



## County of Brant Council Report

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**To:** The Mayor and Members of County of Brant Council  
**From:** Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism  
Heather Boyd, General Manager of Corporate Services  
**Date:** December 17, 2024  
**Report #:** RPT-0549-24  
**Subject:** St. George Children's Center Funding Request  
**Purpose:** For Information and Direction

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### **Recommendation**

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That RPT-0549-24 "St. George Children's Center Funding Request" be received as information;

And that staff be directed to share information on the Community Grant Process with St. George Children's Center.

### **Strategic Plan Priority**

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Strategic Priority 6 - Stable and Responsive Governance

### **Impacts and Mitigation**

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#### Social Impacts

The County of Brant receives requests for funding from various organizations each year. The Community Grants Program, administered through the Brant Community Foundation is the County's preferred venue to provide financial support in the form of capital, operating and/or event grants.

#### Environmental Impacts

There are no environmental impacts anticipated as a result of the recommendation of this report.

#### Economic Impacts

St. George Children's Center is seeking financial support towards an estimated \$94,000 capital project cost. Under the County of Brant Community Grants Program, they could be eligible for a maximum of \$10,000 in 2025. Any request beyond what could be awarded through Community Grants has not been provided for in the 2025 draft budget to be presented for Council's consideration in January / February 2025.

## Report

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### Background

On November 19, 2024 a delegation was received by the Administration and Operations Committee from St. George Children's Center requesting funding to assist with replacement of the windows in their building. The following recommendation was additionally made: *that the funding request be referred to staff to provide a report on further financial details and grant opportunities regarding the St. George Children's Center, at the subsequent committee meeting.*

Staff are of the understanding that St George Children's Center is a non-profit, licensed day-care currently enrolled in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan. St. George Children's Center owns 39 Beverly St W, St. George, the building was designated as a heritage structure in 1986. Subsequently, per the designation by-law, replacement of the windows may require a heritage alteration approval from Council, first based on a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee.

### Analysis

St. George Children's Center had previously reached out to staff (via the Mayor's Office) to help explore financial assistance with replacement of the 90 windows in the building, with a cost estimated at \$94,000. The property is located outside of the existing St. George Community Improvement Project Area and hence, would not be eligible under the County's Community Improvement Plan.

Staff examined a few different avenues of support. While the property is Heritage Designated, as the project is just window replacement it would be unlikely to be supported by any external heritage funding opportunities. This property, given its assessment category, is also not currently eligible for the County's Tax Rebate Program for Eligible Charities, governed by By-law 57-23.

As a non-profit organization, St. George Children's Center would be eligible to apply to the County of Brant's Community Grants Program for a capital project grant up to a maximum of \$10,000. This would not preclude the Center applying for additional funds in future years if the project was phased. The Grants Program application window opens January, 2025, closes February, 2025 and will be awarded sometime in the Spring. As part of the application process, St. George Children's Center would be required to provide further financial details about their organization, funding sources and the proposed project budget.

Alternatively, Council could make a recommendation to either make a contribution to St. George Children's Centre's project or to request a Decision Package be prepared for consideration as part of the 2025 Budget Deliberations. Staff are not recommending either of these options in light of precedence that would be set for other applications to come forward, bypassing the Community Grants Program.

### Summary and Recommendations

Staff have reviewed St. George Children's Center's request for financial support toward the replacement of windows at their facility, which is a property designated under the Heritage Act. At this time, it would appear that the County's Community Grants Program is the best options for a contribution to be considered in a fair and consistent manner with all such requests received.

**Attachments**

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None

**Reviewed By**

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Melissa Connor, General Manager of Strategic Initiatives

**Copied To**

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Alison Newton, CAO  
Heather Mifflin, Treasurer  
Dustin van Engen, Manager of Taxation and Revenue

**By-law and/or Agreement**

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By-law Required	No
Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk	No