



Staff Report for Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 24, 2025

Report Number: SRCM.25.11

Department: Office of the City Manager

Division: Strategy and Transformation

Subject: SRCM.25.11 – 2024 Grant Portfolio Update

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the City's grant portfolio for 2024.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff report SRCM.25.11 – 2024 Grant Portfolio Update be received for information.

Contact Person(s):

- Krysten Bates, Strategy and Government Relations Coordinator
- Lise Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations

Report Approval:

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

The Strategy and Government Relations (SGR) section leads the City's corporate grant funding portfolio, working collaboratively with staff from all departments to secure funding for City projects and programs. The grant portfolio work led by SGR includes the following activities:

- monitoring grant intakes and identifying and sharing suitable funding opportunities with the organization;
- working with business units to determine eligible programs/projects that meet the objectives of the funder;
- drafting and submitting funding applications;
- managing relationships with funding administrators;
- facilitating funding agreements;
- assisting staff in understanding and following funding agreement requirements;
- advising on and/or completing grant communication activities (e.g. requesting Council endorsement/approval, coordinating grant-funded project signage, news releases, etc.);
- tracking financial considerations through a shared process with finance; and
- coordinating and completing progress and reporting requirements.

The City continues to apply for grant opportunities from all levels of government and other funders to support operating and capital priorities and help reduce the tax rate impact to City residents and businesses.

2024 Grant Portfolio Highlights

In 2024, the City secured a significant amount of external funding to support delivery of Richmond Hill's priorities. A total of 30 grant applications were submitted, with a success rate of 80% for applications where a decision was rendered in 2024. These efforts resulted in the City receiving \$5,127,503 in funding from various public and private sector grant programs. The total value of projects and programs for which the City received grant funding in 2024 was over \$7.3 million, further illustrating the significant costs savings realized through grant funding. These accomplishments were made possible through collaboration with 11 sections within 8 divisions throughout the City, underscoring the importance of cross-departmental partnership to achieve positive funding outcomes.

In 2024, a variety of City initiatives received funding through several grant opportunities. This includes support from Federal programs, such as Parks Canada's National Cost Sharing for Heritage Places program for the restoration of the interior observatory dome at the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO). Notably, the City worked with Parks Canada to secure additional funding towards the end of the project, which helped offset costs associated with additional improvements to the dome's interior. The City was also awarded funding through the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP),

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administered by Scout Environmental, for electric vehicle charging stations for fleet vehicles at the Richmond Hill Operations Centre. Finally, a variety of grants were received to offset wages for summer students and entry-level staff to help build the next generation of public sector staff.

Richmond Hill also received significant Provincial funding to support key community projects in 2024, with over \$3.5 million awarded to fund the Arnold Crescent Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Expansion Project through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. Additionally, the City received funding through the Inclusive Communities Grant for accessibility improvements to the Fish Sanctuary Boardwalk at Lake Wilcox Park. Richmond Hill also benefitted from a third consecutive year of funding to modernize and transition its emergency dispatch systems through the Next Generation 9-1-1 program. Finally, a Seniors Community Grant helped create a welcoming space for seniors to connect through the City's Seniors Coffee Chat program.

Progress on the implementation of grants received in previous years also continued in 2024, with continued project implementation and progress reporting for a number of active, multi-year grants funded by the Federal government. This includes support through:

- the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk for phase 3 meadow creation at the DDO;
- the Active Transportation Fund for construction of the DDO pedestrian/cycling bridge and trail; and
- the Enabling Accessibility Fund for park revitalization and accessibility upgrades at Kozak Park.

Note that the funding described above does not include funds received through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), which serves as a standalone program with unique administration and compliance requirements. See [SRCM.25.06](#) for more information on HAF implementation progress.

Financial Implications:

The funding secured through grant opportunities, including those referenced above, has reduced the City's financial contributions to projects and programs, easing the impact on Richmond Hill's capital and operating budgets and lessening the financial burden on taxpayers.

Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:

The City's grant portfolio work directly relates to Strategic Plan Pillar 3, Priority 1: Make decisions that are evidence-based and data-driven to enable the City's long term financial sustainability, as well as social, environmental and economic sustainability. By securing external funding and building relationships with our funding partners, the City

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reduces the cost of delivering key City projects and programs, demonstrates financial responsibility, and reduces the burden on taxpayers. This report also aligns with Pillar 3's focus on collecting data and measuring and reporting progress on City initiatives. Tracking and reporting on grant progress allows staff to identify trends and opportunities to continually improve for future grant intakes.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.25.11 - 2024 Grant Portfolio Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Lise Conde - Jun 10, 2025 - 12:21 PM

Anthony Iannucci - Jun 11, 2025 - 6:57 AM

Gigi Li - Jun 11, 2025 - 11:08 AM

Darlene Joslin - Jun 11, 2025 - 4:44 PM