

OTF Investment Summary Report
2021/2022 Community Building Fund - Capital

Approved by the Board of Directors,
December 16, 2021
2021-2022 Community Building Fund- Capital
OTF Granting Investments

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Introduction

COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts on many non-profit sectors essential to the fabric of Ontario and its communities. Among the hardest hit sectors, tourism, culture, arts, heritage, sport and recreation have suffered significant operational and financial impacts, resulting in a “triple threat” of health, economic, and social crises in the province. To address operational needs and support the broader recovery of these sectors that are so critical to the vibrancy of Ontario and its communities, the government of Ontario is investing \$105 million through the Community Building Fund (CBF). The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries provided oversight to the development of two CBF funding streams to be delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The first stream, launched in March 2021, was focused on supporting the recovery and capacity building of community organizations in the heritage, sport and recreation, tourism and culture sectors impacted by COVID-19. The second and current stream is focused on rehabilitation and modifications of existing sport and recreation infrastructure to support local community need and public health guidelines.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, a range of regionally critical sports and recreational facilities were forced to either shut down or operate at limited capacity due to provincial restrictions and health and safety concerns. These organizations and the facilities they operate, such as, ice rinks, playgrounds, and Legion halls, enable Ontarians to play, stay healthy and stay connected. The CBF Capital Stream is intended to ensure that communities can access and enjoy programming at sport and recreation facilities that are safe, accessible, sustainable, and well maintained.

The Community Building Fund Capital Stream provides grants of \$10,000 to \$500,000 to non-profits, Indigenous communities and Municipalities in the community sport and recreation sectors to strengthen communities by supporting the repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities. Approved grants will address the following outcomes:

- Maximize use of facility
- Extend operational lifespan of facility
- Improve accessibility of facility
- Increase physical distancing
- Improve air quality
- Reduce physical contact

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Funding through the Community Building Fund Capital Stream will assist organizations to provide safe and accessible sports and recreation programming in their communities.

The following report will provide a summary and analysis of recommendations of OTF's 16 Grant Review Teams for the September 2021 deadline of the Community Building Fund Capital Stream.

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Schedule 1: Executive Summary

1.1 Cycle highlights:

- **738 applications** were received this cycle, **requesting \$182.9M** for repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities
- The BOD is **approving 186 projects, totalling \$46M**
- The **demand rate is \$3.98** requested for every dollar approved
- Demand rates were higher from catchments with predominantly rural communities such as Muskoka Nipissing Parry Sound & Timiskaming (\$6.10), Northwestern (\$6.15), Algoma Cochrane Manitoulin Sudbury (\$6.14), Quinte Kingston Rideau (\$6.34), and Grey Bruce Huron Perth (\$5.28)
- **93% of approvals** were for project outcomes related to meeting **community need**, while just 7% were to meet outcomes related to public health guidelines
- An unprecedented **38% of requests came from municipalities**, a result of expanded eligibility criteria for this fund. Municipalities received over 54% of approvals for funding.
- 17% of applicants (127) were deemed ineligible at the Organization Assessment stage. Of these, **54% were declined due to not having the appropriate financial statements**
- 15% of applicants (110) were declined at the Project Eligibility stage. Of these, **38% were missing the proof of ownership** for the facility and **30% do not operate or manage a sports or recreation facility**
- 89% of Grant Review Team members scored all applications assigned to them, indicative of sustained high engagement during this period

1.2 Noteworthy Grants

Below, are highlights of some of the requests that are being recommended:

A vibrant neighbourhood hub for low-income youth in Ottawa

With a Community Building Fund investment of \$208,100, Youth Ottawa will renovate an existing sports facility at the Gil O Julien Park, located in the neighbourhood of Overbrook in Ottawa, to create a safe and vibrant space where BIPOC youth ages 12 to 18 can participate at no cost. The impact this facility will have on the community cannot be understated as not only will it be a fitness and training centre, but it will also have a dedicated academic area for youth to do their homework and school projects. Furthermore, the existing canteen will be retrofitted into a full kitchen where cooking and nutrition classes will be offered at no cost. This facility will help address the lack of access to quality programming and support youth in a neighbourhood that faces health and economic and racial/cultural tensions.

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Responding to a gap in alternative sports and recreation in Lindsay

With an investment of \$475,000 the Boys and Girls Club of Kawartha Lakes (BCG) will be able to build the only permanent skatepark available in Lindsay, Ontario. This project will address the need that hundreds of children and youth have for alternative forms of sports and recreation in the area including skateboarding and BMX biking. Generally, children and youth interested in these types of alternative sports do not participate in other programs offered by BCG. With the construction of this skatepark, 2400 current participants will have a new sport to engage in and those who have never attended programming at BCG will have an opportunity to engage in sports and recreation for the first time. Overall, this project will impact the health and well-being of children and youth in Lindsay by providing more opportunities to be active and connected.

Ensuring that community rinks will continue to serve the next generations in St Clair and neighbouring communities

With an investment of \$500,000, the Township of St. Clair will be extending the useful life of its two ice rinks for another 50 years by ensuring a new compressor room can support the new common refrigeration plant operation. The impact of this capital project will be significant. The Mooretown Sports Complex is recognized as a hub for recreational activity to this rural community and to neighbours to the North and South: Aamjiwnaang First Nations and Walpole Island First Nation. The two ice rinks provide a wide variety of sports and recreation opportunities for all ages and levels of abilities, from tot to senior hockey, recreational skates, hockey tournaments, school programs and private rentals.

Modernizing a regional sports hub to improve safety and longevity in Casselman

With a \$188,600 Community Building Fund – Capital stream grant over 12 months, the Municipalité de Casselman will address a local community need by modernizing the J.R. Brisson Complex, a sports facility that serves the rural communities of Casselman, Limoges, St-Albert, St-Isidore, Ste-Rose, Maxville, Crysler, and Moose Creek in Eastern Ontario. Located in the centre of Casselman, the sports complex attracts 1400 to 1800 weekly visitors during the months of September to May and is an important local economic driver and employer. The modernization project will involve installing a low-emissions roof on the skating rink to reduce energy consumption and operation costs, as well as replacing safety nets and glass with more flexible shielding to provide better spectator protection and reduce player injuries. The project will also replace rink siding and kick plates, which have reached the end of their useful life.

Renewing a valued play space that better meets community needs in Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

A \$395,800 Community Building Fund, Capital Stream grant will assist Wauzhushk Onigum Nation over a 12-month period to renovate the community's only playground. Wauzhushk Onigum Nation is located approximately 10 kilometers east of Kenora, ON. This renovation will allow the playground space to meet safety standards, ease maintenance and increase longevity, while also addressing the recreational needs identified by

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this community. The proposed project was identified through consensus building and a consultation process with community Elders, youth, and leadership, and has the potential to impact 600 residents.

1.3 Sign-Offs

Sign-Off from Chairs: Each GRT 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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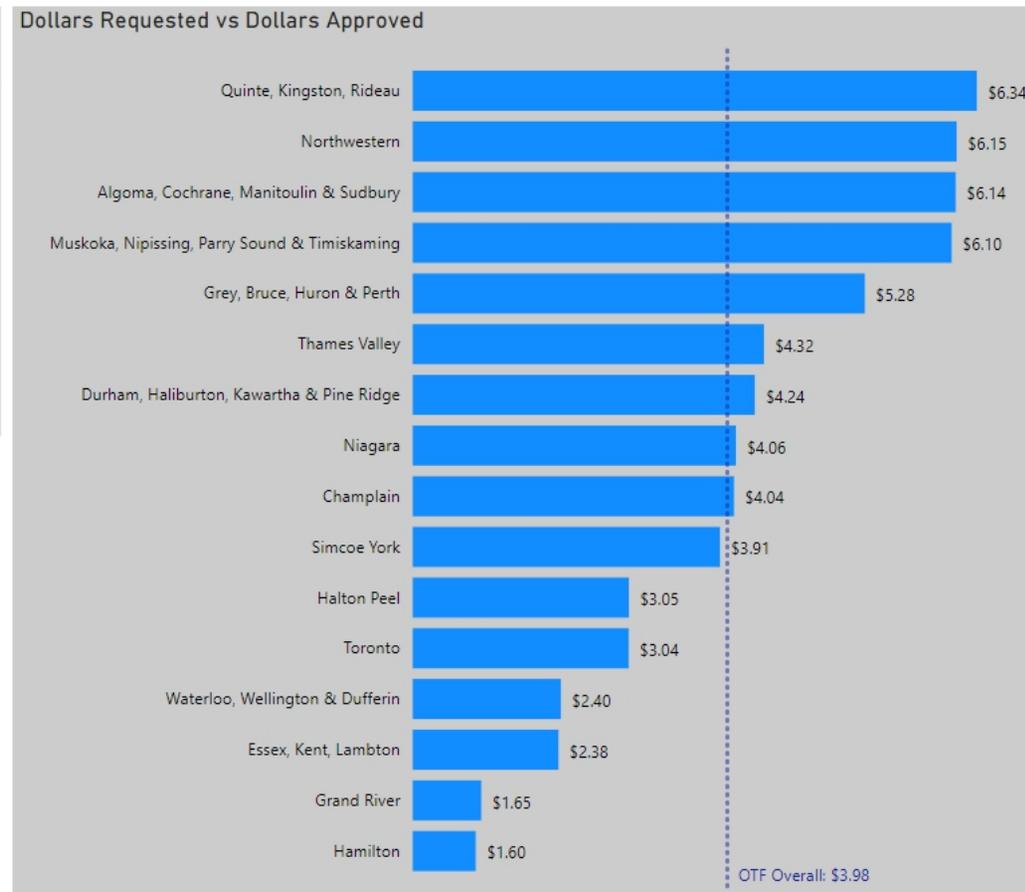
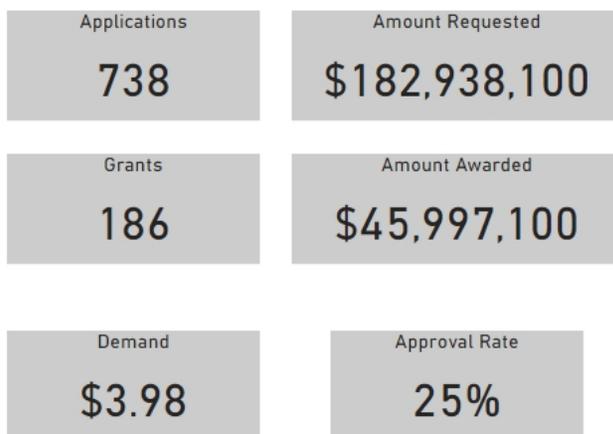
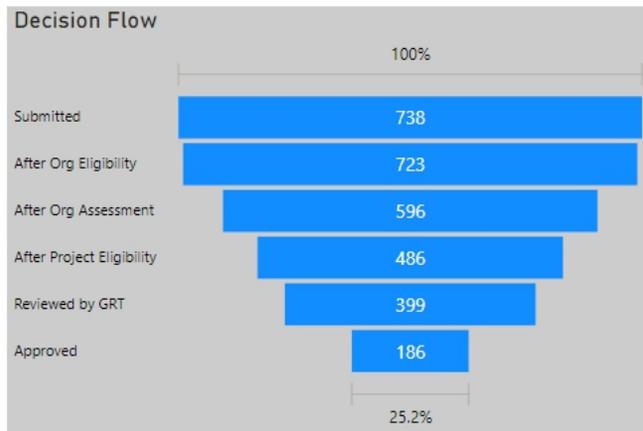
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Schedule 2: Community Building Fund – Capital Investments

2.1 Demand Overview

The demand ratio this cycle is \$3.98 requested for every dollar approved. This is a high level of demand for capital investments from communities. The average demand ratio for Capital funding in the past 5 years has been \$3.16 requested for every dollar approved.

Quinte, Kingston, Rideau saw the highest demand, with \$6.34 requested per dollar approved. Following closely behind are Northwestern (\$6.15 requested/dollar approved), Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin and Sudbury (\$6.14 requested/dollar approved), and Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound & Timiskaming (\$6.10 requested/dollar approved). These catchments have historically seen high demand for capital investments.

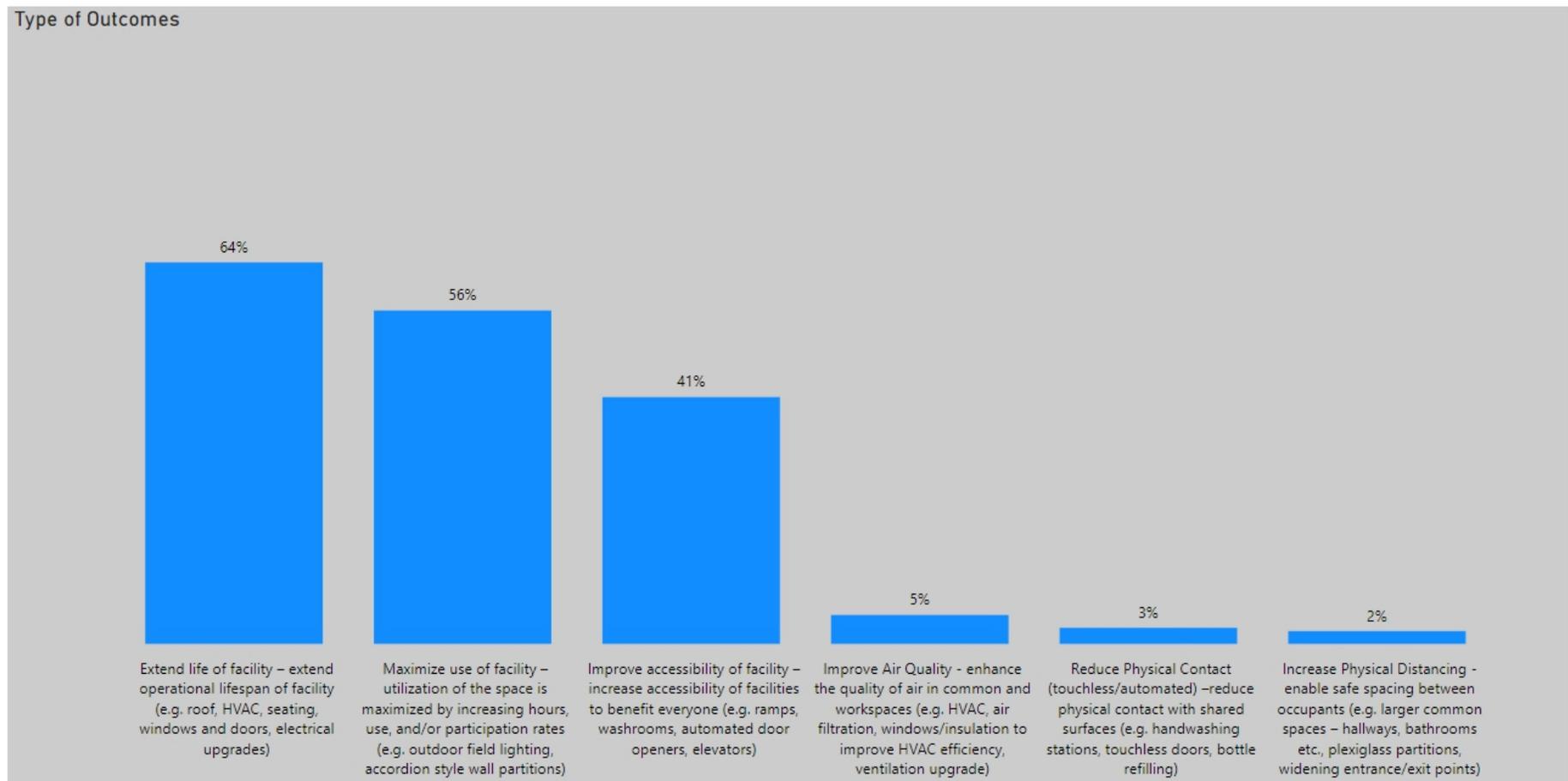


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2.2 Project Outcomes

The majority of approved applications selected outcomes aligned to meeting community needs. While some approved projects were seeking to meet public health guidelines, these make up a small proportion of overall approved investments (between 2 to 5%). The most frequently selected outcome – Extend the operational lifespan of facility – was chosen by 64% of applicants. 56% selected Maximize use of facility, and 41% selected Improve accessibility of facility.



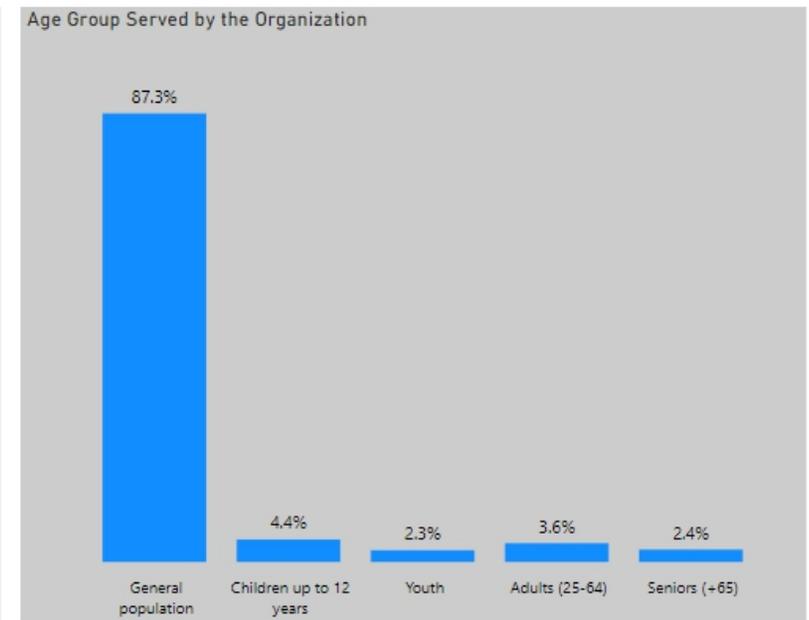
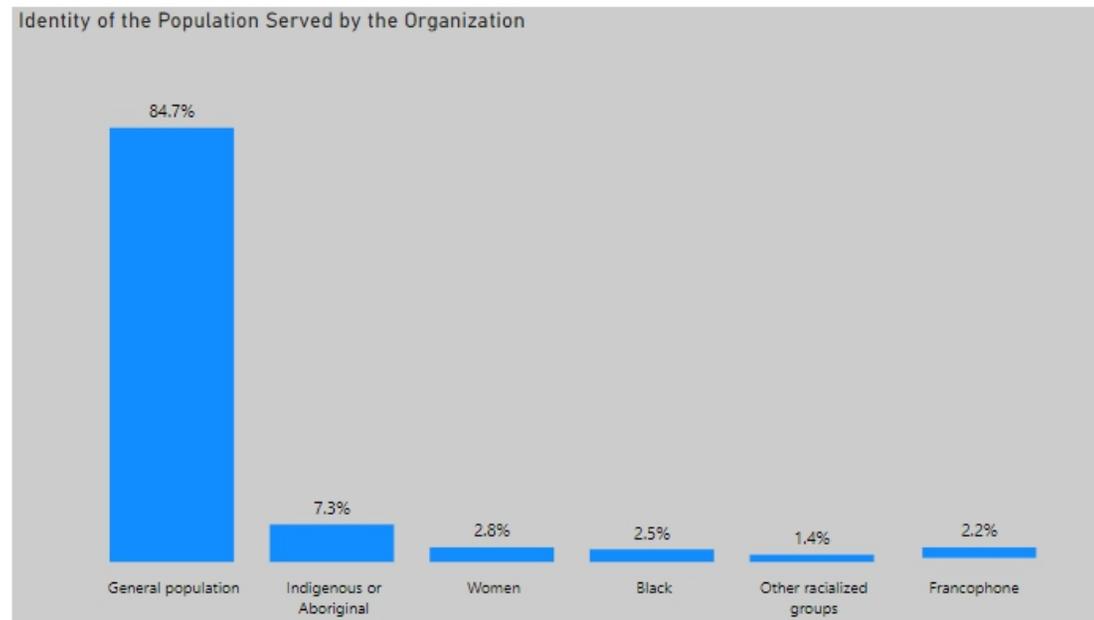
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2.3 Populations Served¹, Age Groups and Community Size

The majority of approved investments will benefit organizations that serve the general population. The next largest intended beneficiary populations were Indigenous (7.3% of recommended) and low-income communities (4.6%).

In terms of community size, 53% of total requests came from organizations serving rural or small communities. However, these organizations had a relatively low success rate at being recommended for funding, receiving 45.3% of approvals. In particular, charities and nonprofits in rural and small communities seeking to meet Public Health guidelines by increasing physical distancing, reduce physical contact, and improving air flow did not receive any recommendations for funding. In contrast, projects serving mid-size communities were disproportionately likely to be recommended. They make up 19.6% of requests and received 26% of approvals. Approvals to Projects serving urban centres were proportional to demand, at 27.4% of requests and 28.7% of approvals.

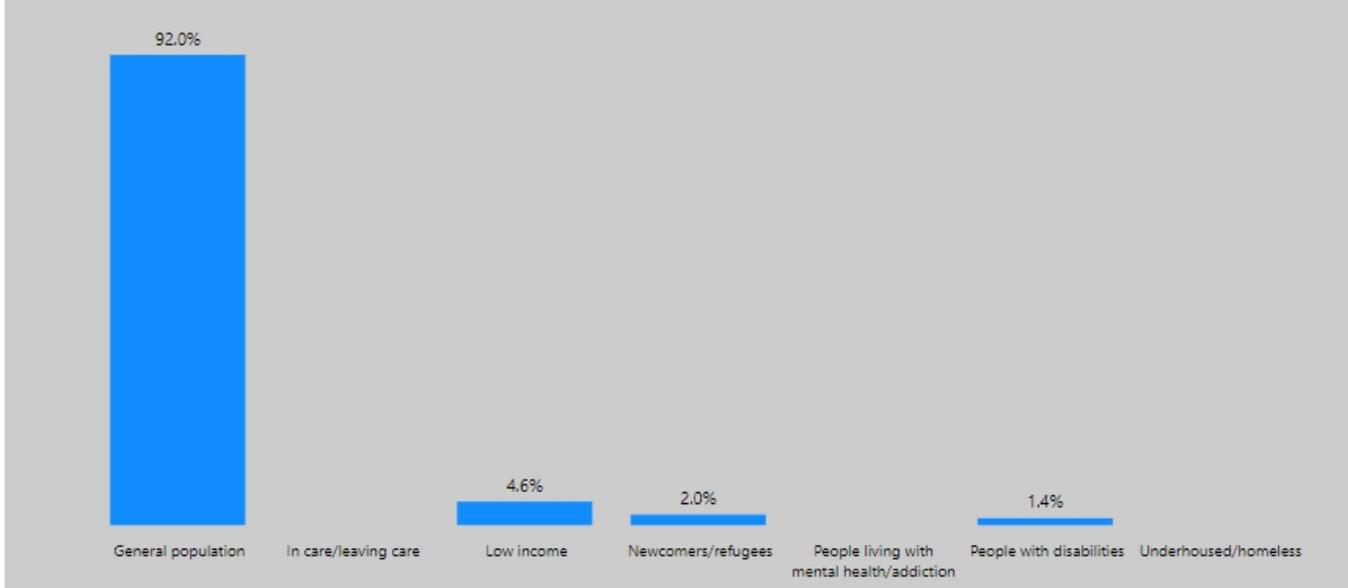


¹ Population Served data is self-reported by applicants to reflect the demographic population that their programs and services are intended to reach and/or primarily serve and are not validated by OTF.

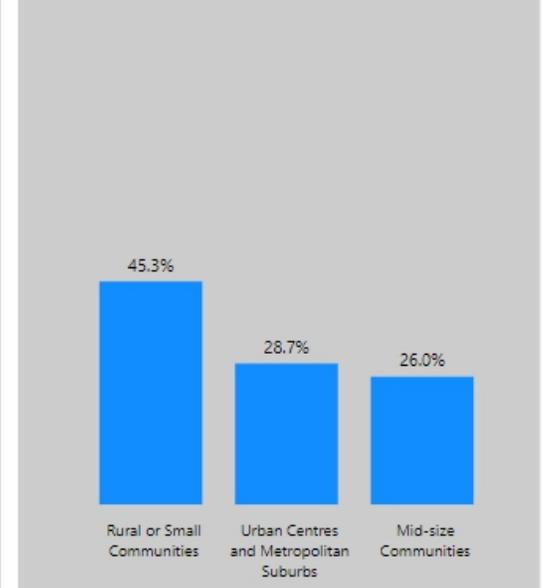
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Lived Experience of the Population Served by the Organization



Community Size Served by the Organization

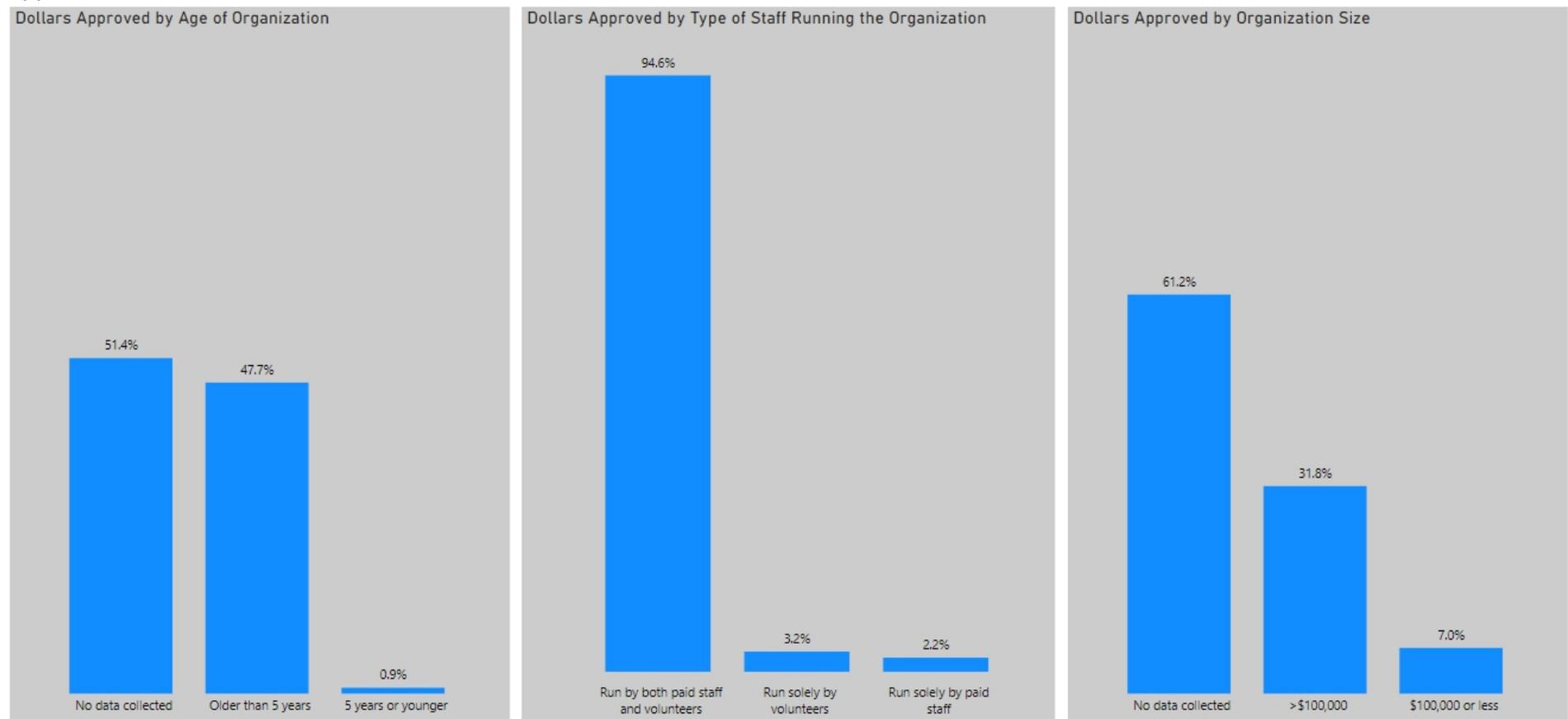


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2.4 Organizational Characteristics

For this fund, due to expanded eligibility criteria, an unprecedented 38% of requests came from municipalities. 28% of all requests came from small municipalities, and 9.9% of requests came from municipalities with populations over 20,000 people. OTF does not require municipalities to submit information about the age of organization and financial statements, thus they fall into the “No data collected” category in the graph below. Municipalities were very successful at being recommended for funding. At 38% of total requests, they constituted 54% of approvals for funding. Indigenous band council applicants, which are also exempt from financial statement requirements, made up 6.8% of requests and 7.3% of approvals.



Registered charities and not-for-profit organizations were less successful. Registered charities made up 21% of requests and received 15% of approvals. Not-for-profit organizations made 34.3% of requests and received 23.8% of approvals. The top reasons for declines due to eligibility

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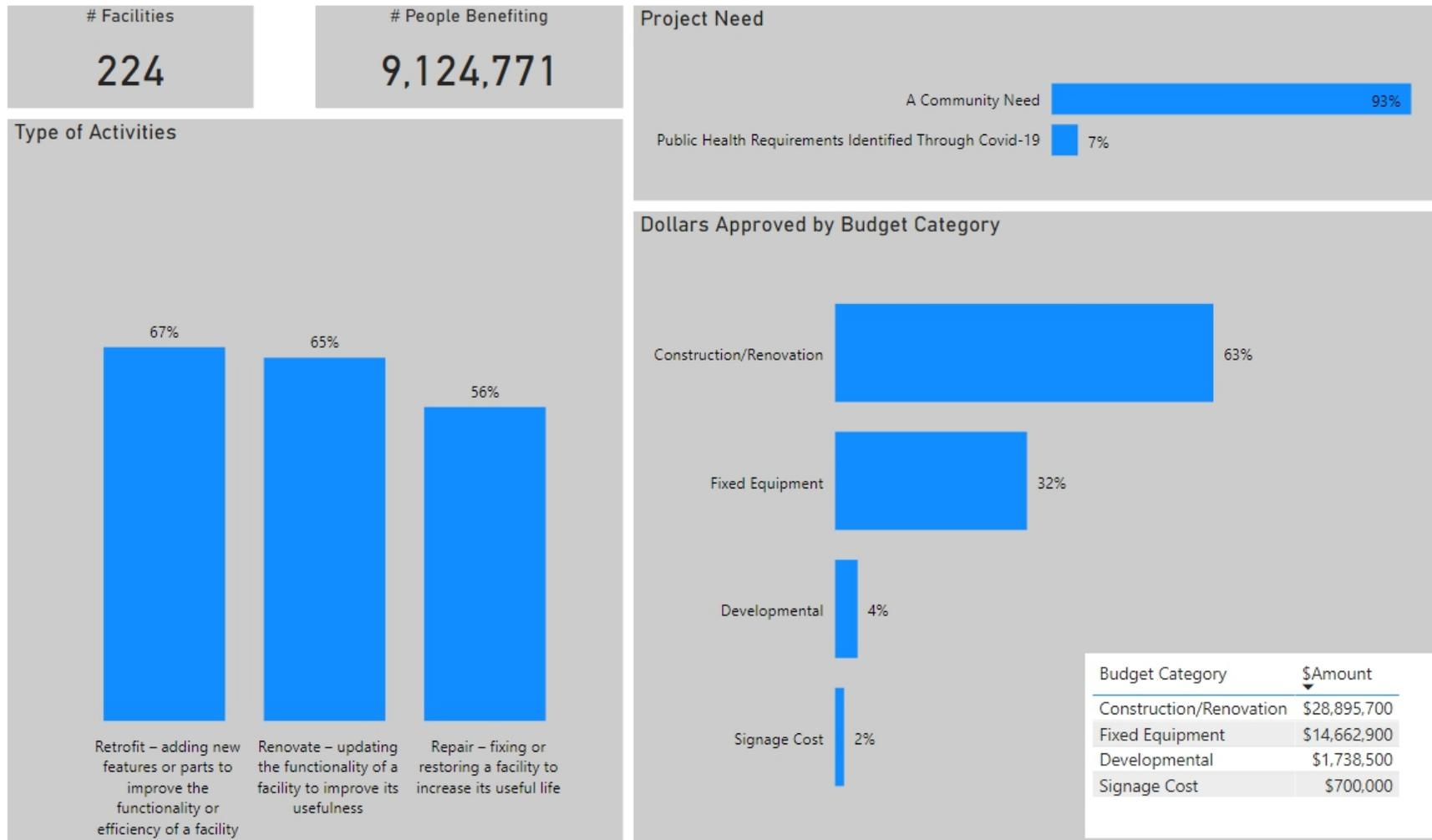
were applications with incomplete or outdated financial statements at the Organization Assessment stage, and missing proof of ownership or lease, or organization does not operate or manage the sports or recreational facilities at the Project Eligibility stage. For these organizations, younger, volunteer-run, and smaller organizations were significantly less likely to be approved. This pattern is consistent with historical trends. Specifically, applications from organizations younger than 5 years made up 4% of applications, and 0.9% of approved projects, corresponding to a demand rate of \$17.96 requested for every dollar approved. Organizations run solely by volunteers made up 8.6% of requests and 3.2% of approvals, corresponding to a demand rate of \$10.80 requested for every dollar approved. Organizations with annual revenues of less than \$100,000 made 14.2% of requests and received 7% of approvals, corresponding to a demand rate of \$8.04 requested for every dollar approved.

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2.5 Project Needs, Type of Activities and Budget Categories

Approved projects to retrofit, renovate, or repair 224 facilities are expected to benefit over 9.1 million Ontarians in the coming years. Overall, approvals for these projects are proportional to demand, both in the types of activities and type of spending by budget category. Projects designed to meet a community need were more likely to be recommended than those intended to meet public health requirements identified through COVID-19 (demand ratio of \$5.07 vs OTF average of \$3.90).



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[Schedule 3: Concluding remarks](#)

This Investment Summary provides an overview of investments recommended by 16 Grant Review Teams for the September 29th deadline of the Community Building Fund – Capital Stream. A total of 738 applications valued at \$183M were received for this second round of the fund. 186 projects totalling \$46M in investments are approved by the Board of Directors.