

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee

Report From: Ryan Gowan, Manager of Arena Operations
Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: February 15, 2023

Report Code: CS-23-019

Subject: Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Grant Program

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-23-019 respecting the Green and Inclusive Community Building Grants Program, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Directs staff to submit an application for the Bayshore Community Centre under the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program in support of green building retrofits; and
2. Should the application be successful, direct staff to bring forward a by-law to execute the funding agreement.

Highlights:

- The Government of Canada has announced “The Green and Inclusive Community Building (GICB) Program”.
- The program is open for applications until February 28, 2023.
- An application under the program is recommended for a group of projects at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre that will result in energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and resiliency to climate change.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City - KR3 - Increase competitive grant funding dollars received annually

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Background:

The Government of Canada has announced “The Green and Inclusive Community Building (GICB) Program”.

The five-year \$1.5 billion Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings, and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings that serve high-needs, underserved communities across Canada. The program was initially announced in 2021 and ends in 2026. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.

The GICB Program supports the first pillar of the Strengthened Climate Plan by improving the places Canadians live and gather by cutting pollution (e.g. reducing GHG emissions, increasing energy efficiency, building resiliency to climate change, and encouraging new builds to net zero standards), making life more affordable, and supporting thousands of good jobs.

The program for small and medium-sized projects to retrofit existing community buildings ranging in total eligible cost from \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 is open until February 28, 2023.

Analysis:

Corporate Services and Community Services staff reviewed the City’s capital plan for facilities eligible under the GICB program, including the Bayshore Community Centre, Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery. The Bayshore Community Centre provided a list of projects that could meet the financial thresholds of the program, while also meeting the energy and accessibility requirements.

The five-year capital plan for the Bayshore Community Centre includes \$5,100,000 in required work. Staff has reviewed the grant program guidelines to develop a list of projects related to the arena operations for the facility that could be completed within the \$3,000,000 upset limit for small to medium projects. The following projects are proposed:

- HVAC rooftop unit replacements - \$200,000
- Boards, glass, and arena floor slab replacement - \$1,500,000
- Brine pump replacement - \$25,000
- Safety netting replacement - \$20,000
- Roof sections 2, 4 and 5 restoration - \$628,000

The replacement of these existing aging core assets has been identified in the five-year capital plan, and the work will increase the efficiency of the building and ice plant, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase resiliency to the impacts of climate change, and extend the life of this important inclusive community asset. The replacement of the ice surface boards also provides an opportunity to improve the accessibility to the ice surface for off-season events.

The project would commence in 2024 with the design component and be completed by March 31, 2026. The replacement of the ice surface floor and boards would be scheduled for 2025 and would be coordinated with arena users. The HVAC and roof restoration projects would be coordinated around equipment lead times and the suitability of roof material application.

Financial Implications:

The total cost of the projects listed above is \$2,373,000. Adding cost escalation, contingency, and design/project management costs equalling \$593,250 brings the total cost of the project to \$2,966,250. The GICB grant program provides up to 80% of project costs, and if the City's application is successful, it would result in \$2,343,000 grant funding being received. The City's share of the project would be approximately \$593,250.

The City's share of the project is funded in the five-year capital plan. Any surplus funds between what has already been funded and what can be applied to the GICB grant can be allocated to other capital projects at the Bayshore or for other facility projects.

Communication Strategy:

If the City is successful, there will be a requirement for signage regarding the funding contribution under the program.

Consultation:

Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Ryan Gowan, Manager of Arena Operations

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services, at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1252.