

OTF Investment Summary Report 2019/2020 GROW Cycle



Prepared for the Board of Directors, March 12, 2020
2019-2020 GROW Cycle
OTF Granting Investments

OTF Investment Summary Report

2019/2020 GROW Cycle

Introduction

This is a summary of the Grant Review Team recommendations for GROW stream investments for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

In this report, we analyse current cycle trends, and make comparisons against GROW cycle trends in previous Fiscal Years (excluding Provincial Impact) - dating back to 2015-2016.

A note on change in methodology: The organization registration process was streamlined this cycle to improve customer service to applicants. There is now a single deadline for submitting organization registration and project applications. The streamlined process impacts the calculation of the overall and catchment demand ratios (Schedule 1.1 and 2.2). Under a single application deadline, applications from ineligible organizations are included in the calculation of overall demand. This cycle, the new methodology resulted in a 9% increase in overall demand.

This report includes:

Schedule 1: Executive Summary

Schedule 2: Community Investments Overview and Analysis

Appendix A: List of Recommended Applications for Board Approval

Appendix A1: List of Collaboratives Recommended for Board Approval

Appendix B: List of Recommended Decline Applications for Board Approval

Appendix B1: List of Collaboratives Declined Applications

Appendix C: List of Organizational and Project Eligibility Declined Applications

Schedule 1: Executive Summary

1.1 Highlight: Record high demand

This cycle, we received requests of over \$460M in funding, a record high in this Investment Strategy. Demand this cycle was 63% higher than the next highest cycle, seen in 2018-2019 Grow Stream, with \$282.43M requested. This increase in demand is only partially due to the streamlined deadline for organization registration and application submission, as applications from ineligible organizations makes up 9% of applications. However, the bulk of the increased demand is from other sources. Additional reasons may include a change in the broader funding climate, leading new organizations to apply to OTF for the first time. Consistent with this explanation, 26% of applications were submitted by organizations that have not previously applied for OTF funding. We will continue to monitor and analyze trends to determine if the current cycle was an anomaly or the emergence of a new trend.

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1.2 Cycle Summary: GROW Investment Stream

1081 applications requesting \$460.2M were received this Grow cycle, of which **170 grants for \$67.3M have been recommended for approval**. The demand ratio is \$6.83 requested for every dollar recommended, 22% higher than the average demand ratio across Grow cycles. The Northern-most catchments have two of the highest demand rates, at \$11.07 and \$17.39 requested for every dollar funded in ACMS and Northwestern, respectively. The Toronto catchment also experienced a high demand rate, at \$10.62 requested for every dollar funded. Demand by Action Area has been stable since last Grow cycle.

Nearly one-third of recommended investments are in the Promising Young People Action Area, a record high. Recommended investments in this Action Area are expected to **benefit over 20,500 children and youth to develop social and emotional strengths, and to engage in their communities**. Another one-fifth of recommendations are to projects in Prosperous People, consistent with previous cycles. Recommended investments in the Prosperous People Action Area are expected to **help over 33,700 people gain economic stability and opportunity**. The remaining recommended grants are distributed evenly amongst the remaining 4 Action Areas. Inspired People projects will reap the expected benefit of **enabling over 260,000 people participate in enriching arts, culture, and heritage experiences**, while Green People projects will **support nearly 150,000 people to protect or reduce their impact on the environment**. Active People projects will enable **nearly 40,000 Ontarians to live more active lifestyles**. At 12% of the total, recommended investments in Connected People is at a historical low. Projects in the Connected People Action Area are expected to **support over 16,000 people in building more inclusive and engaged communities**.

Volunteers were actively engaged in the assessment process, demonstrated with a 95% completion rate, translating to 1,968 scoring activities for the cycle.

1.4 Action Area Noteworthy Grants

Prosperous People

\$13.2M of investments are being recommended to enhance people's economic wellbeing. Over 33,000 marginalized and vulnerable Ontarians will benefit from increased economic stability and opportunity through 32 OTF funded projects.

The Ottawa Food Services Training Program (FSTP) is a social enterprise that will be expanded to equip 200 more people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness with marketable employment skills to enable them to live independently having secured employment. Although developed in Ottawa, the program incorporates lessons learned throughout similar social enterprise operations that have had similar success across Canada. Through the \$417,200 investment, students of the program will graduate with a certification in the Canadian Culinary Federation, certification of Safe Food Handling, certification of WHIMIS and First Aid. The result will be more vulnerable members of the Ottawa community being trained and finding employment in the catering, food and restaurant industry.

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Active People

\$8.0M are being recommended to foster more active lifestyles for Ontarians. Across 19 investments, nearly 40,000 Ontarians will benefit from safer, more accessible programming.

A project to promote inclusive and accessible physical activity is being recommended to the Canadian Institute for the Blind Lake Joseph Centre. Through a \$299,400 investment over 3 years, the project will enable 495 young people who are blind, partially sighted, or deafblind to become physically active. The investment will enable the institute to scale up recreational programming with adapted equipment for snowshoeing, wall climbing, ice fishing and tandem biking in Muskoka.

Inspired People

\$8.3M of investments are being recommended to enrich people's lives through arts, culture, and heritage. The lives of 260,000 Ontarians will be enriched through 24 projects designed to provide better quality programming and experience a deeper connection to their culture and heritage.

Through a \$399,800 grant over three years, OTF will support the scaling-up of Elephant Thoughts Educational Outreach's participatory Indigenous programming, animating and preserving Indigenous culture through land-based, elder-led classes and internships in Durham (West Grey, Ontario) for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, and grow the Seed stream-piloted Indigenous Journey online learning module portal for educators, benefitting 5245 people in the immediate community and throughout the province.

Promising Young People

\$21.1M of investments are being recommended to support the positive development of children and youth through 51 projects. Through OTF investments, over 20,500 children and youth will benefit from program supports to develop emotional and social strengths and become more meaningfully engaged in their communities.

LGBTQ2+ youth are at higher risk of mental illness, suicide, school drop-out and homelessness than their heterosexual, cisgender peers. The OK2BME model has proven to be highly successful in the communities of Kitchener/Waterloo at reducing psychological distress and increasing youth sense of belonging. Working with local partners, this \$606,800 project grant, will expand the OK2BME project into Cambridge and Guelph, impacting 325 vulnerable children and youth. The project will provide confidential counselling services – in person, online, or at a Walk In

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Counselling Clinic; youth recreation and leadership groups and training programs for staff who work with children and youth. The OK2BME project will foster communities of inclusion, belonging and creativity and will support LGBTQ2+ youth to develop strong emotional and social skills.

Green People

\$8.8M of investments are being recommended to encourage people to support a healthy and sustainable environment. Over 146,700 people will benefit directly from these 24 initiatives, with ripple-out benefits to the local communities and economies.

A project by Second Harvest will, with OTF support, assist people and resource users take deliberate actions to benefit the environment by collecting millions of pounds of surplus food from 1,439 new food donors and redistribute it to community organizations, the majority of which are located in Toronto, reducing harmful emissions resulting from food going into landfills.

Connected People

\$7.8M are being recommended for investment in Connected People projects. Over 16,000 people across Ontario will benefit from 20 projects to build inclusive and engaged communities.

Based on the Host Program model, with a \$282,300 investment from OTF, the North Bay and District Multicultural Centre will deliver a project to reduce social isolation among newcomers and help address a gap in service for newcomers to have meaningful connections in their new community. The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (PNIP) will match newcomers with community volunteers, who will make 696 newcomers feel welcome in the community by spending time together, sharing information on Canadian/Northern customs and culture, providing opportunities to practice English or French in an informal setting, and make connections to broaden/strengthen the newcomer's social network.

1.5 Sign-Offs

Sign-Off from Chairs: Each GRT Chair or Acting Chair has signed off on the recommendations of their GRT.

Compliance with OTF Policy: The Vice-President, Community Investments has reviewed granting policy compliance. The Vice President, Community Investments confirms that all recommended grants are within the granting policies of the Foundation.

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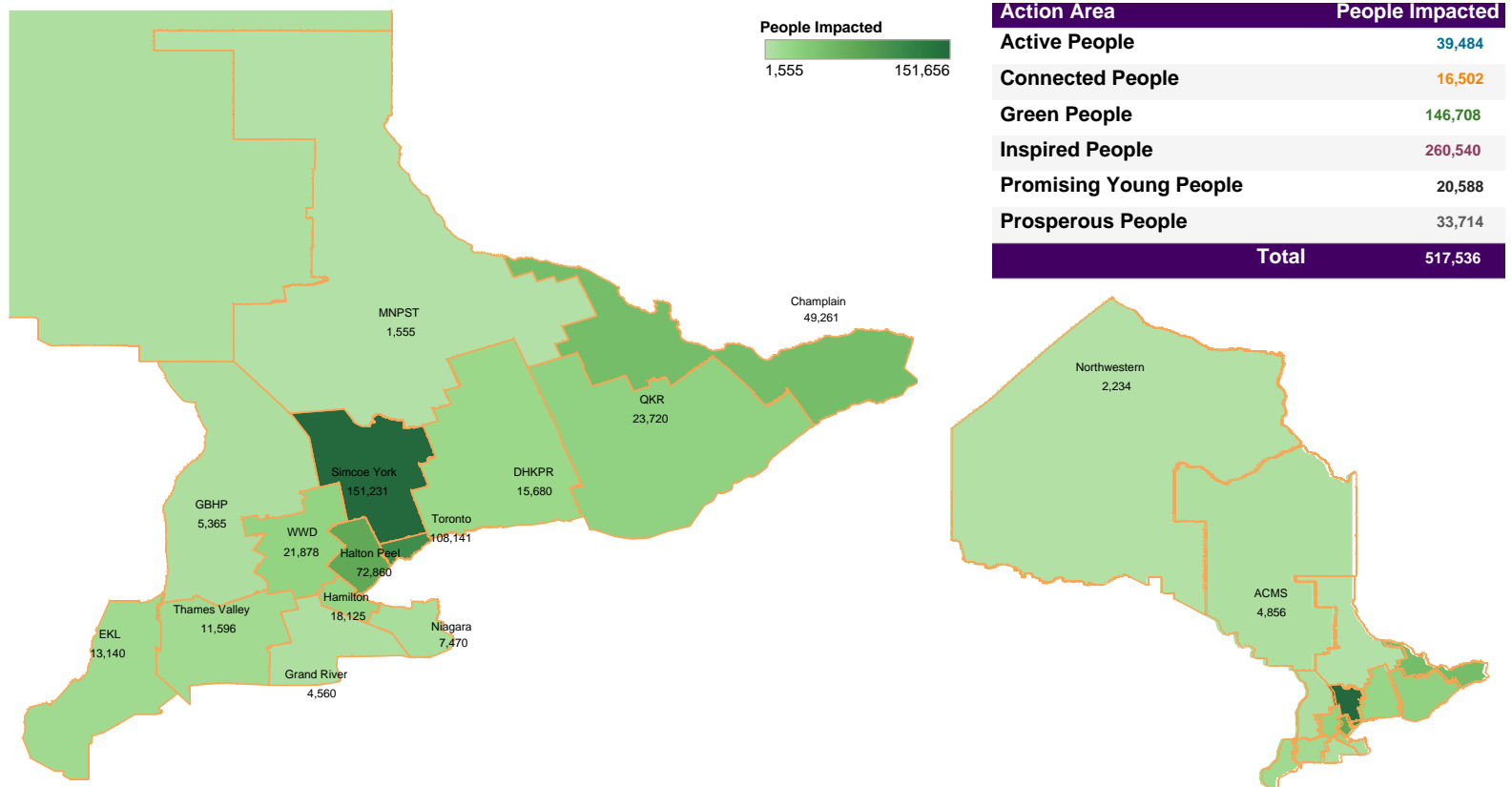
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Schedule 2: Community Investments Overview and Analysis

2.1 People Impacted

The projects recommended this cycle are expected to impact the lives of over 517,000 Ontarians, 25% more than last cycle. Approximately half of those impacted, numbering over 260,000 Ontarians, will be reached through the Inspired People Action Area. Additionally, 146,700 Ontarians will support building a healthy and sustainable environment through Green People, the second highest impact Action Area.

The number of people reached is heavily concentrated in and around the GTA; over 60% of people impacted are in Halton Peel, Simcoe York, and Toronto catchments. Aside from the region being densely populated, this heavy concentration of impact is driven predominantly by Green People and Inspired People projects that are able to reach large groups of people at a time. The depth of change that can result from projects engaging small groups of people deeply is not able to be captured by these metrics.



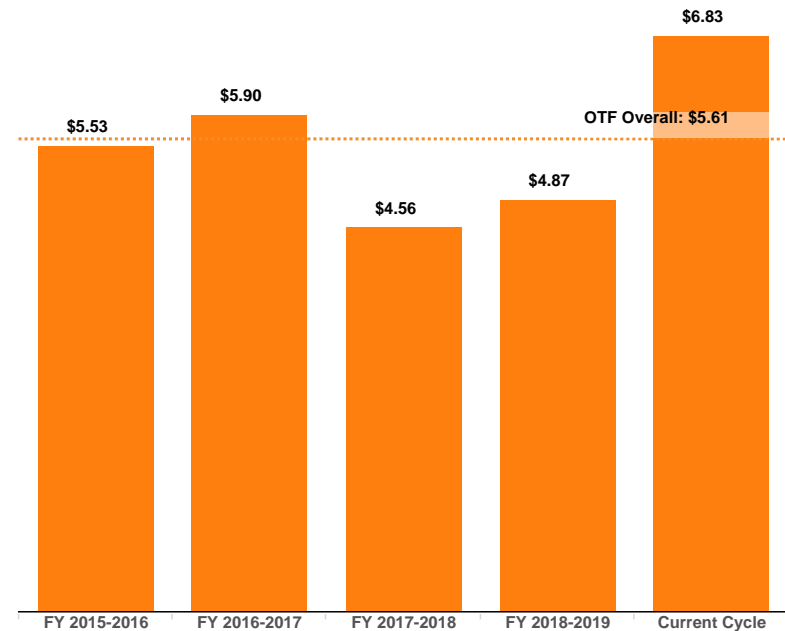
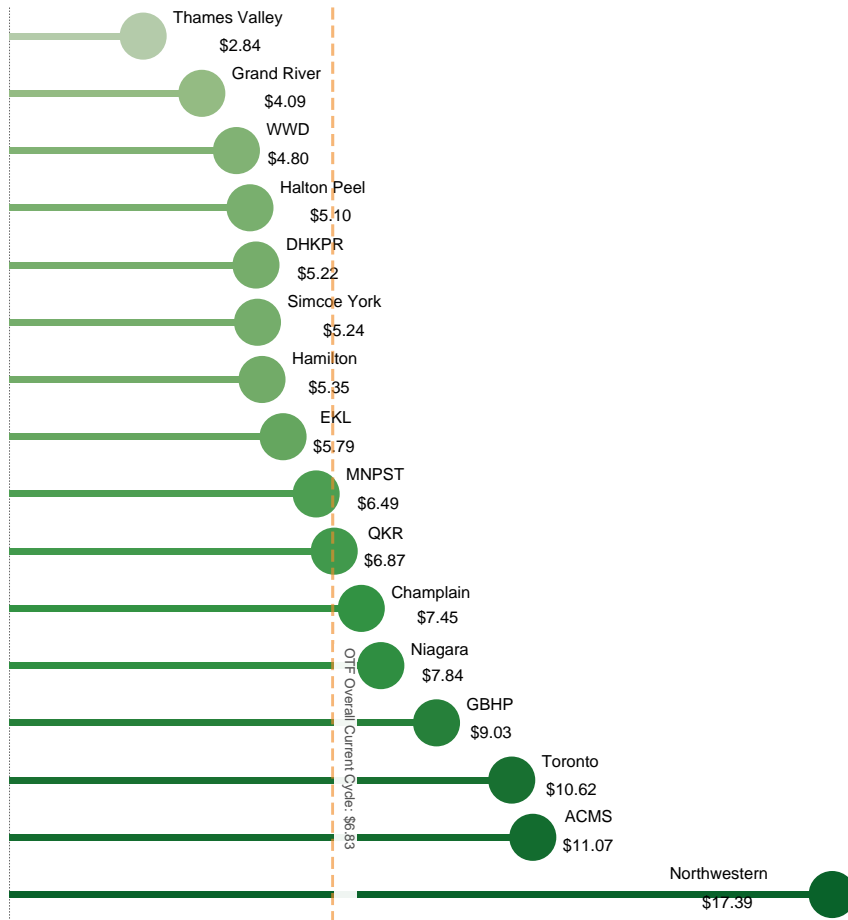
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2.2 Demand Overview

The overall demand for grants is significantly higher than previous FYs, with **\$6.83 requested for every dollar that has been recommended**. The pattern of demand is consistent with historical patterns; the northern-most catchments (Northwestern and ACMS) continue to see some of the highest demand rates, while the southwestern part of the province continues to see the lowest demand rate for funding. Notably, even these less competitive catchments saw significantly higher-than-usual demand rates this cycle.

Dollars Requested vs. Dollars Recommended Current Cycle

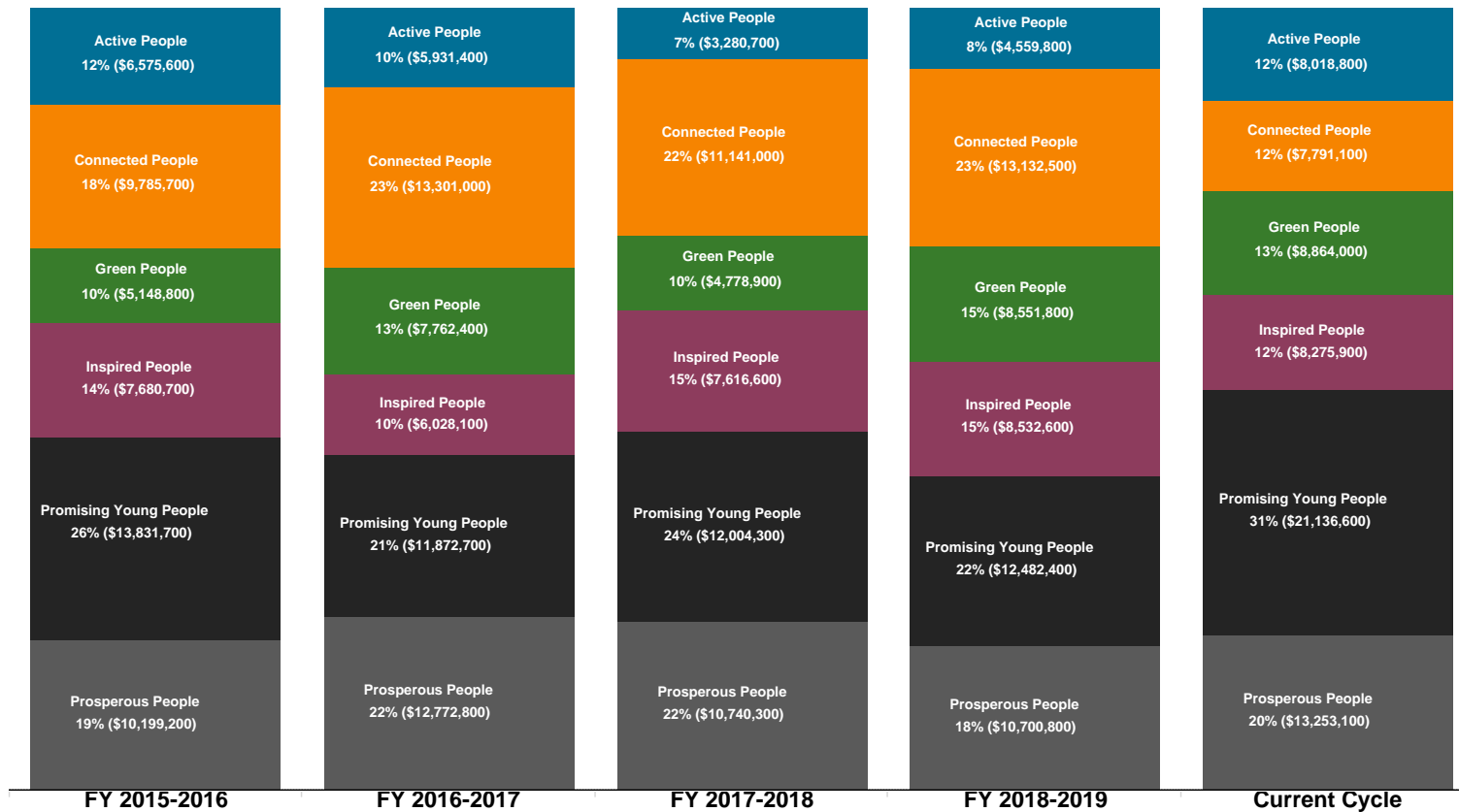


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2.3 Action Area Overview

Nearly one-third of recommended investments are in the Promising Young People Action Area. Another one-fifth of recommendations are to projects in Prosperous People, consistent with previous cycles. The remaining recommended grants are distributed evenly amongst the remaining 4 Action Areas. At 12% of the total, recommended investments in Connected People are at a historical low. This is due to higher rates of ineligible project submissions contributing to lower application success rates.



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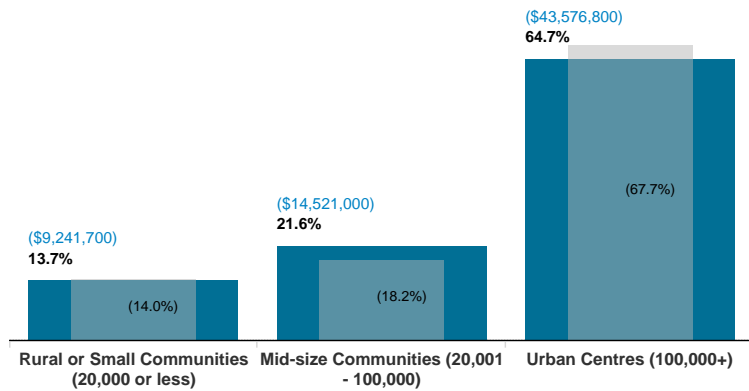
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2.4 Community Size, Age Group, and Populations Served Overview

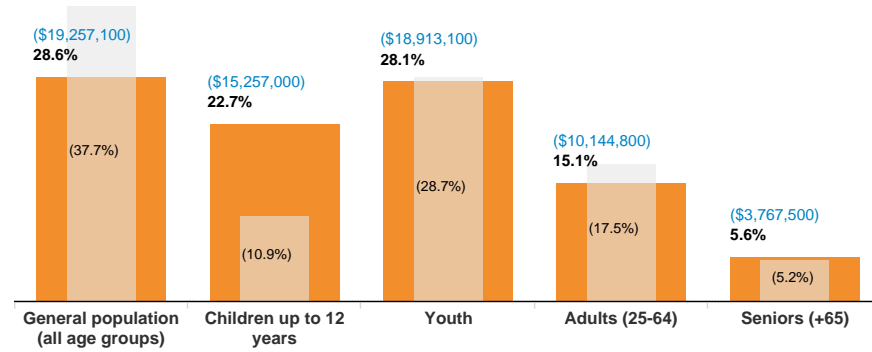
Recommendations to projects serving general populations (all age groups) saw a 9.1 percentage point decline this cycle. At the same time, projects benefitting children up to 12 years saw an 11.8 percentage point increase in recommended investments. At 22.7% of total recommended investments, funding to this age group is more than double the rate of the last Grow cycle as a result of high-quality applications.

Recommended investments benefitting diverse cultural communities are 7.2 percentage points lower than last Grow cycle, despite an increase in the demand rate. This decline is a result of lower quality submissions and overall higher demand. Investments benefitting Francophone communities also declined, from 4.8% of investments last cycle, to 3.7% this cycle, as a result of lower demand. Projects benefitting LGBTQ+ and general populations (population served) both increased, by 1.4 and 9.4 percentage points, respectively, as a result of higher quality of applications.

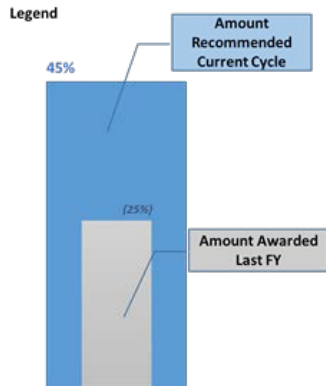
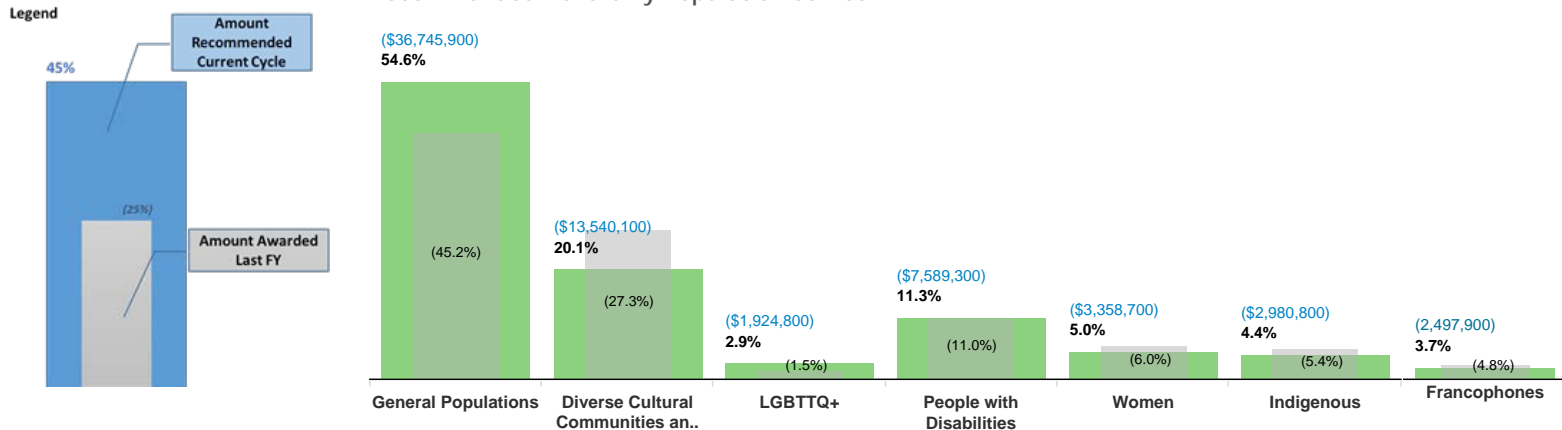
Recommended Dollars By Community Size Current Cycle



Recommended Dollars By Age Group



Recommended Dollars By Population Served



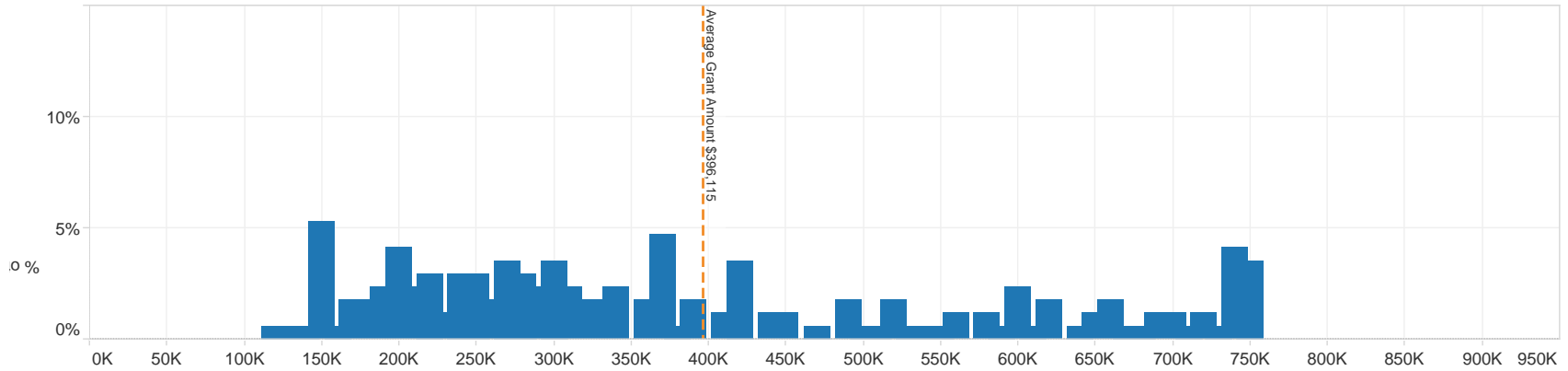
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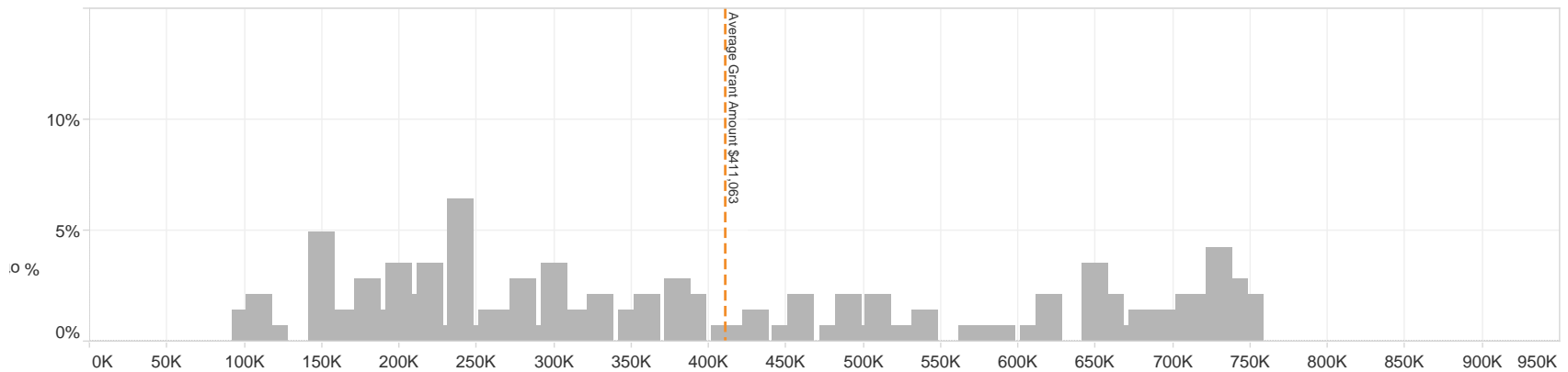
2.5 Grant Size Distribution

The average grant size this cycle is \$396,115, a 4% decrease from last fiscal year. Average grant size has risen gradually and steadily since 2015. The distribution of grant sizes is similar to previous rounds.

Amount Recommended for Approval - Size Distribution Current Round



Amount Awarded - Size Distribution Last FY



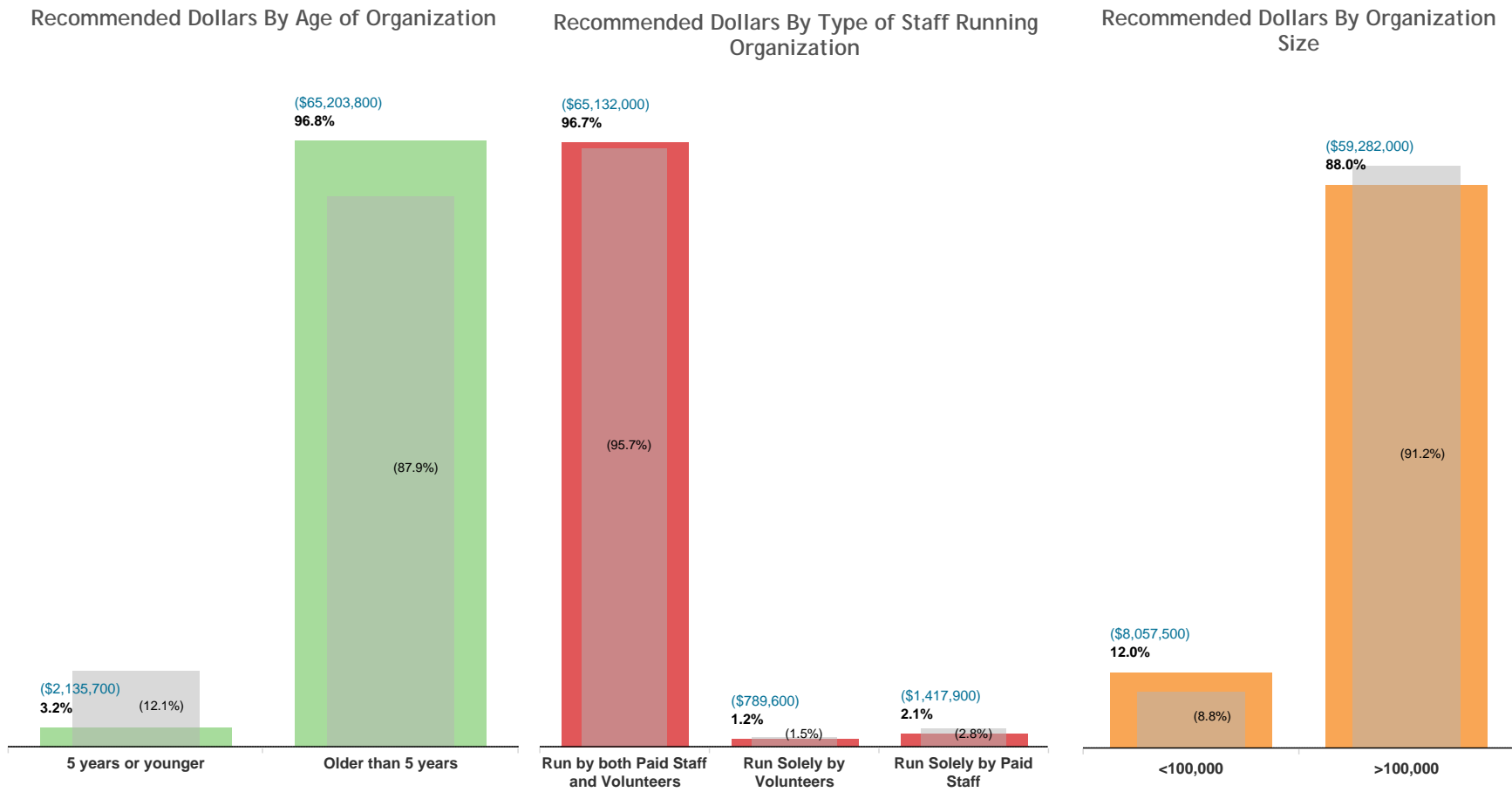
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2.6 Organizational info Overview

At 96.8% of total recommendations, investments in more established organizations (older than 5 years) went up this cycle, a reversal from last fiscal. At the same time, there was a slight yet continued increase in recommended funding to smaller organizations (annual revenue of less than \$100,000).

Blended organizations, in terms of the type of staff, continue to receive the largest share of recommended dollars at 96.7%.



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Concluding remarks

This report has summarized the recommended investments for this GROW cycle, which include 170 grants for \$67.3M. These investments are expected to impact the lives of over 517,000 people across the province.

A list of the recommended grants can be found in Appendix A.