

Report to Council

Report Title:	Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund and Housing Accelerator Fund Grant Updates		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) and Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer		
Department:	Finance		
Date:	August 13, 2024		
Report Number:	FIN2024-25	File Number:	C11FIN, F11
Attachments:	GrantMatch Corp. Agreement		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-25 - Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund and Housing Accelerator Fund Grant Updates, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) and Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so authorizes staff to apply to the second stream of both the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) and further approves a By-Law coming forward entering into an agreement with GrantMatch Corp. for their support with the HEWSF, HAF, and Green and Inclusive Communities Buildings Program grant applications.

Report:

Background:

In Fall 2023, Ontario announced the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF). The program will invest \$200 million in the expansion, repair and rehabilitation of core water, wastewater and storm water projects to protect communities and unlock housing opportunities.

As mentioned in Report UT2024-03 on March 5, 2024, Council authorized staff applying to the HEWSF grant. Staff applied for the HEWSF grant in March 2024 for a new standpipe and related infrastructure supporting further housing developments in Brockton.

In 2023, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation established a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) which is an application-based program introduced in the 2022 Federal Budget with a funding allocation of \$4 billion until 2026-2027. The program aimed to bring about significant change in local government's control over land use planning and development approvals. The goal was to support lasting changes that will improve housing supply for years to come. As part of the application process, applicants had to outline the actions that they would take to increase housing supply and reflect these initiatives in an action plan.

In September 2023, staff applied for the HAF grant. As mentioned in Report CAO2024-05 on March 5, 2024, the Municipality received notification in February 2024 that our HAF application was not approved, and we have now been informed that the HEWSF application was also not successful.

Analysis:

In response to the high demand for funding, the Province of Ontario is investing an additional \$250 million for a second round of Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HESWF) applications, bringing the total investment for the program to \$1.2 billion.

The second round of HEWSF applications opens August 14, 2024.

CHMC is also offering a second round of Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) applications to a limited number of applicants. Funding from the second round of the HAF is available **only** to previous applicants who were not approved in the 2023 application window. As the Municipality was not accepted for the 2023 HAF grant, Brockton is eligible to apply for the second round.

The second round of the HAF applications opened July 15, 2024 and closes on September 13, 2024.

Due to the large-scale nature of these grants, staff reached out to GrantMatch Corp. for their assistance with the HEWSF and HAF grant applications. GrantMatch Corp. will develop and manage a proactive Government Funding application process, including grant identification, funding program matching, grant strategy development, funding application development and writing, and compliance reporting support. In addition, GrantMatch will review Brockton’s existing projects related to the HEWSF, HAF, and Green and Inclusive Communities Building Program with respect to re-submissions and potential filings.

GrantMatch. is offering a discounted service fee of 2.5% per funding application approved.

Staff recommend that Council approve staff applying for both the second round of the HEWSF applications and the second round of the HAF applications.

Staff also recommend that Council approve a By-Law coming forward entering into an agreement with GrantMatch Corp. for the HEWSF, HAF, and Green and Inclusive Communities Building Program grants.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The fee will only be paid if Brockton is successful in securing the funding.

Respectfully Submitted by:




Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer