



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Strategic Community Initiatives Fund - 2026 Grant Recipients

From: Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

Date: April 23, 2026

Report Number: HS-2026-007

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The Strategic Community Initiatives Fund provides financial support for community-based initiatives that enhance, strengthen, and align with the core functions of the Human Services Department.

Through this funding mechanism, Bruce County Human Services maintains its commitment to supporting low-income households and advancing initiatives that deliver meaningful, sustainable benefits for residents across the county. A total of \$50,000 was awarded to five successful organizations.

Background/Analysis:

The County of Bruce recognizes that investment in community-based initiatives directly supports the advancement of the County's economic and social strategic objectives. These investments also demonstrate the County's ongoing commitment to strengthening community capacity, enhancing responsiveness to emerging needs, and leveraging additional funding opportunities.

A call for proposals for the Strategic Community Initiatives Fund was issued on January 22, 2026, at the Bruce County Council meeting, with an application deadline of February 20, 2026. All submissions were evaluated by staff using standardized assessment criteria. To be considered eligible, proposed initiatives were required to:

- Complement the core services delivered by the Human Services Department.
- Address identified service gaps and/or unmet needs of low-income residents.
- Align with recognized best practices and/or evidence-based research; and
- Avoid duplication of existing community resources.

Based on this evaluation, the following organizations submitted proposals that met all criteria and are approved to receive funding:

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force - \$20,000

The funding will support the Poverty Task Force Coordinator to provide coordination, administration, facilitation and reporting for the Poverty Task Force, its committees, action groups, and community voices, while fostering multi-sector partnerships, responding to public and government inquiries, and keeping the community informed through blogs and presentations. This position also leads research analysis, advocacy and policy dialogue while contributing expert input to collective research and action.

Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy - \$20,000

The funding will partially support the Drug Strategy Coordinator position, providing essential leadership and governance to advance the priorities of their 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. The funding will support the continued revitalization of multi-sector initiatives aimed at reducing substance-related harm across Bruce and Grey counties and within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

The Salvation Army, Wiarton - \$5,000

The funding will strengthen food security, enhance community well-being, and expand pathways to long-term stability for residents across the Bruce Peninsula.

The Meeting Place Tobermory - \$3,000

The funding will support the investment in affordable and sustainable transportation through the seasonal worker E-bike rental program.

Drop-In at the Bridge, Kincardine - \$2,000

The funding will support the production and delivery of nutritious frozen meals directly to seniors who face physical or financial barriers to preparing their own food through the Friday Night Frozen Meal Program.

Formal acceptance letters outline the required deliverables and reporting obligations, including the submission of outcome reports upon project completion. Human Services staff will monitor project implementation and review all reporting to ensure accountability and alignment with funding objectives.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Funding for the approved community initiatives is available within the existing 2026 Human Services operating budget, under the Strategic Community Initiatives Fund allocation. The total amount distributed through this intake is \$50,000, consistent with the budget approved by Council.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Strategic Community Initiatives Fund is considered a “program specific” grant managed by the Human Services Department based on process and application criteria separate from the Bruce County Community Grant Policy.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Tina Metcalfe, Director, Human Services

Approved for Submission:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development