

2026 Annual Grants

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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Services

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the annual allocations of grants to a variety of community groups and organizations, approved by Council as part of the 2026 budget process. The 2026 grants will be released subject to Council's approval of the applicable by-law.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to the goal: Create a Healthier Community as identified in the Strategic Plan, as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Play, Age Friendly Strategies, Compassionate City and Families. The information in this report has no relationship to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

Funds for the reported grants are included in the respective 2026 Parks and Recreation Services and Economic Development Council approved operating budgets.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) has historically provided an annual grant to a variety of community groups and organizations. Funds are generally used by recipients towards operating costs and to deliver special events and programs. Most funds are budgeted in the Parks and Recreation Services Division operating budget with the exceptions of grants to the Anderson Farm Museum Heritage Society and Northern Ontario Railroad Museum & Heritage Centre, both of which are budgeted to the Economic Development Division. The disbursement of grants is authorized by City Council through the passing of a by-law on an annual basis.

At the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of July 7, 2015, Council received a report entitled Annual Grants Allocation Background. The report detailed grants provided to community groups and organizations for a ten-year period (2005 to 2015).

At the City Council meeting of March 8, 2016, resolution CC2016-99 was passed as follows:

WHEREAS various community groups receive an annual grant allocation from Leisure Services;

AND WHEREAS this grant allocation is based on historical practice, with many grant recipients pre-dating

municipal amalgamation;

AND WHEREAS the value for money for said grants are not clearly understood;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in 2016, all recipients of Leisure Services Grants be informed that they will have to re-apply for their 2017 grant allocation;

AND THAT clear criteria and application process be developed and presented to Finance and Administration Committee in September 2016;

AND THAT each community group be required to reapply every five years on a go forward basis.

On November 15, 2016, the Finance and Administration Committee received a report outlining a new application process and criteria for annual grants. Council approved that annual grant recipients would complete a grant application form every five years and complete a year-end report annually.

Annual grants for 2025 were approved by Council at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of March 18, 2025, by way of By-law 2025-55: By-law to Authorize the Payment of Grants to Various Non-Profit Community Organizations in the Leisure Services Sector, passed at the City Council meeting of April 29, 2025.

Upon Council's direction, a Grant Agreement accompanied 2025 annual grants which outlined the permitted uses of the grants and requirements for year-end reporting. Post-project reports were to be returned to the Leisure Services (now Parks and Recreation Services) and Economic Development Divisions by the end of January 2026.

2025 Annual Grant Summary

Grant agreements for annual grant recipients outlined permitted use of funds, eligible and ineligible expenses, and the requirement to provide narrative and financial year-end reports along with required financial deliverables. Narrative year-end reports were to include a description of the recipient's use of the grant and the resulting benefit to the community. Information submitted to the City has been reviewed by the respective Director responsible for the operating budget from which the grant is funded. A summary of the 2025 narrative year-end reports is included as Attachment 1 - 2025 Annual Grant Summary.

Evolution of Annual Grants and Community Action Networks

In response to Council resolution FA2025-24, Request for Review of Annual Grants, staff presented the [Annual Grant Program Review](#) report in October 2025. The report recommended replacing the existing Annual Grant Program with a more structured and transparent multi-tiered Community Grant Program, supported by:

- Clear eligibility criteria
- Defined policies
- Formalized application processes
- Standardized evaluation criteria
- Exploration of external partnerships for fund administration

Following this review, Council adopted Resolution FA2025-29, directing staff to develop a formal, multi-tiered Community Grant stream, including policies, application process, and evaluation criteria, and to explore partnerships for fund administration to replace the current Annual Grant Program, with a detailed plan to be reported back to Council by Q2 2026.

Part of these recommendations were that 2026 Annual Grants were to proceed as usual and no changes would take effect until 2027.

Community Action Network (CAN) Program Review and Council Direction

Staff presented the [Community Action Network Program Review](#) to Council on November 18, 2025. The review outlined how current City programs support community organizations, examined volunteerism best practices, and assessed the future role of CANs.

The report recommended a transition away from the CAN program, creating a new Community Affiliate Program, and reallocating the CAN program's \$50,000 Annual Grant funding toward a new micro-grant stream for grassroots initiatives.

Council approved Resolution CC2025-266, directing:

- the suspension of the current standard operating procedures and terms of engagement for Community Action Networks
- the development of a Community Registry/Affiliate Program with details and recommendations to be reported back to City Council in Q1 2027
- the development of a micro-grant stream for grassroots community activities with details and recommendations for changes to the current HCI Policy to be presented back to the Finance & Administration Committee in Q2 2026
- a strategy to engage current CAN leadership and other stakeholders during the development of the Community Registry/Affiliate program and micro-grant stream

During the transition period, CANs will continue to receive support through 2026, including eligibility for 2026 Annual Grant funding if they remain in compliance with deliverables.

Changes from Previous Annual Grant Program

New Hope Outreach – Samaritan Centre Operating Funds

As directed by Council through Resolution CC2026-05, staff were authorized to enter into a five-year operating agreement with New Hope Outreach Services in the amount of \$27,000 annually to support janitorial and security services at the Samaritan Centre.

As a result of this direction, the \$27,000 previously provided through the Annual Grant Program has been transitioned to a stand-alone operating commitment funded through the homelessness budget. Accordingly, this funding is no longer included in the 2026 Annual Grants budget, resulting in a corresponding reduction to the 2026 Annual Grants allocation. This approach provides the funding stability required by New Hope Outreach Services, which cannot be achieved through the Annual Grant Program.

2026 Annual Grants

Attachment 2 - 2026 Annual Grants provides a detailed listing of organizations and associated grant amounts for all annual grants.

Seniors Active Living Centres (Older Adult Centres)

In accordance with the provisions of the Seniors Active Living Centres Act mandated under the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, the City contributes annually to eligible seniors' centres in the amount of 20 percent of the centre's eligible operating and maintenance costs that are directly related to providing programs and services to seniors. Total grants issued amount to \$108,461.

Youth Centres

Annual grants are provided to youth centres to assist with operating costs. Total grants issued amount to \$60,000.

Community Centres

Annual grants to community centres assist with operating costs of non-municipally owned facilities as well as for delivery of recreation programs. Total grants issued amount to \$106,000.

Special Events or Purposes

Annual grants to specified organizations assist with costs related to annual community events. Total grants issued amount to \$45,000.

Operating Grants of Certain Organizations

Annual grants to specified organizations assist with costs to support operations and activities. Total grants issued amount to \$259,290.

Curling Clubs

Specified non-profit curling clubs receive an annual grant for property tax relief. Total grants issued amount to \$18,700 (estimate).

Community Action Networks

On November 18, 2025 staff presented the [Community Action Network Program Review](#) to Council. Following the presentation, Council directed staff to develop a new approach for supporting community groups and volunteerism as the City transitions away from the existing CAN Program. As part of this direction, Council approved the continuation of 2026 grant funding to sustain community-led events, activities and initiatives during the transition period. Staff will bring forward the proposed Community Affiliate Program for Council's consideration in Q1 of 2027. Total grants issued amount to \$50,000.

Next Steps

Upon passing of the by-law to authorize 2026 annual grants, recipients will be sent a 2026 grant agreement.

Where applicable, funds will be issued to a recipient upon confirmation of expected need and following verification that all required year-end deliverables for their 2025 grant are received and in compliance.

Staff will present recommendations for a new multi-tiered community grant stream to replace the current Annual Grant program by the end of Q2 2026.

Resources Cited

CES2026-05 New Hope Outreach – Samaritan Centre Operating Funds, Community and Emergency Services (January 19, 2026), p. 5

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=59220>

New Hope Outreach – Samaritan Centre Operating Funds, Community and Emergency Services (January 19, 2026)

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=0471d4cd-34e2-4d8c-857b-1ca41daf5c96&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=19&Tab=attachments>

CC2025-266, Community Action Network Program Review, City Council (November 18, 2025), p. 12

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=59070>

Community Action Network Program Review, City Council (November 18, 2025)

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=66b372c6-a643-400f-8a1c-7e88b88bffdcc&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=38&Tab=attachments>

FA2025-59, Annual Grant Program Review, Finance and Administration Committee (October 14, 2025), p.1
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=58529>

Annual Grant Program Review, Finance and Administration Committee (October 14, 2025)
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=fb898cac-fbf6-473e-ad7c-2f37ebbeeb89&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=22&Tab=attachments>

Request for Review of Annual Grants, Finance and Administration Committee (May 20, 2025), p. 8
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=57234>

Annual Grants Value for Money Review Report, Finance and Administration Committee (January 17, 2017)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=2&id=1167>

Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 11, Sched. 6
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17s11>

CC2016-385, Annual Grants Draft Application/Criteria Report, City Council (December 13, 2016) p. 9
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=32063>

FA2016-38, Annual Grants Draft Application/Criteria Report, City Council (December 13, 2016) p. 6
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=32057>

Annual Grants Draft Application/Criteria Report, Finance and Administration Committee (November 15, 2016)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=4&id=975>

CC2016-99 re: Annual Grant Criteria and Application Process, City Council (March 8, 2016) p. 30
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=32624>

Annual Grants Allocation Background Report, Finance and Administration Committee (July 7, 2015)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=842>