



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: 2023 Summary of Pandemic Funding

From: Lynn Hatten, Acting Director of Corporate Services

Date: February 15, 2024

Report Purpose:

The 2023 Summary of Pandemic Funding Report is for information.

Report Summary:

The County has seen a gradual reduction in the Pandemic related funding received since 2021 in line with changing health directives and requirements. Over the years pandemic funding has come from more than 16 different programs across various ministries each with their own eligibility and reporting requirements. The Corporate Services team has continued to work with each individual department to ensure that available funding is being used and prioritized appropriately. The report summarizes the funding received in 2023.

Background:

In 2022 the County received approximately \$3.4 million in new Pandemic related funding from 5 different programs mostly focused in paramedic services, human services and long-term care. 2023 saw the conclusion of these programs at the end of the province's 2022/2023 fiscal year in March. The grants which had provided additional funding for staff pay and other expenses related to ongoing restrictions and safety requirements, as well as providing support for those most vulnerable in our communities have all been phased out.

Policy CS - B02 Budget Amendments allows the Treasurer to amend the budget for government funding received and the offsetting expenditures to the extent that it does not cause an increase to the tax levy, but due to the value and history of these grants they are being brought forward for Council's awareness.

Chart 1: List of Pandemic-related grants and recipient Departments in 2023

Grant	Amount of Funding	Department
Covid-19 Response One-Time Funding for Expenses & Vaccine Distribution	\$ 42,150	Paramedic Services
COVID-19 Prevention and Containment	\$ 496,933	Brucelea Haven
COVID-19 Prevention and Containment	\$ 384,806	Gateway Haven
Total	\$ 923,889	

In addition to the amounts outlined in the table, 2023 saw the County utilize the remaining funds carried over from the 2022 announcement where eligible. At this time, all of the 2023 eligible spending has been completed and no amounts are eligible to be carried over under these programs.

Staff continue to develop plans to utilize the remainder of the Safe Restart Funds provided by the Provincial Government. At the end of 2023, the estimated remaining uncommitted balance is approximately \$470,000 available for 2024. As part of the year-end report on the unaudited financial position in April more details will be brought forward on the actual 2023 usage of the safe restart funds and plans for the use of the remaining balance.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The financial and staffing considerations will be addressed with the year-end adjustments in each applicable program area.

Various departments across the organization have been engaged to ensure appropriate external reporting and maximum reimbursement related to these funding programs occurs in a timely manner.

There are no legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The amendments will be coordinated with the affected departments as part of the year-end financial recording.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

The report is for information, and there are no links to strategic goals or objectives.

Departmental Approval:

Lynn Hatten, Acting Director of Corporate Services

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer