



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 21-031**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer
Resource Staff: Troy Beharry, Partnership & Grant Development Analyst
Date of Meeting: December 15, 2020
Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19
Resilience Infrastructure Grant program

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Council requests

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

On October 28, 2020, the Ontario government formally announced the new COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream which will provide up to \$1.05 billion in combined federal-provincial funding to build or renovate health and safety related projects in long-term care, education and municipalities. The funding is a new component of the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

As part of the COVID-19 Resilience Stream, the Province has developed the Local Government Intake to provide all of Ontario's 444 municipalities with the ability to fund more local infrastructure projects during the pandemic, provide relief for communities facing fiscal challenges due to COVID-19, and help to stimulate local economies. Under the Local Government Intake, \$250 million in federal-provincial funding will be dedicated to municipal projects across the province.

Each municipality has received a minimum allocation of \$100,000. On November 9, 2020, the City was informed that the municipality's allocation will be \$2,298,219. Municipalities must apply for project funding and projects must fall under one of four project categories. The City can

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submit multiple project applications, however the total eligible project costs cannot exceed the municipal allocation.

The federal government will be responsible for cost-sharing 80% of project costs and the remaining 20% will be cost-shared by the Province. Municipalities will not be required to participate in cost-sharing. Eligible projects must begin no later than September 30, 2021 and be completed by December 31, 2021.

Given the restrictive parameters/criteria of the program, City staff are recommending that the City of Kingston submit two project applications focused on Category 1 and Category 3, as outlined in the Options/Discussion section of this report. A municipal council resolution affirming intent to proceed with the project(s) is encouraged to be included when the application(s) are submitted.

Recommendation:

That Council affirm the City of Kingston's intent to proceed with the projects identified in the City of Kingston's funding applications to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Stream, as outlined in Report Number 21-031; and

That Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Stream Contribution Agreement, and any related documentation, subject to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services

Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects

Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Corporate Services

Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston

Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works

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Options/Discussion:

On October 28, 2020, the Ontario government formally announced the new COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream which will provide up to \$1.05 billion in combined federal-provincial funding to build or renovate health and safety related projects in long-term care, education and municipalities. The funding is a new component of the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

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Each municipality has received a minimum allocation of \$100,000. On November 9, 2020, the City was informed that the municipality's allocation will be \$2,298,219. Municipalities must apply for project funding. The City can submit multiple project applications, however the total eligible project costs cannot exceed the municipal allocation.

To be eligible for the Local Government intake, projects must fall under one of four project categories:

Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure (Note: only project components *in* or *on* buildings are eligible for funding – *components* outside buildings are not).

Category 2: COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, including building or modifying infrastructure to support physical distancing, safety retrofits and expansions.

Category 3: Active Transportation Infrastructure, including parks and trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; playground infrastructure in parks (e.g. tennis courts)

Category 4: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

The federal government will be responsible for cost-sharing 80% of project costs and the remaining 20% will be cost-shared by the Province. Municipalities will not be required to participate in cost-sharing 80% of project costs and the remaining 20% will be cost-shared by the Province.

The Province will review applications on a rolling basis, up to the application deadline of January 7, 2021, and will notify applicants if their project has been selected for nomination to the federal government for review and approval. It is important to note, that provincial project nomination to the federal government does not guarantee funding approval.

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Key Project Requirements

City staff have selected projects that best align with the following key criteria:

- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2021 (construction on projects must commence before September 30, 2021).
- Contracts cannot be awarded or construction cannot start before federal approval of funding (Spring 2021).
- All projects in Category 2 and 4 must have a clear rationale of how they will support responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or economic recovery
- Applicants must adopt a value for money procurement approach. Sole source procurement is not encouraged as approval of this procurement method is not guaranteed. The municipality can begin design work and tender a project but must wait until federal approval is received to sign a contract.
- Recipients cannot apply for funding under the COVID-19 Resilience Stream with a project already approved under a different ICIP stream (i.e. Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund projects or Public Transit projects).

Application Strategy and Project Selection

City staff reviewed projects currently within the 15-year capital plans and, based on the restrictive parameters/criteria of the program, are recommending that the City submit two project applications focused on Category 1 and Category 3.

Applicants are permitted to bundle projects which have the same ultimate recipient, project category and asset type. This strategy has been employed to impact multiple projects in Category 1 and Category 3.

Proposed Application #1 (Category 1 projects)

Application #1 is focused on retrofits, repairs and upgrades to Rideaucrest Long-term Care Facility. The identified projects include: 1) upgrades to resident washrooms and tub and shower rooms to enhance infection control, safety and accessibility, and 2) the replacement / repair of the two main elevators.

Proposed Application #2 (Category 3 projects)

Application #2 is focused on encouraging safe, outdoor activities. The identified projects include play structure replacements within four parks (Markers Acres Park, Starr Reid Park, Cloverdale Park, Oakridge Park) and the reconstruction of tennis courts at Bayridge Park.

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Timeline

The timelines for applying to this fund and for associated actions are below:

December 21, 2020 – Application submission deadline for one project

January 7, 2021 – Application submission deadline for multiple projects

Winter/Spring 2021 (estimated) – The Province will review applications on a rolling basis and will notify applicants if their project has been selected for nomination to the federal government for review and approval

Spring 2021 – Federal funding decisions to be made

September 30, 2021 – Date by which construction projects must commence

December 31, 2021 – Project(s) completion date

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

All recommended projects are included within the 15-year capital plan. Project timing will, in some cases, be adjusted and projects incorporated into the 2021 recommended capital budget in order to align with funding timelines.

Contacts:

Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer, 613-546-4291 extension 1231

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Troy Beharry, Partnership & Grant Development Analyst

Various City Departments

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Exhibits Attached:

None