

## Report to Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Inclusive Community Grants Program Application - Accessibility		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Fiona Hamilton, Clerk		
<b>Department:</b>	Clerk's		
<b>Date:</b>	December 8, 2020		
<b>Report Number:</b>	CLK2020-46	<b>File Number:</b>	C11CL, A22, F11
<b>Attachments:</b>	GrantMatch Inclusive Community Grant Program Overview		

### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2020-46 - Inclusive Community Grants Program Application – Accessibility, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk and in doing so approves applying for the Inclusive Community Grants Program to update the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and create the Accessibility Advisory Committee and associated Terms of Reference.

### Report:

#### Background:

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility is offering an Inclusive Community Grant Program (ICGP) which helps ensure local governments and community organizations consider Ontarians of all ages and abilities at every stage of community planning and development. Inclusive communities respond to both opportunities and challenges of an aging population by:

- Creating physical and social environments that support independent and active living
- Enabling older adults and people with disabilities to continue contributing to all aspects of community life.

The ICGP is a \$2 million dollar grant program that offers funding over two (2) years for short and long-term projects that take place between February 2020 and March 2022. Staff are suggesting that Brockton apply for the maximum funding of \$60,000 over two (2) years in order to implement the project.

The application deadline for the ICGP is December 21, 2020, and decisions will be made in February 2021. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2022.

#### Analysis:

The Municipality of Brockton plans to apply for the ICGP to improve Brockton's accessibility. The Municipality's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MAP) was revised in February 2014 and expired in 2019. Staff had internally

started reviewing and updating the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan when progress was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The ICGP will allow the Municipality to update the MAP, allow residents in our community to participate in the policy and form new collaborations as well as establishing an Accessibility Advisory Committee and develop an Action Plan.

The ICGP project would focus on identifying and working to resolve accessibility needs in our inclusive community. The Municipality's mandate is to plan, manage and maintain services and infrastructure; including delivering essential quality services. The Municipality's Sustainable Strategic Plan, 2013 stresses that ensuring all services are accessible is of the utmost importance and that accessibility must be continually considered for the delivery of all services within Brockton.

Staff have implemented several projects and measures in the past number of years to improve our accessibility to residents, including updating the Municipal website to be WCAG 2.0 Level AA such that Brockton is already compliant with AODA requirements coming into force January 1, 2021, installing accessible sidewalks in downtown Walkerton, and ensuring accessible customer service at Municipal facilities.

The ICGP would assist staff in implementing the following objectives:

- Involve as many older adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities as possible through consultation and surveys, or as committee volunteers.
- Collaborate with as many appropriate organizations as possible, such as the Action Committee of Community Living Walkerton and District, Cargill and District Community Fund (a group of volunteers for the Cargill Community Centre), the Elmwood Community Centre Joint Board, Greenock Seniors, and the municipality's department heads.
- Consider the personal, physical, and social dimensions that contribute to independent and active aging, by addressing the World Health Organization's eight age-friendly community domains.
- Update our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan especially with consideration for the current and possible future pandemic situations that negatively impact these vulnerable citizens.
- Establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee with terms of reference that includes but are not limited to reviewing and approving the updated Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and steering the development of current and future Action Plans.
- Develop an Action Plan that identifies our community's accessibility needs. The Plan must outline a strategy to remove current barriers and prevent future impediments. It is required to assign responsibility and timelines for implementation and establish an evaluation or monitoring system to determine that the intent of our updated Accessibility Plan is implemented with integrity now and in the future.
- Provide quality service to older adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities at municipally owned facilities and encourage businesses within our community to be age friendly and inclusive.
- Disseminate our renewed Multi-Year Accessibility Plan through local council and on our website.

Although the Inclusive Community Grants Program does specify that projects may be eligible if they are moderate improvements to the build environment, staff are recommending proceeding with the project as outlined above for the following reasons:

- The accessibility improvements to the built environment of our facilities would likely be far in excess of the grant amount (installing new doors, improving grading, installing elevators, etc.) that would require significant additional tax funded dollars at a time when there are other critical infrastructure projects to be considered;
- Creating a new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will provide strategic guidance for both Council and staff to engage in long-term planning rather than short-term gain;
- A Multi-Year Accessibility Plan has the potential to benefit a large swath of Brockton residents, including those in our rural communities;
- Introducing an Accessibility Advisory Committee will allow for appropriate capital planning for all facilities, rather than one specific project;
- Updating the plan and introducing the Accessibility Advisory Committee ensure greater compliance with the AODA requirements.

In addition, the project as scoped above best fits with the specific criteria identified by GrantMatch and staff such that it would be the most competitive submission on Brockton's behalf.

Staff recommend that Council establish the Accessibility Advisory Committee as noted in the Committees of Council Review Report, and further endorse staff's application for the Inclusive Community Grants Program. If approved, the next steps will be to finalize a work plan, budget, and performance measures and obtain letters of support from groups in the community.

### **Sustainability Checklist:**

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

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy?       | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity?     | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity?           | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity?                 | Yes |

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

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

The Inclusive Community Grant will cover up to 100% of eligible costs, but the municipality would need to pay GrantMatch 20% of the amount of grant funds received.

**Reviewed By:**



**Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer**

---

---

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

**Reviewed By:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Sonya Watson', written in a cursive style.

**Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer**