



Staff Report

Report Title: Early Investment in Education and Skills Update

Prepared By: Elyse Dewar

Department: CAO

Date: Sep. 9, 2020

Report Number: CAO-2020-09-34

File Number: NWMO-100

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2020-09-34, prepared by Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator.

Background:

The Early Investment in Education and Skills program was developed to build capacity and support education and skills training for Huron-Kinloss residents as well as provide funding for youth with an emphasis on learning initiatives that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Since 2018, this program has invested \$55,000 back into the community through workplace training, continuing education and support for youth initiatives.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss and the Municipality of South Bruce developed the Regional Early Investment in Education and Skills program - a collaborative funding agreement, supported by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to support STEM initiatives for 10 regional elementary and secondary schools as well as 2 robotics teams.

Discussion:

The 2020 Early Investment in Education and Skills program budget is \$30,000. We have determined guidelines to administer this year's program based on the success of the 2019 program.

Applications have been received for Support for Continuing Skills Development, Workplace Training and one elementary school to support Youth Enrichment and technology initiatives for students.

- A total of \$2,500 was committed to each Lucknow Central Public School and Ripley-Huron Community School and \$1,000 to each school's robotics team.
- Continuing Education had 5 applications, totalling \$2,360.37 in funding support.
- Workplace Training had one application, totalling \$2,037.50 in funding support for employees.

The Bruce Botanical Food Gardens received \$5,000 towards a youth employee for the summer of 2020.

Due to COVID-19, summer camps were cancelled, however, there several virtual summer camps and the Township offered funding support to help reduce registration costs for virtual camps. We did not receive any applications or interest for this.

The Early Investment in Education and Skills committee will meet again to discuss potential initiatives that will benefit the community.

The NWMO has committed \$30,000 to the Regional Early Investment in Education and Skills program for 2020 for support primary and secondary schools that South Bruce and/or Huron-Kinloss residents attend.

A total of ten schools and two robotics teams were contacted and notified about the available funding. Each school was pre-approved for up to \$2,500 to support science, technology, environmental and math learning and enrichment initiatives for youth.

To date, only 5 regional schools have submitted applications, receiving \$12,500 in support to purchase items such as a 3D computer, materials for the GENSIS program and coding kits.

Financial Impacts:

Both programs are funding by the NWMO.

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 our goals in achieving a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and by supporting a diversity of lifestyles, by maintaining a sense of connection and cohesion with each other and retaining our youth and engaging in our community. Projects in this report assist staff in achieving the following projects in the 2019-2023 Strategic Action Plan: P2.4 Continue to learn about the NWMO DGR Project.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer