



TOWNSHIP OF
ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH

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Economic Development Report

STAFF: Kelly Thomson, Deputy Clerk / Communication Co-ordinator DATE: March 31, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 SLED Application Update

Recommendation

We seek your direction.

Background

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh has been successful in receiving funding for projects under the SLED (Supporting Local Economic Development) program in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The projects included:

2022 | Dungannon Farmers' Market

2021 | Attainable Family Homes Project (Dungannon, ON)

2020 | Dungannon Vacant Lot Development

The Township was unsuccessful in 2023 when applying for funding for commercial photography and videography to help create content for a new tourism development initiative and in 2024 when applying for funding to rebrand and revitalize Dungannon's Main Street Market.

At the January 13, 2025 Economic Development Committee meeting, it was decided to have staff prepare a proposal for submission to the SLED Fund elaborating on the idea of a "Stay Here" campaign for ACW. The outcome would be to highlight the hospitality/agritourism sector that is available in the Township.

Comment

Staff have been approached by the Benmiller Community Fundraising Group to explore using the SLED Grant to apply for funding to support the Benmiller Park & Playground Equipment Project. After discussing both grant submission ideas with Rick Sickinger, Economic Development Officer for the County of Huron, he is leaning towards supporting the application for the Park & Playground Equipment Project. He also recommended applying for the AccessSLED Fund, which provides grants of up to \$1,000 to support projects that promote accessibility and inclusivity across Huron County. The deadline for both these grants is April 17, 2025.

Others Consulted

Rick Sickinger, Economic Development Officer, Huron County Economic Development
Ellen McManus, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Kelly Thomson
Deputy Clerk/Communications Co-ordinator

Mark Becker
Chief Administrative Officer