



Staff Report

Report Title: Skills Development Fund

Prepared By: Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Department: BED

Date: Jan. 16, 2023

Report Number: BED-2023-01-6

File Number:

D02 WOM 21

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves report number BED-2023-01-6, prepared by Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives; AND further, approves applying for the Skills Development Fund for the Women in Construction program.

Background:

The Township of Huron-Kinloss has received funding in 2021 and 2022 from the Skills Development Fund to run the Women in Carpentry program in partnership with Fanshawe College, the UBC Local 2222 Carpenter's Union and VPI.

The Skills Development Fund is open once again and we would like to apply for funding for a Women in Construction program. The Fund provides 100% funding for the project.

Discussion:

The Women in Carpentry program has seen great success in 2021 and 2022, we've trained 40 women in employment skills and carpentry skills and the program has an 80% employment rate. After all the success we've had with the program and all the lessons learned, we would like to apply to the Skills Development Fund again for Women in Construction.

Women in Construction will build from our original program but incorporate the opportunity for women to experience additional trades such as drywall and plumbing, in evening or weekend workshops. We will also apply for additional funds to hire an Employer Liaison as the biggest barrier the participants are facing in the program is finding suitable work placements and full-time employment beyond the

program. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of misconceptions and discrimination happening in the trades so the Employer Liaison will focus on educating employers, removing employment barriers for the participants, and job coaching throughout the work placement.

Furthermore, we will bring on Bruce County as a partner on this application, they offer additional expertise and a broad professional network that will assist the other partners and the participants of the program.

The program is 100% funded through the Skills Development Fund, our application is currently being finalized, as it is due January 31st, 2023, but we expect to apply for funding in the amount of \$300,000 to facilitate the program.

Financial Impacts:

We are applying for funding through the Skills Development Fund, there is no financial commitment required from the Township.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving a prosperous, spirited, vibrant and accessible community.

Projects in this report assist staff in achieving the following projects in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan Action Plan:

A3.5 Skilled Trades Training

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer