.
- Annual operating budget (aside from capital campaign) exceeds \$1,100,000.
- CCOA began receiving \$15,000 in CPF funding in 2020.

### East Hants Community Rider

- East Hants Community Rider is under the umbrella of East Hants Community Learning Association, an organization that 'believes in a stronger, more connected community and through individualized programming, we are opening the doors to education and transportation'.
- EHCR helps people of all ages and mobilities overcome transportation barriers with high-quality, cost-effective transportation. Clients use services to access childcare, medical appointments, job interviews, education, personal errands, vaccinations and social events.
- Fleet includes 3 accessible 7-8 passenger vans, two cars and one hybrid SUV.
- 2021/22 statistics include 370,472km traveled, and 9113 rides to 450 passengers. Ridership was up more than 50% over the year before but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Annual operating budget greater than \$600,000.
- EHCR has been receiving funding from the Municipality since 2005, using the General Government Grant Program before creation of Community Partnership Fund. Funding level over 15 years increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in 2015/2016. Council voted to increase funding to \$50,000 in 2022.

### East Hants Family Resource Centre

- East Hants Family Resource Centre's mission is to nurture and support family life through quality programs.
- Serving primarily the corridor area of East Hants their programs include prenatal, new parent, positive parenting, family literacy, along with recreation, social activities and events.
- EHFRC also supports families with advice, community connections, and referrals through phone, email, 211 and social media.
- Highlights from 2021/2022 include:
  - 335 families served - less than previous years but COVID limitations continued to affect larger programs.
  - Total attendance/contacts to the EHFRC were 2844 Families or 5984 individuals. This number is triple a pre-pandemic normal.

- Continued day-to-day support to families by providing diapers, formula, food and gas cards. Provided 268 families food and gas cards and 170 families school supplies.
- Community and national partners continue to work with EHFRC for programming, events and fundraising, but also for providing pandemic support to families such as gift cards, hand sanitizer and wipes. They also distributed more than 3000 Covid tests to community members.
- EHFRC has an annual operating budget of over \$250,000 with five staff members.
- EHFRC has been receiving \$10,000 funding from the Municipality since 2011 using the General Government Grant Program before creation of Community Partnership Fund. In November 2022, EHFRC presented to Council showcasing expanded services, increased need and growing expenses. Council was supportive of increasing their CPF for 2023/2024 to be finalized during budget discussions.
- The draft budget has been prepared with a \$20,000 grant for 2023/2024 to support their growing mandate and increased expenses.
- Under the proposed Not-For-Profit Insurance Grant, community partnership organizations would be ineligible to receive insurance funding. EHFRC has received Community Grant for insurance (up to \$1500) in the past and would be able to redirect that grant funding towards recreation programming.

### East Hants Historical Society

- East Hants Historical Society has been operating for more than 50 years as a non-profit organization focusing on the promotion and preservation of history throughout East Hants.
- EHHS operates the Lower Selma Museum (June-Sept), provides lectures and presentations and develops and shares resources on geology and local cemeteries. Visitor numbers to the Museum were down again, but higher than previous year.
- Online presence continues to grow with presentations conducted online reaching attendees beyond East Hants.
- Project to add an accessible washroom to the Lower Selma Museum & Heritage Cemetery was completed and has been well received.
- Seventh year operating Archives & Research Centre, which is located on Park Rd in Elmsdale and is open to the public. New searchable lateral file database will be available to public soon.
- In 2021/2022, EHHS had a budget over \$60,000.
- EHHS has received funding specifically identified by Council to cover rent of Park Road facility since 2016. Funding amount over the last seven years has been specific to rental agreement with slight annual increases. Funding for 2022/2023 totaled 15,812.50.

### East Hants Sports Heritage Society

- East Hants Sports Heritage Society (EHS) was incorporated in 2013 with the mandate of operating the East Hants Hall of Fame and to host annual sport awards recognizing those athletes and coaches currently competing.
- Used COVID-19 slowdown to run Friends of the Hall of Fame donation campaign and was able to complete Phase 1 of the Hall of Fame area at the East Hants Sportsplex.
- 2020 and 2022 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies were held in person during Tide Fest in July over two evenings.
- East Hants Sport Awards celebrated Super Six in 2022 and recognized an impressive group of athletes with recent accomplishments.
- Videos of inductees have been viewed more than 5000 times on YouTube.
- Operating Budget is around \$40,000 annually.
- EHS has received \$5,000 annually from the Municipality since 2014, one year through General Government Grant before the creation of the Community Partnership Fund.

### East Hants Youth Links

- East Hants Youth Links (EHL) has the mission 'to provide a safe, inclusive environment where youth can connect with their peers and engage in activities that develop confidence, life skills and links within their community.'
- COVID-19 impacted ability to deliver programming directly to students within the schools (in-school weekly sessions didn't operate continuously), but there were several sessions after school at Riverside Education Center. Participation numbers are coming close to pre-pandemic levels.
- Programming and Partnership summary:
  - Virtual activities and contests through Facebook (arts/crafts, baking, photography, etc.).
  - Open free swims and water polo programming at the East Hants Aquatic Centre.
  - Hosted open free skates for youth through Actives Community Fund (provincial funding).
  - Partnered with EH Curling for Youth Rocks.

- Free yoga, fitness and self-defense classes at the Strides Health and Fitness Centre.
- Training to youth including Youth First Aid, Home Alone and Babysitting courses; 81 youth participated over 7 sessions.
- EHYL completed and submitted an application for registered charitable status.
- Annual operating budget is \$28,000 including part-time staff salary.
- EHYL has been receiving Community Partnership Funding in amount of \$6,000 since 2017.
- CPF recipients will not qualify for proposed not-for-profit insurance. EHYL have received Community Grant for insurance expenses (up to \$1500) in the past. They would still be eligible for Community Grant moving forward which could be used for recreation programming.

### Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program for Children)

- Kids Action Program has the mission to develop and deliver services that promote the health and well-being of young children and their families in the Annapolis Valley-Hants area. The Kids Action Program for Hants is based out of Kennetcook and provides services within the Hants North area.
- Support is provided to families through pre/post-natal care, play groups, car seat education, field trips and parenting support. Furthermore, they also assist families navigate systems and find resources.
- Throughout the pandemic an increase in support came from the community, especially for food access.
- Programming highlights include:
  - Splash and Play at EHAC with monthly attendance over 80 parents and children.
  - Craft kits and snacks prepared and distributed for Easter and March Break.
  - Christmas Angels program provided support to more than 100 people.
  - Playgroup at Findlay Park averages 10-15 families.
- Kids Action received \$10,000 through the Community Partnership Fund beginning in 2021 with funding specific to Hants North.

### Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County

- The Seniors' Safety Program Association of Hants County (SSPAHC) revitalized in 2014/2015 providing programs that support the well-being, independence and health and safety of senior with a mission to provide health and safety information to all seniors in Hants County, free of charge which supports their well-being, independence, health and safety in their homes and community.
- The SSPAHC deals with the following issues - isolation, safety, abuse, continuing care, health care support, transportation, caregiver information/support, direction to find legal advice, housing, unsafe living conditions, help with heating rebates, fraud, mobility, information on food banks and community gardens, grants available, hoarding, financial difficulties, depression, snow removal, and health care (lack of family doctor).
- Programs include learning opportunities to increase awareness about health issues, personal safety and home security as well as social/recreation opportunities.
- Grant reporting was based on year end of December 31, 2021 and some highlights include:
  - 75 referrals and 29 home visits (for East Hants specifically, 28 new clients & 8 Home visits)
  - Referrals were from RCMP, Halifax Senior Safety, Municipality of East Hants, 211, and self-referrals.
  - 325 Healthy Food boxes and 300 Holiday Cheer Packs distributed throughout Hants County
  - Offered discount transportation through the East Hants Community Rider - totally 122 rides.
- Annual operating budget for combined East/West Hants operations is under \$60,000.
- SSPAHC has been receiving funding from the Municipality since 2015 through the Community Partnership Fund. Funding level increased from \$18,369 to current \$20,000 (after 2-year pilot program).
- Staff is recommending \$10,000 in the 2023/2024 draft budget. There is no longer an East Hants Coordinator and East Hants residents are receiving approximately one-third the services provided by the current staffing.

The information summarized above demonstrates that these community associations meet the objectives of Community Partnership Fund Policy. These groups continue to provide valuable services to the community.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

From Council's 2021 Strategic Plan, the key strategy of Strong Community:

A strong community is where people feel a sense of pride, are safe, connected and active. This is achieved through long-range community planning and by supporting those who live, work and visit in East Hants.

Our goal is to provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.

All of these organizations demonstrate a clear connection to “*Strong Community*” strategy, and our Vision as a “*vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living - a place where everyone feels connected.*” The organizations in this funding program are supporting our residents by offering opportunities and resources, and by helping make East Hants a place people want to live.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funds have been included in the 2023/2024 draft operating budget to provide Community Partnership Funding to the following community organizations:

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The Staff Grant Review Committee have reviewed and are recommending the allocated amounts as per the above table. Changes include;

- East Hants Historical Society allocation has increased over 2022/2023 by \$345 to reflect increased rent at their Park Rd facility.
- Increasing the East Hants Family Resource Centre’s funding to \$20,000 to support their growing mandate and services.
- Decreasing the Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County’s funding to \$10,000 as there is no longer an East Hants Coordinator with no anticipation of that position being filled. Approximately one-third of clients supported by the organization are residents of East Hants with remaining clients based in West Hants.

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#### Alternatives

An alternative for Council’s consideration is to revise the list of recipients and/or funded amounts.

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#### Attachments

Community Partnership Fund Annual Submissions for each of the eight associations.