

OTF Investment Summary Report 2023/2024 Capital Cycle



Prepared for the Board of Directors,
September 12, 2023
2023-2024 Capital Cycle (June 14, 2023 deadline)
Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Investments

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Introduction

Safe, accessible and welcoming spaces to connect, be active, learn, and grow are vital to healthy and vibrant communities. By investing in infrastructure and equipment, organizations can ensure they have appropriate spaces to deliver high quality programming to the communities they serve. OTF's Capital stream is designed to help organizations facilitate the improvement of their spaces to ensure the communities they serve have a safe and welcoming place to access the services they need. OTF's Capital stream is available to organizations that deliver programs or services in one of OTF's six Action Areas.

The Capital funding stream awards grants between \$10,000 and \$150,000 to eligible organizations for up to one year to facilitate purchasing equipment, building new spaces, or completing renovations, retrofits or repairs. Investments support projects that:

- Improve access to community spaces, facilities, programs, activities and services, and facilitate participation in the community
- Improve and build community spaces
- Make programs and services better and more efficient
- Make better use of technology

This report will provide an overview of the Capital funding round for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

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Schedule 1: Executive Summary

1.1 Cycle highlights:

- This round, **\$38.9M is available to be disbursed**. The total represents approximately 30% of the 2023-2024 granting funds.
- **1600 applications** were received this cycle, **requesting \$149.2M**. This is a 20% increase in the amount of dollars requested from the previous round of Capital which had \$125M in requested funds from 1332 applications.
- The Grant Review Teams are **recommending 448 applications for approval**. This is more than the previous round of Capital in which 417 projects were recommended for approval. However, due to higher demand, the **approval rate this round is 28%** compared with 31% last round.
- The Grant Review Teams are also recommending **1152 applications for decline**. Of those 1152, **663 applications were determined to be ineligible** to move forward for scoring.
- The **overall demand rate is \$3.85** requested for every dollar recommended for approval representing a 16% increase in the demand rate from the previous Capital round, which had a demand rate of \$3.33. This round, the **Northwestern catchment had the highest demand rate** at \$7.72, up from \$3.95 the previous round. The Quinte, Kingston, Rideau (QKR) and Grey, Bruce, Huron & Perth (GBHP) catchments also saw sharp increases in the demand rate from the previous round of capital; QKR's demand rate rose to \$6.64, up from \$4.24 the previous round and GBHP's demand rate rose to \$5.65 from \$4.59.
- This round saw a **32% increase in the number of applications** from organizations that have a **revenue of less than \$500,000** a year, up from 596 applications the previous round to 787 applications this round. Consequently, the amount requested from these organizations rose to \$66M, up from \$48.5M, while the amount recommended for approval increased slightly to \$13.4M, up from \$11.6M.
- **91% of Grant Review Team volunteers** completed all of their assigned scoring activities for this round of Capital, which continues to indicate a high level of engagement.

1.2 Noteworthy Grants

Below, we highlight some of the initiatives that are being recommended:

Increase access to programming for vulnerable populations in Ottawa

With a 12-month grant of \$126,900 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the AMA-Assunnah Muslim Association Centre will erect partitions that will allow for more effective programming that is consistent and conveniently timed for their target audience and enable them to have a greater impact. Current space limitations require that they prioritize the programs offered, which decreases the effectiveness of services provided since they are offered infrequently or at inconvenient times for their target audience. Through this grant, the economic well-being of the community will be improved by providing increased access to

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programs and services, while also offering programs that cater to children and adults belonging to single-parent families and recent immigrants, to help better integrate them into Canadian society.

Provide a space for language immersion in Bkejwanong (Walpole Island) for one of the rarest languages in the world

A six-month, \$42,900 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will allow Nwewnan Sasaang to extend their facility's life by more than 50 years by installing a new roof and enhance program delivery with the construction of an outdoor gazebo and shed. Nwewnan Sasaang, or Language Nest, provides language immersion programming in Anishinaabemowin, one of the rarest languages in the world. This funding will allow the young children of Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation) to have access to land-based language and cultural activities that involve Elders, knowledge keepers, and language speakers.

Improve food security for underhoused people in Cochrane

Living Space is a low-barrier, co-ed homeless shelter offering 24/7 supports to vulnerable people in the District of Cochrane who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of housing insecurity. Living Space provides drop-in access to healthcare including on-site nursing services, doctor teleconferencing, dental clinic, medication management and a harm reduction clinic as well as hot meals, bathroom, shower, and laundry facilities. This \$26,500 grant will enhance the kitchen area by installing air conditioning and a 30-inch cooking surface with range hood. Kitchen air conditioning is critical to ensure food safety and well-being of both residents and staff. The 30-inch cooking surface and range hood will expand the shelter's cooking capabilities, allowing for more nutritious meals to be prepared, improving the health of the homeless population in their community.

Provide newcomers to Canada with job skills training and mental health supports in Mississauga

This small grant of \$16,900 over 6 months to Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services will provide newcomer women in Mississauga the opportunity to connect with others while learning new job skills within the textile industry. Grant funds will facilitate the purchase of heavy-duty sewing machines and a weekly series of sewing circles. The participants, many of whom are from refugee backgrounds, will receive training from textile artists as well as ongoing mental health supports, helping to reduce isolation and create new sources of income for families.

Increase inclusivity in Pattsville, Oxford County by adding more accessible playground equipment

With OTF support the Township of Blandford-Blenheim will add accessible playground equipment and install a rubber floor in the Plattsville Park. This community-driven project will enhance the ability for the township and other user groups to provide new programming for people with accessibility issues. This Active People initiative will address a need specifically identified by this rapidly growing community to enhance inclusivity, while providing a social activity area. 12,000 people will directly benefit from the new playground equipment which is expected to last 30 years. The project will provide more than the usual accessible equipment by adding rubber flooring featuring 2SLGBTQIA+ colours, a communication board with pictograms that assists children who are mute or have language difficulties as well as an Indigenous land acknowledgement plaque. This \$125,000 capital project will allow underrepresented groups to feel more welcome to the park, by having representation at this location.

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Make a Black-centered community space in Toronto more accessible

An Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) capital grant in the amount of \$149,300 will go towards a major renovation project for Black Artists' Networks in Dialogue that will address the serious need for more Black-centred community spaces in Toronto. This will result in a communal, supportive, accessible and educational space that will offer opportunities and free programming for Black artists, art lovers, creatives and cultural workers. Impacting 11,500 people annually, OTF support will make the main entrance and all interior doorways of the building in the Roncesvalles neighbourhood in west-end downtown accessible for people with mobility issues.

1.3 Sign-Offs

Sign-Off from Chairs: Following each GRT meeting the Chair or Acting Chair signed off on the recommendations of their GRT.

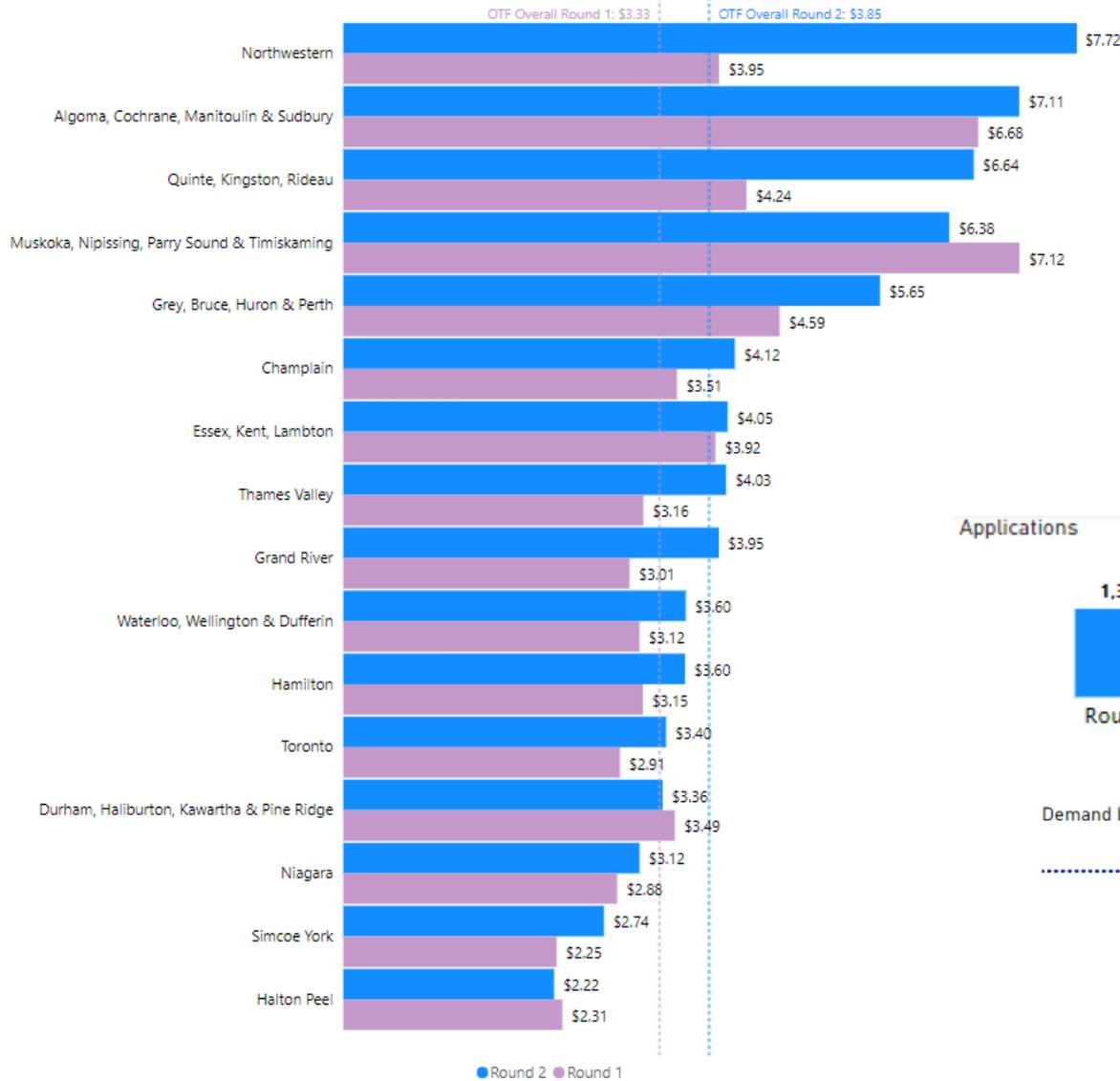
Compliance with OTF Policy: During and following the application assessment period and the GRT meeting period, the Vice-President, Community Investments has reviewed granting policy compliance, compliance with objectives of the funding stream, and granting process compliance with Regional Directors. The VP, Community Investments and CEO of OTF each also attended three GRT meetings. The VP, Community Investments confirms that all recommended grants are within the granting policies, stream expectations and grant-making processes of the Foundation. As well, the VP, Community Investments confirms that to date no new information has surfaced that would suggest the need to alter any of the current recommendations made by the 16 GRTs.

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Schedule 2: Supporting Figures

2.1 Demand Overview

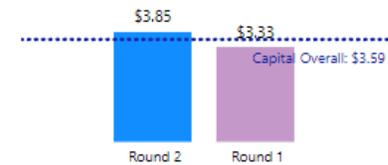
Dollars Requested vs Dollars Approved/Recommended for Approval



Applications



Demand by Round



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2.2 Grant Outcomes

Outcomes - Grants

● Round 1 ● Round 2

