

Subject: Rural Community-Building Grant Program – Grant Application Review

File Number: ACS2025-PDB-PS-0017

Report to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on 6 March 2025

**Submitted on January 30, 2025 by Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning Services,
Planning, Development and Building Services Department**

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Ward: West Carleton-March (5) Osgoode (20) Rideau-Jock (21)

**Objet : Programme de subvention pour le renforcement communautaire en milieu
rural – Examen de la demande de subvention**

Dossier : ACS2025-PDB-PS-0017

Rapport au Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales

le 6 mars 2025

**Soumis le 30 janvier 2025 par Derrick Moodie, Directeur, Services de la
planification, Direction générale des services de la planification, de
l'aménagement et du bâtiment**

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REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve the recommendations on the Rural Community-Building Grants Program applications as detailed in Document 1.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales approuve les recommandations concernant les demandes relatives au Programme de subventions pour le renforcement communautaire en milieu rural, comme l'explique en détail le document 1.

BACKGROUND

The Rural Community-Building Grants Program (RCBGP), approved by Council on September 14, 2011, is designed to support rural-based community projects undertaken by non-profit organizations. Funding is project-based, with a defined beginning and end and measurable outcomes. Assessment is made based on the merit of the project, community impact and organizational effectiveness.

The program is administered by the Rural Affairs Office. Projects are reviewed and decisions are made by the members of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee.

This report provides a summary of the applications received under this Program by the Rural Affairs Office in January 2025.

DISCUSSION

Under the program guideline for the RCBGP the eligible applicant is limited to organizations that:

- Are non-profit organizations that are active in rural Ottawa and recognized as supporting local community and/or agricultural activities and programs.
- Operate in a non-discriminatory manner, as set out by the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Are governed by a democratically elected Board of Directors
- Demonstrate efficiency, effectiveness and fiscal responsibility
- Remain in good financial standing with the City of Ottawa

The program guideline further states its limitation eligible activities. The following is a list of activities beyond the scope of the program:

- Retroactive costs – any costs incurred before a proposal is submitted
- Costs that are the responsibility of another level of government or funding program
- Costs for which an organization would reasonably be expected to make provisions for in the general daily administration of their organization, i.e. ongoing activity / business as usual

The following five applications have been submitted and assessed, as detailed in Document 1.

- The Kanata Sailing Club is seeking \$17,485.77 to support the acquisition of a new dock and rescue boat that would enhance their ability to launch boats safely and rescue individuals more effectively.
- The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is seeking \$30,000 to support the construction of a portion of Phase 2 of the accessible outdoor boardwalk at Baxter Conservation Area.
- The Osgoode Youth Association (O-YA) is seeking \$2,700 to support a pilot project for youth mental health in the village of Greely.
- Rural Family Connection is seeking \$10,000 to remove, dispose of, and install new cubbies for children at the nursery school in Metcalfe.
- Metcalfe Farmers Market is seeking \$6,484.36 to support improvements for the Farmers Market.

Staff have reviewed these applications and are satisfied that they are eligible applicants under the Rural Community Building Program. Staff recommend approval for the five projects listed above for a total of \$63,236.77, with the understanding that the request from Metcalfe Farmers Market is being approved partially for \$3,051.00. Should the Committee support the staff recommendation, the total 2025 RCBGP funding envelope of \$160,000 will be reduced to \$96,763.23. Applications will be accepted for the rest of the calendar year, until the program funding envelope is fully allocated.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available for the applications in the Rural Community-Building Grant Program account.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to implementing the report recommendation.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLORS

Councillors have been made aware of the applications and staff recommendations.

CONSULTATION

Public consultation is not required for this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts. As a standard requirement in the agreement, successful recipients shall warrant that it is in compliance with the requirement of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2005*, S.O. 2005, C.11. and shall continue to comply throughout this agreement.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications associated with the report.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no economic implications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The Rural Community-Building Grants Program is intended to support rural communities through funding for eligible community projects that are beneficial to rural Ottawa residents.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 Applications summary and staff recommendations

DISPOSITION

As per the Council approved "Rural Community-Building Grants Program Policy", should the recommendations in this report be approved by Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, staff will proceed with administering these applications under the Rural Community-Building Grants Policy.

Document 1– Application Summary and Staff recommendation

A – Kanata Sailing Club – Acquisition and installation of equipment to improve operation safety and access of participants

Project Summary

The Kanata Sailing Club, located in Ward 5, is seeking funding support to purchase and install equipment that will help improve the safety of their members and facility. The project includes the purchase and installation of a 10-foot dock extension and a boat port, as well as the purchase of a new rigid inflatable safety coach boat. As per the submission, these additions will improve the safety of the operation and enhance user experience, particularly among the younger and older user groups.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$19,758.92, which includes the acquisition and installation of the dock extension and boat port, and the acquisition of the inflatable coach boat. The Kanta Sailing Club is asking for \$17,485.77 in RCBGP funds, with the rest being self-funded.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Kanata Sailing Club, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. Staff believes that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirement under the program guidelines.

The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the full amount of \$17,485.77.

B – Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation – Phase 2 of the Nature for All: Accessible Outdoor Boardwalk at Baxter Conservation Area

Project Summary

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is seeking funding support from the City to contribute to Phase 2 of the Nature for All: Accessible Outdoor Boardwalk at Baxter Conservation Area, which consists of raised, bounce-free boardwalks connecting to the previous phase and the interpretive centre.

Project Cost

The grant application is specifically for 64 meters of the new boardwalk. It is understood that RVCA and RVCF will provide matching funds and in-kind support, which translates to approximately \$48,468. The total value of the project is estimated to be \$76,468.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, RVCF, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. Staff believes that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirement under the program guidelines. The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the full amount of \$30,000.

C – Osgoode Youth Association - Pilot Project: Youth Mental Health in Village of Greely

Project Summary

The Osgood Youth Association is seeking funding support to enable a pilot project that addresses the need for a teen-focused program in the rural community. The pilot project consists of an 11-week two-hour drop-in program that features activities including cooking, crafts, and games.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$4,000.00, which includes facility rental, administrative support, program staff, and materials. The Osgoode Youth Association is asking for \$2,700.00 to support program staff and material required to run the pilot program, with the rest being provided in-kind.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Osgoode Youth Association, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. It should be noted that the RCBGP does not typically provide funding to cover staff wage as it is considered an expected cost covered by the organization, however, given the proposal is a pilot program staff are of the opinion that it meets the intent of the RCBGP. Should the program become an ongoing program, operational costs including staff wage, will no longer be eligible.

The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the full amount of \$2,700.00.

D – Rural Family Connection – Metcalfe Nursery School renovation

Project Summary

The Rural Family Connection is seeking financial support to complete the children's storage area renovation at the Metcalfe Nursery School. The project includes the removal of the existing storage area (cubbies) and the purchase and installation of new

storage spaces. This renovation will provide sufficient storage room to allow each child to have their assigned individual storage space.

Project Cost

The total project cost is estimated to be \$12,000.00, which includes the removal and disposal of existing cubbies, the purchase and installation of the new cubbies, as well as material and labour related to the renovation. The applicant is seeking \$10,000 from the RCBGP and the remaining will be provided through donations and in-kind support.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Rural Family Connection, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. It is staff's opinion that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirement under the program guidelines. The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the full amount of \$10,000.00.

E – Metcalfe Farmers Market – Improvements for the Farmers Market

Project Summary

The Metcalfe Farmers Market is seeking financial support to make improvement to their operation. The request includes new banners, metal a frame with insert, decal for trailer, mini fridge, and laptop.

Project Cost

The total project cost is estimated to be \$6,484.36, which includes the items listed above. The applicant is seeking the full amount from the RCBGP.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Metcalfe Farmers Market, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. The project as described in the application appears to cover a range of items to support the farmers market, and some of which are considered operational in nature, therefore, not eligible under the RCBGP program guideline. Staff reviewed and considered the request carefully and have decided to recommend a partial approval for this application, specifically, for the purchase of banners and decal for the trailer. The total recommended approval amount is \$3,051.00.