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2011 FUNDING AND GRANTS ACTIVITIES REVIEW

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated April 18, 2012, from the Executive Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report updates Council on the activities and success of funding and grants activities within the Economic Strategy Branch.

3. BACKGROUND

In 2010, a Funding and Grants Coordinator position dedicated to researching and securing project funding was added to the Economic Strategy Branch. The intent of the position was to facilitate projects through leveraged funding that expand community capacity and led to economic vitality.

Support provided for funding and grants activities focuses primarily on identifying, interpreting and reviewing grant opportunities and applications. This service has been made available to assist internal branches and external partners to share best practices, facilitate discussions with potential funders, review grant applications and provide assistance with the proposal process.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Funding and grants activities secured over \$1.6 million in 2011 with a variety of partners

Funding and grants activities supported projects throughout the Region to leverage over \$1.6 million in 2011, exceeding the annual target by 60%. These positive results have been achieved with significant involvement and effort from the various Regional departments and external agencies. *Table 1* identifies the specific results and range of partners involved, sorted by areas of Regional interest.

Table 1
Funding and Grant Activities - 2011 Results

Regional Interest	Partner	Funding Program	Project Name
Business Development	Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Township of King	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Business Retention and Expansion Project
Business Development	Red Scarf Equestrian	Southlake Community Futures	Business Expansion Exporting
Community Development	YouthSpeak	Southlake Community Futures	Business Community Expansion
Community Development	YouthSpeak	Ontario Trillium Foundation	Strategic Planning
Community Development	Planning Department	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Archaeological Management Plan
Innovation Hub Development	Ladies of the Lake	Environmental Services	SPLASH Water Festival
Innovation Hub Development	Ladies of the Lake	South Lake Community Futures Community Economic Development	Ontario Water Centre
Innovation Hub Development	Ladies of the Lake	Ontario Trillium Foundation	Ontario Water Centre
Innovation Hub Development	Region of York & University of Toronto	Showcasing Water Innovations	Water Conservation Research
Innovation Hub Development	Town of Newmarket, Basil Developments, and Region of York	Showcasing Water Innovations	Expedited Approvals
Operational Efficiencies	Capital Planning	Federation of	Corporate Energy

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Regional Interest	Partner	Funding Program	Project Name
		Canadian Municipalities	Improvements
Sector Development	Economic Strategy	Ministry of Training Colleges and University	Innovation in Manufacturing
Sector Development	Markham Fair	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Agri-Food Tent
Sector Development	Markham Fair	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Agri-Food Tent
Sector Development	Town of East Gwillimbury	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Cultural Plan
Sector Development	Markham Fair	Markham Sustainability Fund	Agri-Food Tent
Sector Development	One Million Acts of Innovation	Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities	Social Media Lab
Sector Development	York Arts Council	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Website restructuring
Workforce Development	Georgina Training and Trades Institute	Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities	Labour Market Partnership
Workforce Development	Community and Health Services	Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities	Immigration Project

Partnerships are key to the success of funding and grants activities

As identified in *Table 1*, the 18 entries represent 14 different projects funded from eight funding programs. Several projects were successful on multiple applications. Activities to secure these funds involved several Branches within the Region, as well as local municipalities, organizations, and private sector partners. The involvement of multiple partners is a key element in succeeding with most funding programs.

An internal funding stakeholders group has been formed to ensure future success through enhanced coordination amongst partners

Much of the funding in 2011 was secured from Federal and Provincial sources. As senior levels of government begin to advance significant austerity measures, the expectation is that funding will become more difficult to obtain. This suggests a need to coordinate requests for funding to maximize results. An internal funding group is being formed within the corporation to explore opportunities for even greater coordination of activities.

It is acknowledged that there are several areas within the Region operation engaged in securing significant capital funding such as the subway/Metrolinx/rapid transit projects that must necessarily be treated on their own. The intent of the internal stakeholder group is to provide coordination and support for funding activities outside these major projects.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

Funding and grant activities support the Strategic Priority Areas “Continue to Deliver and Sustain Critical Infrastructure” and “Increase the Economic Vitality of the Region” in the Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost for funding and grants activities is included in the approved 2012 Economic Strategy budget. Funding and grants activities has secured \$1.6 million for various departments and community partners, with a direct positive impact on York Regions ability to deliver programs and projects. The funding diversification benefit that results from the Funding and Grants activities is evident in the program and services enhancements throughout the Region as illustrated in *Table 1*.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Regional projects funded through these activities supports research and activities that build capacity within all York Region Communities. In addition, support for local community funding applications results in direct local economic benefit.

7. CONCLUSION

Funding and Grants activities have successfully secured over \$1.6 million to support community capacity building which will support economic growth. The Economic Strategy Branch will continue to identify and support funding opportunities and build relationships necessary to support successful funding applications.

For more information on this report, please contact Doug Lindeblom, Director, Economic Strategy at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 1503.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.