

**OTF Investment Summary Report
Resilient Communities Fund Round 6**



Prepared for the Board of Directors,
May 04, 2023

Resilient Communities Fund Round 6 (February 1, 2023 deadline)
Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Investments

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Resilient Communities Fund Round 6



Introduction

To aid nonprofits in their work, OTF created the Resilient Communities Fund (RCF) in the Spring of 2020. The fund focuses on supporting community nonprofit organizations, community registered charities, Indigenous communities, and small municipalities to help them recover and build capacity, resilience and sustainability.

RCF awards successful organizations a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 per year for up to 2 years. RCF grants support organizations as they:

- Develop new approaches to generate revenue
- Start new activities and adapt continued activities to meet community need
- Adjust strategies and plans
- Plan for future challenges

By investing in projects through the RCF, OTF expects to increase the capacity of organizations to build resiliency and adapt the way they work with an eye toward financial viability and long-term operational sustainability. This report will provide key highlights of RCF Round 6.

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Schedule 1: Executive Summary

1.1 Cycle highlights:

- This round, **\$31.5M is available to be disbursed**. The total represents approximately 30% of the 2023-2024 granting funds.
- **1213 applications** were received this cycle, **requesting \$134M**. This is a 44% decrease in the amount of dollars requested from the previous round which recorded \$237M in requested funds from 1975 applications.
- The Grant Review Teams are **recommending 295 applications for approval**. This is similar to the previous round of RCF in which 283 projects were recommended for approval.
- The Grant Review Teams are also recommending **411 applications for decline**.
- Prior to full assessment of applications, **507 were determined to be ineligible** to move forward for scoring.
- Due to the close timing of RCF 5 and RCF 6 deadlines, RCF 5 applications were still in assessment at the time of the RCF 6 deadline. As such, sixty applicants had their application declined because their application was successful in RCF Round 5. An eligibility requirement throughout RCF has been that organizations could not receive funding in two consecutive rounds of RCF or receive funding more than once for the same initiative.
- The **overall demand rate is \$4.29** requested for every dollar recommended for approval representing a nearly 50% decrease in the demand rate from RCF Round 5, which had a demand rate of \$7.95. Demand is lower across all catchments, however Northwestern and Toronto continue to have the highest demand rates (\$6.24 and \$5.89, respectively).
- **24% of applications are being recommended for funding** (a 10-percentage point increase from RCF Round 5 which had an approval rate of 14%)
- Grant Review Team volunteers **completed 88% of assigned scoring activities** for RCF Round 6 which continues to indicate a high level of engagement.

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1.2 Noteworthy Grants

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

Expand arts programming for youth in Northumberland County

With a grant of \$15,700, OTF will support Oak Ridge Percussion to expand access to Drumbox, a percussive arts music program delivered in schools in Northumberland County. The grant will enable them to increase their reach to a younger age group, expand on their mission to deliver affordable music programming and increase awareness of their organization.

Build on the success of established programs benefitting the Francophone population of Lambton County

With an OTF grant of \$70,000 over 12 months, Réseau-femmes du Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, will rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of two established programs to find potential creative and innovative solutions to ensure their continued success. The organization will analyze the findings and consult with the Francophone community to potentially develop other programs, adapted to the new realities and emerging needs of Lambton County.

Increase opportunities for physical activity through swimming programs for youth in Simcoe County

With a grant of \$59,700 over 2 years, Norfolk Hammerheads Aquatic Club will launch a beginner swim training program for youth. Located in Simcoe, ON this affordable program will attract new participants interested in trying competitive swimming and increase opportunities for physical activity for youth in this rural community. The new program will create a pipeline for increased registration in the Aquatic Club's competitive programs, generating additional revenue over time and contributing to the Club's overall recovery.

Increase sustainability for a youth mental health services provider in Muskoka

With an OTF grant of \$84,000 over 12 months, MiND-AID will develop and implement long-term plans related to strategic planning and revenue generation to help them become sustainable, thereby allowing them to provide ongoing supports to young people in Muskoka experiencing mental health challenges and other barriers. In addition, they will use grant funds to expand programming and enhance staff knowledge to meet increased demand for services.

Adapt programming to provide life and social skills training for youth with disabilities in Markham

With an OTF grant of \$48,800 over 24 months, this Markham organization will be able to plan and adapt its programming for youth with disabilities (ages 13-19), which is an underserved population in York Region. The project will allow the group to develop relevant program content for this cohort, including life and social skills training, as well as to increase availability such as after-school and weekend delivery.

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Increase housing opportunities and counselling for refugee children in Toronto

A \$132,800 grant from OTF will enable the Toronto-based Christie Refugee Welcome Centre to expand its Centre for Refugee Children program by hiring a Youth Housing Worker whose primary responsibility will be to secure safe housing for unaccompanied and refugee children. These children, most of whom have fled their country of residence without a parent or guardian, in pursuit of safety and protection in Canada, face unique challenges beyond those experienced by adult refugee claimants, largely due to their status as unaccompanied minors. With OTF support, this organization will now be better equipped to facilitate housing stabilization in support of homelessness prevention among this highly vulnerable population. Being able to do will help meet a critical need for safe and secure housing among the growing number of unaccompanied and refugee children unfortunately now arriving in Toronto following a record-breaking year of global conflict.

1.3 Sign-Offs

Sign-Off from Chairs: Due to the timing of religious holidays GRT meetings were spread out over two weeks this round. The meetings were held between April 4th and 17th. Following each GRT meeting the Chair or Acting Chair signed off on the recommendations of their GRT.

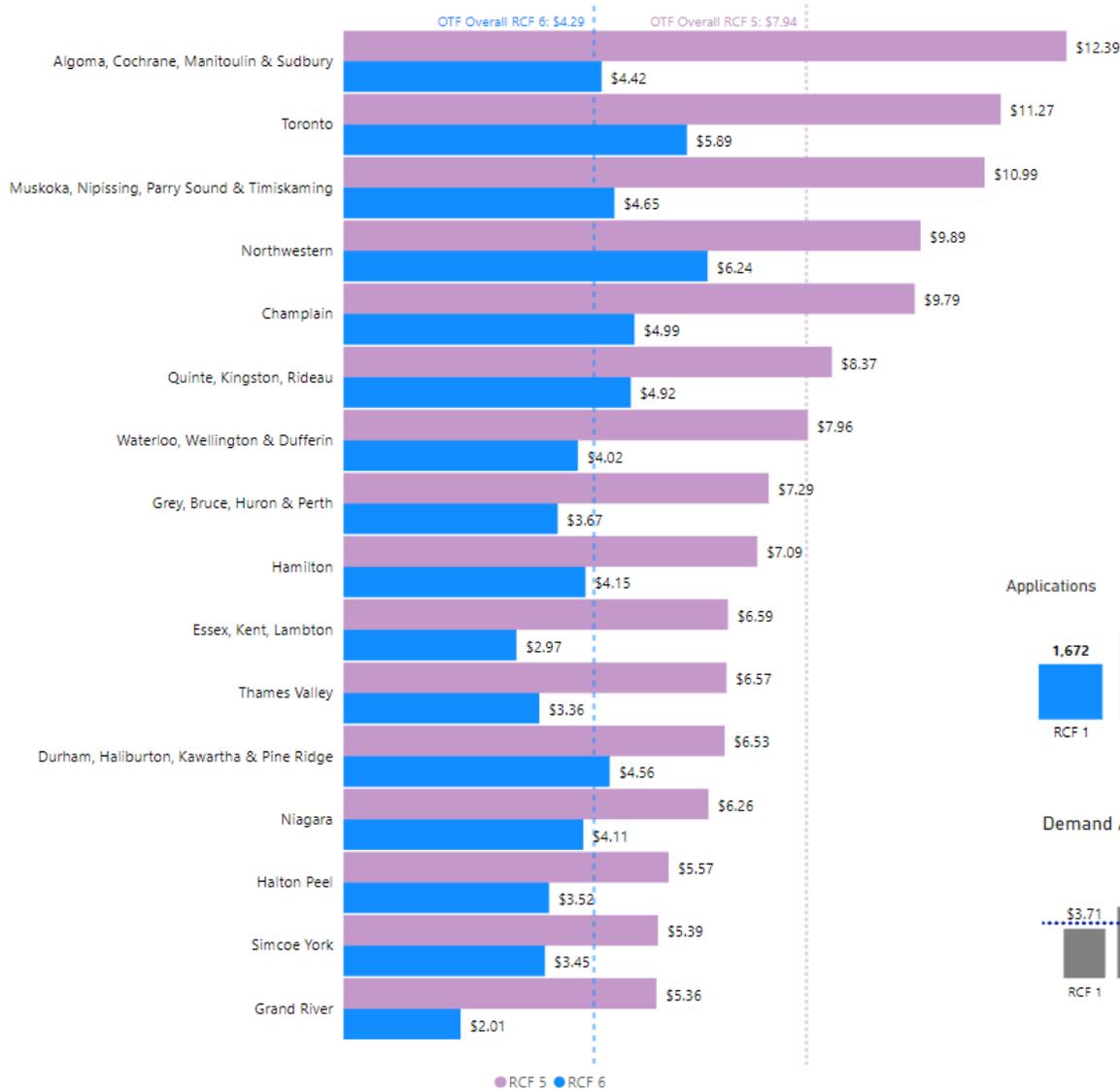
Compliance with OTF Policy: During and following the application assessment period and the GRT meeting period, the Vice-President, Community Investments has reviewed granting policy compliance, compliance with objectives of the funding stream, and granting process compliance with Regional Directors. The VP, Community Investments has also attended three GRT meetings and 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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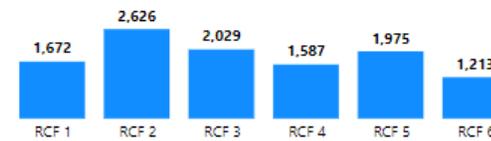
Schedule 2: Supporting Figures

2.1 Demand Overview

Dollars Requested vs Dollars Approved/Recommended for Approval



Applications



Demand Across Rounds



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2.2 Grant Outcomes

Type of Outcomes

● RCF 5 ● RCF 6

