



# The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

---

## Staff Report

**Report Title: Rural Economic Development Fund August 2024**

**Date: Aug. 7, 2024**

**Report Number: BED-2024-08-14**

**Department: BED**

**File Number: C11 BED 24**

**Prepared By: Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives**

**Attachments: None**

---

### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report BED-2024-08-14, prepared by Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives;

AND FURTHER authorizes the appropriate by-law be brought forward to confirm the execution of the funding agreement.

### **Background:**

The application for the Rural Economic Development Fund was submitted in February 2024 for the Downtown Ripley Revitalization Project.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

Ripley requires some extra support to encourage businesses to open and stay in the downtown. The Revitalization project will include community engagement (one workshop was already completed in March 2024), design renderings of the downtown, the development of an action plan, and the creation of new events and promotions.

Notice from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness was received in July 2024 that our application was approved. The Ministry will provide the Township with an additional \$32,000 for the Downtown Ripley Revitalization Project.

This funding will be crucial for the implementation of our action plan over the next 12 months.

### **Financial Impacts:**

This funding will be added to the Downtown Revitalization budget and will be used according to the grant specifications. The deadline to use the funds is September 2025.

### **Performance Measurement:**

This project will be measured by increased investment in Downtown Ripley (new businesses, new developments, beautification efforts, partnerships, etc.).

**Strategic Area:**

- Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle
- Prepare for Inclusive Growth
- Enhance Municipal Service Delivery
- Ensure Financial Stability

**Strategic Goal: Encourage economic vitality**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer