

**Information Memo**

To: City Council

From: Stephanie Sinnott, Commissioner,
Corporate and Finance Services Department

Item Number: INFO-25-167

Date: October 15, 2025

Subject: 2025 Oshawa Community Grants Update

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members of Council on the grants awarded to community organizations in 2025 under the Oshawa Community Grants Program.

2.0 Input From Other Sources

This report was developed in conjunction with the Grants Committee, made up of representatives from 11 branches across City departments, which oversees the administration of the Oshawa Community Grants Program. The complete listing of branches involved in the Grants Committee is outlined below in section 3.0.

3.0 Analysis

The Oshawa Community Grants Program was adopted by Council on October 25, 2021 (Item FIN-21-102) who further approved the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria to guide the program on May 16, 2022 (Report FIN-22-54).

Providing a multi-faceted review of the applications, ensuring the equitable allocation of funds and/or in-kind services, the Community Grants Program continues to be administered by a cross-departmental team with representatives from the following branches:

- Corporate Performance & Strategic Initiatives (Committee Chair)
- Business & Economic Development - Culture and Events
- Parks & Roads Operations Services
- Corporate Communications
- Finance Services
- Fire Services

- Human Resource Services (Diversity, Equity & Reconciliation)
- Legal Services
- Legislative Services
- Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services
- Recreation Services

3.1 Communication

In 2025, the Oshawa Community Grants Program was promoted over an eight-week period through a range of communications channels, including the City's website and homepage, social media, City News Notices, indoor facility monitors, e-newsletters, and direct outreach to past recipients.

3.2 Oshawa Community Grants 2025 Disbursement

The program had an annual budget of \$300,000 to be awarded in four categories:

- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment – Events (\$100,000)
- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment – Development (\$50,000)
- Fundraising & Oshawa Significant Events (\$50,000), and
- Strong Inclusive Communities (\$100,000)

The amounts listed are intended as guidelines to support balanced investment across priority areas. Actual allocations may vary based on application volume, quality, and strategic priorities.

The application period for the 2025 program was November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

The City received a total of 57 applications totaling \$1,329,941 and the committee approved grants amounting to \$186,515 (Awarded as Cash) and \$86,750 (Awarded as In-Kind City services) for a combined total of \$273,265.

Table 1 to Table 4 details the awards made under the 2025 Oshawa Community Grants Program.

Table 1: Category - Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment - Events

Applicant	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)
Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle	\$12,000	-
Canadian Jamaican Club of Oshawa	\$5,000	-
Durham Community Health Centre	\$4,875	-
Durham Family Resources and Support	\$4,650	-
Durham Region International Film Festival	\$4,090	-

Applicant	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)
Durham Youth Orchestra	\$4,000	-
e-CAMPMENTORing	\$6,300	-
Heroes 4 Wildlife Inc.	\$10,000	\$8,750
Por Amor	\$5,500	\$4,500
Total	\$56,415	\$13,250

Table 2: Category - Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment - Development

Applicant	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)
Canada's National School for Indian Dances	\$10,000	-
Club Carib of Oshawa Inc.	\$12,000	-
The LivingRoom Community Art Studio	\$4,100	-
Total	\$26,100	\$0

Table 3: Category - Fundraising and Oshawa Significant Events

Applicant	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)
Canadian Cancer Society	-	\$25,000
Oshawa Firefit Event	-	\$5,000
Oshawa Folk Arts Council	-	\$10,000
Oshawa Kicks Soccer Club	-	\$1,000
Oshawa Terry Fox Run	-	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Oshawa Ribfest		\$30,000
The Kidney Foundation of Canada		\$1,500
Total	\$0	\$73,500

Table 4: Category - Strong Inclusive Communities

Applicant	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)
Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child & Family Services	\$5,000	-
Durham Workforce Authority	\$10,000	-
Norwood Stars Basketball Academy	\$7,000	-
Silent Voice Canada	\$15,000	-
Common Ground Foodshare	\$8,000	-
AIDS Committee of Durham Region	\$6,000	-
Girls Inc of Durham	\$15,000	-
Natural Born Tellers	\$5,000	-
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-West Durham and Northumberland	\$6,000	-
Luke's Place Support & Resource Centre for Women & Children	\$6,000	-
Ignite Durham Learning Foundation	\$10,500	-
Scientists in School	\$6,500	-
We Grow Food Canada Association	\$4,000	-
Total	\$104,000	\$0

The total grant value that was approved by the Oshawa Community Grants Committee was \$273,265 (\$186,515 cash and \$86,750 in-kind).

3.3 Additional one-time Waiving of Fees approved by Council to date in 2025

In addition to what was awarded by the Oshawa Community Grants Committee, Council approved \$27,600 for five additional one-time waiving of fees for the following events:

Table 5: Category - Additional one-time Waiving of Fees approved by Council

Organization	Waived Fees	Description of event
Toronto Naval Reserve Division, Royal Canadian Navy	\$4,700	Toronto Naval Reserve Division, Royal Canadian Navy requesting a road closure for the 100 th Anniversary of Battle of

Organization	Waived Fees	Description of event
		the Atlantic Parade and Ceremony. Event: May 4
Community Care Durham	\$6,600	Mobile Food Market providing produce at below-market prices to residents facing food insecurity. Every Wednesday from June 25th - October 8th
Canadian Tank Museum	\$4,000	AQUINO Tank Weekend event Event: July 25-27
Neighbourhood Association Sports Committee	\$2,500	Softball Youth Festival to promote a sense of community within the park system in Oshawa. Event: August 9
Oshawa Italian Recreation Club	\$9,800	Use of the Bocce Courts and Clubhouse from May 30 to September 15
Total addition one-time waived fees	\$27,600	

4.0 Financial Implications

The total combined grants approved in 2025 for cash, in-kind, and waived fees is \$300,865.

Table 6: Total 2025 Community Grants approved

Table	Category	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)	Total Grants
1	Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment - Events	\$56,415	\$13,250	\$69,665
2	Arts, Culture, Heritage and Environment - Development	\$26,100	\$0	\$26,100
3	Fundraising and Oshawa Significant Events	\$0	\$73,500	\$73,500

Table	Category	Grant (\$)	Grant (In-Kind)	Total Grants
4	Strong Inclusive Communities	\$104,000	\$0	\$104,000
	Total Grants approved by Grants Committee	\$186,515	\$86,750	\$273,265
5	Additional one-time Waiving of Fees approved by Council to date in 2025	\$0	\$27,600	\$27,600
	Total 2025 Community Grants approved	\$186,515	\$114,350	\$300,865

As detailed in Table 6, the Oshawa Community Grants Committee approved a total of \$273,265 in funding allocations for 2025. In addition, City Council approved five one-time Waiving of Fees totaling \$27,600. This brings the total amount awarded to \$300,865. Compared to the approved budget of \$300,000, resulting in an unfavourable variance of \$865.

5.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Belong: Inclusive and Healthy Community” with the goal to reduce systemic barriers and deliver engaging, equitable and culturally inclusive programs and services for all participants.



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Corporate Performance & Strategic Initiatives



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