

Community Development Fund

Background

The new Community Development Fund enhances the existing funding programs by:

- Clarifying administration and accountabilities for the funding programs
- Providing consistent funding application processes and timing
- Utilizing new criteria that better reflects the Corporate Strategic Plan, FutureSSM Community Development plan and economic & tourism development strategies
- Consolidating certain programs with a goal of greater community impact

The amount available for funding applications would be \$645,000 and a rolling intake process would be established. The focus and criteria of the Community Development Fund would support the four pillars of the FutureSSM community development plan:

- 1) Economic Growth and Diversity
- 2) Cultural Vitality
- 3) Social Equity
- 4) Environmental Sustainability

The Community Development Fund incorporates existing funding programs. The City of Sault Ste. Marie invests significantly into the Arts and Culture sector with annual operating grants for the Art Gallery of Algoma, Bushplane Heritage Centre and Sault Ste. Marie Museum. This funding support totals \$734,076 annually and no changes to these funding levels are envisioned as part of the Community Development Fund.

Some of the funding for the Community Development Fund will be tied to specific pillars, however the fund will provide flexibility to Council in making funding decisions. The programs with a check mark below indicate the current programs with revised criteria and workflow:

- Economic Growth and Diversity
 - ✓ The Economic Development Fund was previously established with a budget of \$500,000 annually. Recently, City Council approved a resolution that allocates \$100,000 per year for development projects at Sault College and Algoma University (\$50,000 respectively from 2020-2022).
 - ✓ With the implementation of the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), a Tourism Development Fund (TDF) will be created with criteria developed by Tourism Sault Ste. Marie and recommended to City Council. Given the impact of Covid-19 on MAT revenues, the implementation of the TDF is delayed and currently estimated for implementation in 2022.
- Cultural Vitality
 - There are a number of programs that contribute to cultural vitality with a total funding of \$956,591.
 - i. \$734,166 Cultural Financial Assistance for Sustaining and other Grants

- ✓ \$100,000 Cultural Financial Assistance Program add in the in-kind for events
- ii. \$70,970 Heritage Property Tax Rebates (2019 figure)
- ✓ \$20,000 Conference and Special Events Fund
- iii. \$13,955 Heritage Property Grant and Expenses
- iv. \$1,500 Cultural Recognition
- v. \$2,000 Walk of Fame
- vi. \$5,000 Community Development Fund (event support)

- Social Equity

- There has been no historical fund available for applications within the Social Equity pillar; however the City does support a number of organizations and initiatives that would fall under the social equity pillar with a total of \$118,577:
 - i. Algoma University - \$40,000
 - ii. MYAC funding - \$27,500
 - iii. Crimestoppers - \$25,000
 - iv. Pee Wee Arena - \$21,077 (estimated 2021 taxes)
 - v. Other Sports Grant - \$5,000


- Environmental Sustainability

- ✓ \$50,000 Green Committee Fund

Summary Table

Name	Amount	Application In-Take
Financial Assistance for Sustaining and Other Grants - Art Gallery \$298,550, SSM Museum \$260,000, Bushplane Heritage Centre \$175,000, In-Kind \$72,200	\$734,166	Sept 1st Single Intake for in-kind contributions; grants in annual budget
Economic Development Fund	\$500,000	Rolling applications in-take
Cultural Financial Assistance Grants	\$75,000	Jan. 15 th Single Intake
Green Committee projects	\$50,000	Rolling applications in-take
Algoma University	\$40,000	Annual budget consideration
Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee - \$5,000 Grants; remainder youth programming	\$27,500	Annual budget consideration
Crimestoppers	\$25,000	Annual budget consideration
Conference and Special Events Fund	\$20,000	Rolling applications in-take
Pee Wee Arena	\$21,800	Annual budget consideration
Heritage property grants (\$12,000) and administrative expenses	\$13,955	Rolling applications in-take
Heritage Property Tax Rebates	\$70,970	2019 Municipal rebate total
Community Development Fund	\$5,000	Rolling applications in-take

Financial Support for Participation in Sports/Cultural Events/Miscellaneous Competitions	\$5,000	Rolling applications in-take
Walk of Fame	\$2,000	Administrative budget
Parks and Rec Advisory Committee	\$1,865	Administrative budget
Cultural Recognition	\$1,500	Administrative budget
Total	\$1,521,973	

 The highlighted funds that will have new criteria and workflow within the new Community Development Fund.

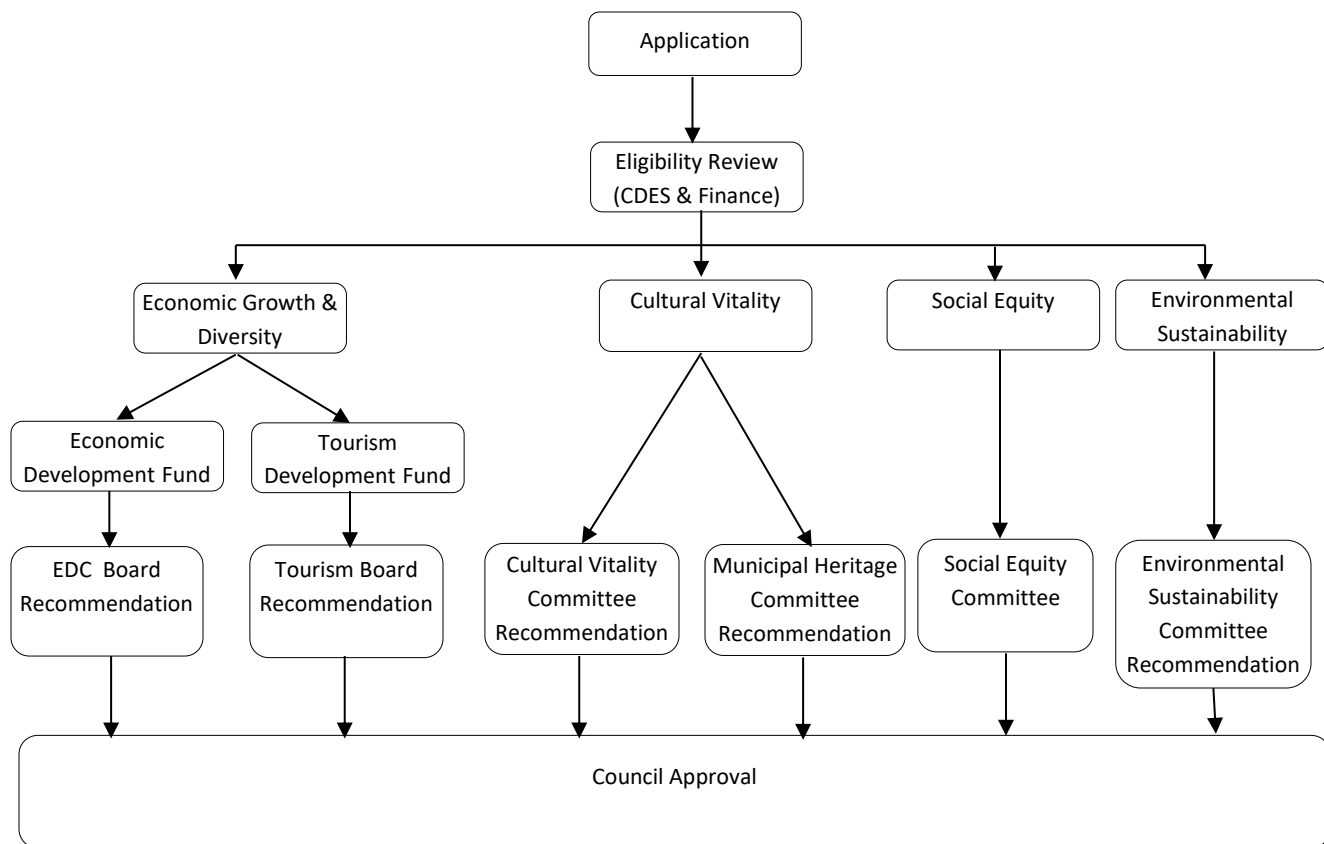
Objectives

The Community Development Fund has the following objectives:

- Provide City funds, or other forms of financial assistance (in-kind services), in limited amounts, to eligible organizations that warrant City support;
- Evaluate all applications equitably and consistently;
- Ensure that recipients of funds are held accountable for targeted results;
- Ensure an adequate administrative system of review for each organization making a request, and a follow up review for organizations receiving funding;
- Ensure that full value is obtained for financial assistance provided by the City;
- Enhance the financial decision-making through effective and responsible fiscal management by Council and the City Departments (City of Sault Ste. Marie Strategic Plan);
- Align with relevant strategic plans, including:
 - City Corporate Strategic Plan
 - FutureSSM Community Development Strategy
 - Community Culture Plan
 - Tourism Development Strategy
 - Economic Development Strategy

Approval Process

The criteria for the new funding streams has been finalized in consultation with relevant stakeholders and will be reviewed and receive recommendations from subject matter experts:



Criteria

The following criteria and guidelines will be used to assess applications for all streams of funding:

1. Individual organizations must demonstrate the following:

- Community benefit – clear, measurable benefits to the community
- Appropriate financial reporting and controls that demonstrate the financial capability and capacity to manage the project.
- Accountability of organization with clear identity, appropriate organizational structure and capacity to deliver project
- Involvement of multiple partners in planning, doing or evaluating the work (where appropriate)
- Support from individuals who are knowledgeable about the sector and/or the initiative

2. The organization must have a clearly stated purpose and function and must be fully responsible for the planning and provision of its services.

3. The organization must demonstrate the need for funding

5. Where appropriate, organizations should show that the private sector or non-governmental field has contributed a minimum of 20% of the funding for the program.

6. The organization shall provide evidence that it has fully explored other sources of financial support, including upper levels of government, foundations, private industry, fundraising, user fees, etc.

7. The organization must provide the appropriate financial and organizational information (where appropriate):

- Copies financial statements and/or annual budget
- Business plan or corporate strategic plan
- If the organization is currently funded by the City, indicate the percentage of costs the City funds
- No significant past deficits or large, unrestricted reserve funds or accumulated surplus

8. An organization must be able to monitor outcomes and be able to evaluate activities for which the grants were received. It must be willing to participate in an evaluation process of its service standards and attainment of objectives and a project summary within one year of project completion.

9. City of Sault Ste. Marie property held by the organization must have a current and up-to-date tax payments upon the City's receipt of application. Through the grant period, tax payments must be maintained and up-to-date. Organizations whose property taxes are in arrears will not be considered for this program. Organizations who default on their property taxes through the grant period will not receive any payment from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and the grant agreement may be terminated immediately.

The specific program criteria for each stream are outlined in more detail in the following documents:

- CDF - Economic Development Program
- CDF - Arts & Culture Assistance Program
- CDF – Green Initiatives Program
- CDF – Social Equity Program