

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

File Number: ACS2026-PDB-PS-0026

Report to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on 5 March 2026

and Council 11 March 2026

**Submitted on January 29, 2026 by Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning Services,
Planning, Development and Building Services Department**

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**Ward: Orléans East-Cumberland (1) West Carleton-March (5) Orléans
South-Navan (19) Osgoode (20) Rideau-Jock (21)**

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

Dossier : ACS2026-PDB-PS-0026

Rapport au Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales

le 5 mars 2026

et au Conseil le 11 mars 2026

**Soumis le 29 janvier 2026 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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**Quartier : Orléans-Est-Cumberland (1) West Carleton-March (5)
Orléans-Sud-Navan (19) Osgoode (20) Rideau-Jock (21)**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

BACKGROUND

Learn more about [link to Development Application process - Zoning Amendment](#)

For all the supporting documents related to this application visit the [link to Development Application Search Tool](#).

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 prior to the January 28, 2026, deadline.

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 four applications have been submitted and assessed, as detailed in Document 1:

- The Marionville Citizen's Committee is seeking \$15,000 to support the acquisition of an LED changeable message sign to replace a 30-year-old sign in the village of Marionville. It will allow for ease of communication of events and increased safety of changing messages
- The Cumberland Township Historical Society is seeking \$6,800 to support the digitization of their collection of files and to upload to their website and backup on a hard drive, before sending the originals to the archives;
- The Metcalfe Agricultural Society is seeking \$10,800 to support acquisition of two sets of aluminum bleachers for the purposes of spectator seating at the Metcalfe Fairgrounds; and
- The Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre, on behalf of the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective, is seeking \$9,768 to support the training of mentors in communities throughout the rural wards to be better able to handle mental health issues. This project would be partially funded as the RCBGP funds are not eligible to be used for food and therefore only \$8,568 will be allocated.

Staff have reviewed these applications and are satisfied that they are eligible submissions under the Rural Community Building Program and recommend approval for the four projects listed above for a total of \$41,168 with the understanding that the request for the Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre will be funded partially for \$8,568.

Should the Committee support the staff recommendation, the total \$160,000 of the 2026 funding envelope will be reduced to \$118,832. 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 adopting the recommendations in this report.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

Councillors have been made aware of these 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 associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

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 – Marionville Citizen’s Committee - Purchase and installation of new LED changeable message sign.

Project Summary

The Marionville Citizen’s Committee, located in Ward 20, is seeking funding to support the upgrade of a 30-year-old changeable message sign in town to a LED changeable message sign. The sign will allow the advertising of community events and important messages, without the necessity of a 12-foot climb up a ladder, improving the safety of volunteers who perform the task.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$40,000, which includes the purchase of sign and the installation. The Marionville Citizen’s Committee is asking for \$15,000 in RCBGP funds, with the rest being funded elsewhere.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Marionville Citizen’s Committee, 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 requested, of \$15,000.

B – Cumberland Township Historical Society - Digitization of society’s files.

Project Summary

The Cumberland Historical Society, located in Ward 1, is seeking funding support from the City in acquiring materials for the effective digitization of the society’s files. These will include a scanner, external drive, and ancillary supplies. This will allow the historical society to digitize the files and keep a hard drive of files on site in case of cloud failure.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$6,800, which includes the acquisition of the items.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Cumberland Township Historical Society, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. Staff believe that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the full amount of \$6,800.

C – Metcalfe Agricultural Society - Aluminum Bleachers

Project Summary

The Metcalfe Agricultural Society, located in Ward 20, is seeking \$10,800 in funding to acquire two aluminum bleachers for the Metcalfe Fairgrounds. The bleachers would be used for the Metcalfe Fair, livestock shows, 4-H competitions, agricultural demonstrations, community celebrations, and private rentals. Current seating options are old, limited, or improvised and this would provide flexible options.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$10,800, which includes the purchase of the bleachers.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, Metcalfe Agricultural Society, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. Staff believe 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 requested, of \$10,800.

D – Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre - Mentors of Rural Youth Training Summit

Project Summary

The Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre, on behalf of the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective, provides services throughout all rural wards and is seeking \$9,768 in funding for the training of youth mentors in the rural villages. The mentors would include, but not be limited to, coaches, teachers, community leaders, youth workers, scout leaders, and guide leaders. The program would involve the development and execution of the training, as well as the support of the program running up to the training day.

Project Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$9,768, which includes the support and development of the program, and the training program itself.

Staff Recommendation

The applicant, the Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre, on behalf of the Rural Ottawa Youth Mental Health Collective, is an eligible applicant under the RCBGP. Staff believe that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirement under the program guidelines.

The Rural Affairs Office has reviewed the application and recommends approval of \$8,568 of the \$9,768 amount requested, as the application includes a \$1,200 line item for food that is not covered by the RCBGP program.