



Municipality of North Grenville

To: **Council**

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Subject: Mental Health Initiatives Fund Policy Report No: PRC-2025-009

Prepared by: Tammy Hurlbert, Manager of Community and Leisure Services

Recommendation(s)

THAT Council approve the Mental Health Initiatives Fund Policy as presented and direct staff to proceed with the 2025 intake of funding applications.

Executive Summary

Purpose

- On January 15, 2025, Council directed staff to prepare a Mental Health Initiatives Fund (MHIF) policy to administer funding and fee waiver requests for related use of municipal facilities.
- Council also directed staff to consider elements within the draft policy for specific allocations for age-related funding.

Key Findings

- The attached draft policy is closely aligned with the process for the Community Grants program, however there is no requirement for Senior Management review and this new program has its own timeline.
- Staff do not recommend embedding age-related funding elements into the policy. Local priorities may vary, and allocation decisions remain with Council. This approach allows flexibility to respond to the needs of the day.

Financial Implications

- Council approved \$15,000.00 in the 2025 budget for the MHIF program and up to \$5,000.00 in requests to waive fees for related use of municipal facilities.

Background/Analysis

The Municipality of North Grenville recognizes the significant role that community organizations play in supporting mental health and well-being. The MHIF is designed to provide financial support to community-led projects that align with the Municipality's commitment to enhancing mental health awareness, improving access to services, and reducing stigma.

The proposed policy establishes a clear and consistent framework for administering the MHIF to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in the allocation of funding. The policy outlines eligibility criteria, funding terms, application procedures, evaluation criteria, and reporting requirements.

- **Purpose & Objectives:** The MHIF aims to support initiatives that improve system navigation, increase mental health literacy, promote well-being, and reduce stigma.
- **Funding Terms:** Grants typically range from \$500 to \$3,000, covering up to 75% of total project costs, with exceptions made in extraordinary circumstances.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Non-profit, charitable, or community-based organizations primarily serving North Grenville residents are eligible to apply.
- **Application & Evaluation:** Applications will be reviewed annually by the Manager of Community and Leisure Services, with Council making final decisions based on an established evaluation matrix.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Successful applicants must submit a final report by December 31 of the funding year to maintain future eligibility.

Relevance to Strategic Priorities

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| Strategic Pillar | Pillar #5 - A Caring Community |
| Goal | Goal #5.1 - Champion Improvements to Health and Safety, and Social Services; and Advocate for Community Needs with Senior Governments |
| Key Action | Action #5.1.1 - Identify key gaps in social services, and define current state needs, as well as projected needs for the next 10 years (e.g., mental health, sexual assault support, domestic abuse, among others). |

Options and Discussion

1. Approve the recommendation and policy as presented.
2. Approve the recommendation with amendment to address any changes to the policy or process, or a preferred approach to prioritizing age-related funding applications.
3. Do not approve the recommendation. This is not recommended as it will delay the initiative.

Financial Impact

This item has been identified in the current budget: Yes X No N/A

This item is within the budgeted amount: Yes X No N/A

Staffing implications, as they relate to implementing Council’s decision on this matter, are limited to the existing staff complement and applicable administrative policies as approved by Council.

Internal/External Consultation

Staff reviewed and considered existing funding program policies to give consideration to best approach based on current practices.

Communications

Once approved, the Policy will be posted to the Municipal website along with program information. The program will open for applications in late April. The program will be advertised through the North Grenville times, Municipal social media and website, and by direct outreach.

Attachments

- Draft Mental Health Initiatives Fund Policy