



2024 to 2027 Business Plan

Service: Community Development and Grants

\$0.07

Cost per day for the
average rate payer
(2024 to 2027)

0.69%

Of the 2024 to 2027
City of London Net
Property Tax
Supported Budget

Who we are:

- Community Development and Grants supports residents of all ages, neighbourhood associations, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations working to strengthen our community with funding, tools, resources, and education.
- The City provides opportunities to grow and build communities, and strengthen neighbourhoods through key strategic investments in the health and well-being of our local communities. In addition, strong community partnerships at both the neighbourhood and city-wide level are cultivated, working to build a better city for all.

What we do:

- Contributes to the growth and strengthening of communities, neighbourhoods, and the city as a whole, through both financial and non-financial resources.
- Supports residents to build capacity through a variety of tools and resources to improve neighbourhoods through neighbourhood driven activities and decision making.
- Supports initiatives such as community gardens that have been declared an essential service and are vital to the health and quality of life of residents and are deemed as important social gathering spaces within neighbourhoods, on par with community centres, cafés and recreational facilities.

Why we do it:

- **Traditional** – The provision of financial and non-financial support to community groups and associations is a service offered by most of the selected comparator municipalities.

The following table provides an overview of the budget for this service:

| Budget Summary (\$000's) | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2024 to 2027 TOTAL |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Gross Operating Expenditures | \$5,892 | \$5,978 | \$6,059 | \$6,107 | \$24,036 |
| Other Revenues | -\$270 | -\$271 | -\$271 | -\$272 | -\$1,084 |
| Net Tax Levy Supported Operating Budget | \$5,622 | \$5,707 | \$5,788 | \$5,835 | \$22,952 |
| Total Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's) | 18.0 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 18.0 | N/A |

Reflects Draft 2024 to 2027 Multi-Year Budget – December 12, 2023

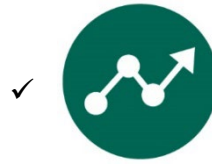
Linkage to the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan

This service supports the following Strategic Areas of Focus in the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan:



✓

**Reconciliation, Equity,
Accessibility, and
Inclusion**



✓

**Economic Growth, Culture,
and Prosperity**



✓

**Housing and
Homelessness**



✓

**Mobility and
Transportation**



✓

Wellbeing and Safety



✓

**Climate Action and
Sustainable Growth**



✓

**Safe London for Women,
Girls, and Gender-Diverse
and Trans People**



✓

Well-Run City

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance (ESG) Considerations

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance Profile for this service:



Environmental:

- Community Development and Grants supports the City's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions targets as well as resilience to climate-change impacts, by creating more opportunities for environmental projects to be supported through grants, community initiatives and resident-driven activities.
- The London Community Garden program supports the City's resilience to climate-change impacts, by increasing productivity of public park spaces increasing overall sequestration of carbon; increasing local production of food thereby decreasing greenhouse gas emissions of transport and production of food elsewhere; and, increasing pollinator plantings alongside food crops in support of biodiversity.
- The City of London Community Grants program aligns with Council's Strategic Plan including the Strategic Area of Focus, Climate Action and Sustainable Growth, providing access to funding for community organizations leading projects that support outcomes in this area.

Socio-economic Equity:

- Community Development and Grants supports all Londoners of all ages. To ensure equity, administration of programs include enhanced supports to neighbourhoods and groups that have a higher social risk or may be experiencing barriers to participation.
- Engagement and outreach with equity-denied groups is supported by staff representing several languages and cultures.
- Community-led plans and initiatives supported by Community Development and Grants including the Age Friendly London Network, the Child and Youth Network and the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan have prioritized activities around inclusion and belonging, access to basic needs and anti-racism and anti-oppression.
- A variety of no cost neighbourhood programs and activities continue to be offered e.g., outdoor movie nights, with subsidy opportunities for those that are low cost e.g., London's Community Garden program.

- City of London Community Grants program aligns with Council's Strategic Plan including the Strategic Area of Focus, Reconciliation, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion, providing access to funding for community organizations leading projects that support outcomes in this area.

Governance:

- Community Development and Grants strengthens neighbourhoods and communities by investing in London's people, neighbourhoods and community organizations.
- Feedback from program participants is incorporated into ongoing process improvements.
- Health, safety and risk management procedures are in place to mitigate risks and ensure safety of all participants.
- Communication and engagement plans and strategies are leveraged to keep the public informed.

The following section provides an overview of the key activities the service plans to undertake from 2024 to 2027 to implement the Corporation's 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan, as well as an overview of the risks and challenges the service is anticipated to experience during this period:

Service Highlights 2024 to 2027

Community Plans

- Strengthen collaboration and coordinated action among community safety partners by leading implementation of London's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Administer London's Building Safer Communities Fund to tackle root causes of gun and gang violence by focusing on programs that support children, youth and youth adults who are involved in or at risk of gun and gang involvement.
- Continue to support the implementation of the Age Friendly London Network and Child and Youth Network Community Plan focusing on priorities such as basic needs & essential skills and inclusion & belonging.

London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy

- Continue to support resident-led implementation of London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy and support an update to the Strategy with residents.
- Implement the Neighbourhood Decision Making Program equitably based on the characteristics of neighbourhoods and its residents through enhanced engagement, funding, process improvements and evaluation.

- Continue to support resident-led community building initiatives including neighbourhood managed outdoor rinks, outdoor movie nights, neighbourhood events, neighbourhood equipment lending, neighbourhood safety audits and the Adopt-A-Park program.
- Maintain support to activities with NeighbourGood resources.
- Update NeighbourGood with refreshed tools and information that support neighbourhood activities.

London Community Gardens Program

- Continue to support affordable community garden plot options for low income Londoners.
- Continue to improve accessibility at gardens as identified by the community.
- Support improvement of health equity in neighbourhoods by providing opportunities for more gardeners to access municipal space to grow their own food.

City of London Community Grants Program

- Allocate municipal funding through the City of London Community Grants Program and the Neighbourhood Small Events Fund to advance priorities outcomes in the Strategic Plan for the City of London.
- Implement changes to the City of London Community Grants Program including the launch of a new Annual Grassroots Grant to help remove barriers for grassroots groups and newly formed not-for-profit organizations to access community grants funding.
- Support community organizations and groups to apply for the City of London Community Grants Program and other municipal funding opportunities through strengthened outreach, capacity building and communication strategies.

Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2024 to 2027

- Through the allocation of municipal grants to community organizations and groups, there are cost pressures on grant budget lines through the City of London Community Grants Program.
- Current resources supporting London Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy programs and activities have reached capacity (including but not limited to Neighbourhood Decision Making and the London Community Gardens Program).
- Businesses Cases to expand the Neighbourhood Decision Making Program and the London Community Gardens Program have been submitted to the 2024 – 2027 Multi-Year Budget Process. Additional resources are required to grow these programs.
- Escalating costs for material and construction have limited the types of projects that can be funded through the Neighbourhood Decision Making Program.

Other reference information and links:

- [London's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#)

- [Building Safer Communities Fund \(BSCF\) Multi-Year Contribution Agreement](#)
- [Neighbourhood Decision Making Program Fairness and Equity Review CPSC June 13, 2023](#)
- [Neighbourhood Programs and Funding](#)
- [London Community Grants Program Innovation and Capital Funding Allocations SPPC June 20, 2023](#)
- [London Community Grants Program Policy Update SPPC July 19, 2023](#)
- [City of London Community Grants Policy](#)
- [City of London Community Gardens](#)

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