

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Committee Date: July 23, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Quarterly Update (April – June 2026): Economic Development Financial Incentive and Assistance Program Applications Approved under Delegated Authority (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 13)

Ward(s) Affected: Ward 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 13

Submitted By: Brian Hollingworth
Acting General Manager
Planning and Economic Development

Signature: 

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on financial incentive program applications received by the Economic Development Division, and which were subsequently approved under City Council's delegated authority to staff during the second quarter (April – June) of 2026.

Summary

In the second quarter of 2026 (April – June), a total of twenty-three applications were approved under delegated authority (compared to thirty-four in the second quarter of 2025). The total value of the approved grants for all applications was \$137,641. The total cost of the work on which the grants were based was \$368,602. The approved grants were for properties in Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 13.

Background

On September 29, 2021, City Council enacted By-law 21-165, being a by-law to delegate authority to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development to approve grants/loans to a maximum of \$200,000 per application for financial incentive programs provided under the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan (2021) and the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Currently active programs subject to this delegated authority are:

- Barton/Kenilworth Planning and Building Fees Rebate Program;
- Barton/Kenilworth Revitalization Grant Program;

- Commercial District Housing Opportunities Program;
- Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program;
- Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program;
- Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program; and,
- Hamilton Heritage Property Grant Program.

On May 28, 2025, City Council approved an amendment to By-law 21-165, to provide delegated authority for approvals of up to \$200,000 for the newly created Downtown Hamilton Office Conversion Grant Program.

On October 29, 2025, Council approved the recommendations found in Report PED25227 which resulted in amendments being made to the City's existing heritage grant and loan financial assistance programs to improve their effectiveness in facilitating the long-term conservation of significant heritage properties, and efficiency in how the programs are administered.

As part of the updates, the Hamilton Heritage Property Grant Program and the Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program were combined and renamed as the Heritage Revitalization Grant Program. The Hamilton Community Heritage Fund Loan Program was renamed the Heritage Revitalization Loan Program.

The key changes to the programs included the following:

- Expanding the geographic eligibility of all grant funding to be City wide;
- Modifying the grant formula calculation for properties that are multi-residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and mixed-use (note the maximum grant amount of \$150,000 remains unchanged);
- Increasing the maximum grant amount for certain residential properties from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and offering an additional \$1,500 grant for eligible heritage reports and studies;
- Increasing the maximum loan funding from \$50,000 to \$100,000; and,
- Removing the heritage easement requirement from the loan program.

With the adoption of the recommendations found in this report, Council also approved an amendment to Delegated Authority By-law No. 21-165 to implement the approved changes to the heritage programs. The amendments include extending the authority granted to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development for the loan and grant approval to the Director of the Economic Development Division and the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business for their permitted maximums.

On November 19, 2025, Council approved the recommendations found in Report PED25249 which resulted in amendments being made to the terms of the Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program. As a result, permanent standalone waste/recycling enclosures are now listed as an eligible expense under the Program.

Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Programs for Brownfields:

- On June 7, 2023, City Council enacted By-law 23-108, being a by-law to delegate authority to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development and the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business to approve certain grant/loan applications received under the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Community Improvement Plan (2023).

Programs subject to delegated authority approval by the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development to a maximum of \$200,000 are:

- Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Affordable Housing Grant Program; and,
- Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Commercial Districts Remediation Loan Program.

The program subject to delegated authority approval by the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business to a maximum of \$40,000 is the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Study Grant Program.

Details

Delegated Authority Approvals April – June 2026

During the second quarter (April – June of 2026), the General Manager approved the following program applications (note any program with delegated authority not listed below did not have any applications approved in the quarter):

- Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program.

Fifteen grant applications were approved under the Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program in the total amount of \$53,806.80.

The total estimated value of the proposed works under the program is \$99,219.60. The City's grants represent 54.23% of the total improvement costs. The properties that are being improved under the program are located within the following Community Improvement Project Areas:

- Dundurn Street South Commercial Corridor;
- Ottawa Street Commercial District;
- Barton Street East Commercial Corridor;
- Downtown Hamilton Commercial District;
- Parkdale Avenue North Commercial Corridor;
- Barton Village Commercial District;
- Mount Hope/Airport Gateway Commercial District; and,
- Dundas Commercial District.

Of the fifteen approved applications, ten were to support the removal of twenty-nine instances of graffiti with such grants totaling \$5,800.

- Barton Kenilworth Planning & Building Fees Rebate Program

One grant application was approved under the Barton Kenilworth Planning & Building Fees Rebate Program in the amount of \$1,000;

- Commercial Vacancy Assistance Grant Program

Two grant applications were approved under the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Grant Program in the amount of \$20,000;

The total estimated value of the proposed works under the program is \$46,832.40. The City's grants represent 42.70% of the total improvement costs. The properties being improved under the program are located within Ward 2; and,

- Heritage Revitalization Grant Program

Five grant applications were approved under the Heritage Revitalization Grant Program by the Manager of Commercial Districts Small Business in the total amount of \$62,834.23.

The total estimated value of the proposed works under the program are \$222,550.54. The City's grants represent 28.23% of the total improvement costs. The properties being improved under the program are located within Wards 2, 3 and 13.

Please refer to Appendix A, attached to this Communication Update, for a more detailed description of each property and the proposed improvements.

Next Steps

For further information respecting the commercial district revitalization or designated heritage building grant programs, please contact Carlo Gorni, Coordinator, Urban Renewal Incentives by e-mail at carlo.gorni@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2755.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A – Economic Development Financial Incentive and Assistance Program Applications
Approved under Delegated Authority: April – June 2026