

**OTF Investment Summary Report  
2020/2021 Seed Cycle**



Prepared for the Board of Directors, May 14, 2020  
2020-2021 SEED Cycle  
OTF Granting Investments

# OTF Investment Summary Report 2020/2021 Seed Cycle

## Introduction

This is a summary of the Grant Review Team recommendations for investments for the Seed Stream of the 2020-21 Fiscal Year.

In this report, we make comparisons against Seed cycles in previous Fiscal Years dating back to 2015-2016.

This report includes:

Schedule 1: Executive Summary

Schedule 2: Community Investments Overview and Analysis

Schedule 3: Concluding remarks

Appendix A: List of Recommended Applications for Board Approval

Appendix A1: List of Recommended Collaboratives for Board Approval

Appendix B: List of Declined Applications for Board Approval

Appendix B1: List of Declined Collaboratives for Board Approval

Appendix C: List of Organizational and Project Eligibility Declined Applications

## Schedule 1: Executive Summary

### 1.1 Cycle Summary: Seed Investment Stream

This cycle, we received **923 applications requesting \$54.2M, a record high for the Seed stream**. Of these, **193 have been recommended for approval**, for a total of **\$11.2M of investment** in communities across Ontario. The request for funding is **60% higher** than in the 2019-20 FY, in terms of dollars requested. In line with this, the demand rate was **\$4.83** requested for every dollar recommended, which is 63% higher than the previous fiscal year, and 29% higher than the OTF average across Seed cycles.

Recommended investments in projects serving vulnerable groups have increased this cycle, while recommendations to projects serving the general population decreased from 51.9% to 43.3% of overall. Since last fiscal, recommendations benefitting **LGBTQ+ communities have more than doubled, from 1.6% to 3.8% of overall investments**. Recommendations benefitting **Francophone communities increased 97%**, from 3.4% to 6.8% of overall. Recommended investments in projects serving **Women have increased 26% this cycle**, from 5.4% to 6.8%, and recommendations to

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Indigenous communities saw an 13% increase, to 8.5% of overall recommendations. The exception is recommended projects to serve Diverse Cultural communities, which saw a 10% decrease in share of overall recommendations.

More recommendations are expected to benefit mid-sized communities this cycle, making up 20.8% of overall recommendations (compared to 17.7% last fiscal). This increase is balanced by a 3.6 percentage point decrease to projects in urban communities (62.8% of recommendations).

**64% of applications from eligible organizations met project eligibility criteria** this cycle. This is 13% lower than OTF's overall rate of 77% for Seed stream. Of eligible applications, 68% went on to be reviewed by members of Grant Review Teams (GRT). Projects that meet eligibility criteria are aligned with the purpose of Seed stream investments, and high rates of eligible applications is seen to reflect a high degree of understanding of the Investment Strategy by applicants. Trends related to projects that meet eligibility criteria were similar in the 2019-20 Grow cycle.

This cycle, **94%** of all files assigned for Volunteer scoring were completed, indicative of continued high volunteer engagement.

## 1.2 Action Area Noteworthy Grants

We continue to receive strong applications for funding. Below, we highlight some of the applications that are being recommended:

### Active People

With **\$1.1M worth of recommended investment to 21 programs** across the province this cycle, OTF's Active People Seed portfolio works toward breaking down barriers that limit individuals' abilities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

An example of such a program, the YMCA of Eastern Ontario is looking to increase access to greater health and physical activity programming through the delivery of their 'Mobile Y' program. Over the course of 12 months, with the support of a \$58,100 OTF grant, more than 250 individuals of all ages and abilities living in the rural communities of Seely's Bay and Sydenham, will be engaged in fitness and wellness activities within their own communities. With a wide target group of children to seniors, the Mobile Y will be able to test their pilot on various populations and in a context unfamiliar to their regular programming delivery model.

### Connected People

Proposals to the Connected People Action Area continue to provide excellent examples of programs that aim to build more inclusive and engaged communities within Ontario. This cycle, **over \$2.6M worth of investments** to support **46 programs** across the province are recommended.

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For instance, with the support of a \$73,100 OTF grant over 12 months, the Toronto Shelter Network will design and pilot the “Give Us Shelter” project, bringing together homelessness service providers, local business owners and neighbourhood residents to build common ground on the issue of homelessness. This timely project aims to improve the lives of 600 people in the community while testing an innovative approach, as the City of Toronto plans to open 1,000 new shelter beds by 2021, with only 36% of city residents report being in support of a shelter being located in their neighbourhood.

### Green People

Proposals in the Green People Action Area test and research innovative ideas to promote a healthy and sustainable environment for the people of Ontario. **Eighteen programs for close to \$1.1M** of funding are recommended this cycle.

An example of such a program, Land Care Niagara is helping to address the lack of forest cover that can negatively affect the health and ecological function of watersheds in Niagara. With the support of a \$75,000 OTF grant, the project aims to determine where reforestation can be best targeted to increase overall cover and connectivity with the watersheds. With the help of advanced technology, the project will efficiently and precisely locate priority areas for enhancements and increase learning about the quantity and current state of forest cover in the Niagara Region.

### Inspired People

**Forty proposals for \$2.2M** are recommended in the Inspired People Action Area this cycle to enrich people’s lives with arts, culture, and heritage.

An illustrative example is a \$75,000 grant to Myths and Mirrors. Over the next 12 months, Myths and Mirrors will bring together 250 individuals from Indigenous and Newcomer communities to lead and participate in community-based arts workshops in Sudbury. This will enable participants to exchange and explore shared and individual histories. Sudbury is welcoming many newcomers to its community and art is a powerful connector. High-quality arts programming provides an accessible and effective platform for exploring difficult topics such as immigration and/or the challenges of reconciliation. At the project’s completion, the created artworks will be presented to the wider Greater Sudbury community to build understanding and solidarity.

### Promising Young People

This cycle the GRTs are recommending close to **\$2.2M in investments to 37 projects in the Promising Young People portfolio**. These investments will support the positive development of children and youth in communities across Ontario.

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With the support of a \$75,000 OTF grant, Centre Psychosocial will be able to support the positive development of 140 children and youth who are facing barriers in Ottawa. The francophone organization aims to test an animal therapy program to help children with regulatory problems, depression, anxiety, and trauma to develop strong emotional and social skills.

### Prosperous People

Over **\$1.9M in recommended investments to 31 projects will help to enhance the economic wellbeing of individuals across the province**, including traditionally economically vulnerable populations such as women, racialized groups, and people living with disabilities.

South Essex Community Council will address the growing issues of homelessness, housing insecurity and poverty in the Leamington area located in rural Southwestern Ontario. With the support of a \$75,000 OTF grant, key stakeholders will convene around the issues, research best practices, and consult with persons with lived experience resulting in the development of an emergency shelter feasibility study and interim solutions.

### 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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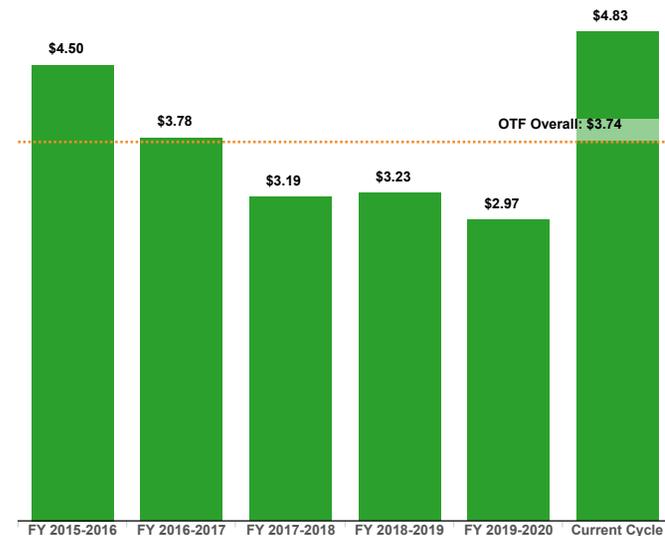
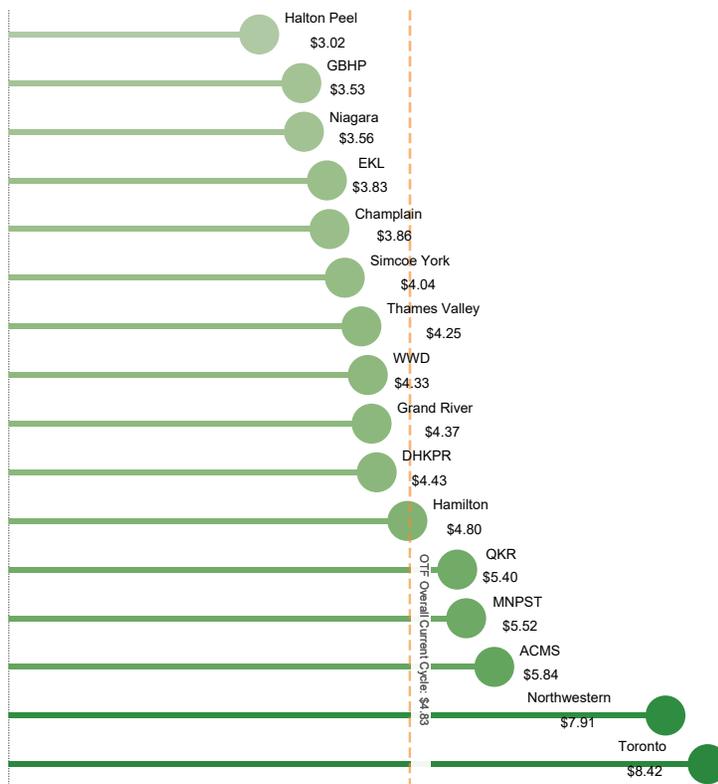
### Schedule 2: Community Investments Overview and Analysis

#### 2.1 Demand Overview

The dollars requested to dollars recommended ratio for this cycle is **\$4.83**, 63% higher than the previous fiscal year, and 29% higher than the OTF Seed stream average.

Toronto, and the Northern catchments of Northwestern, ACMS, and MNPST remain the most competitive catchments, with between \$5.50 to \$8.42 requested for every dollar recommended. However, even the least competitive catchments of Halton Peel, GBHP, Niagara, and Champlain saw an increase in demand of over 50% compared to last fiscal, to over \$3 requested for every dollar recommended.

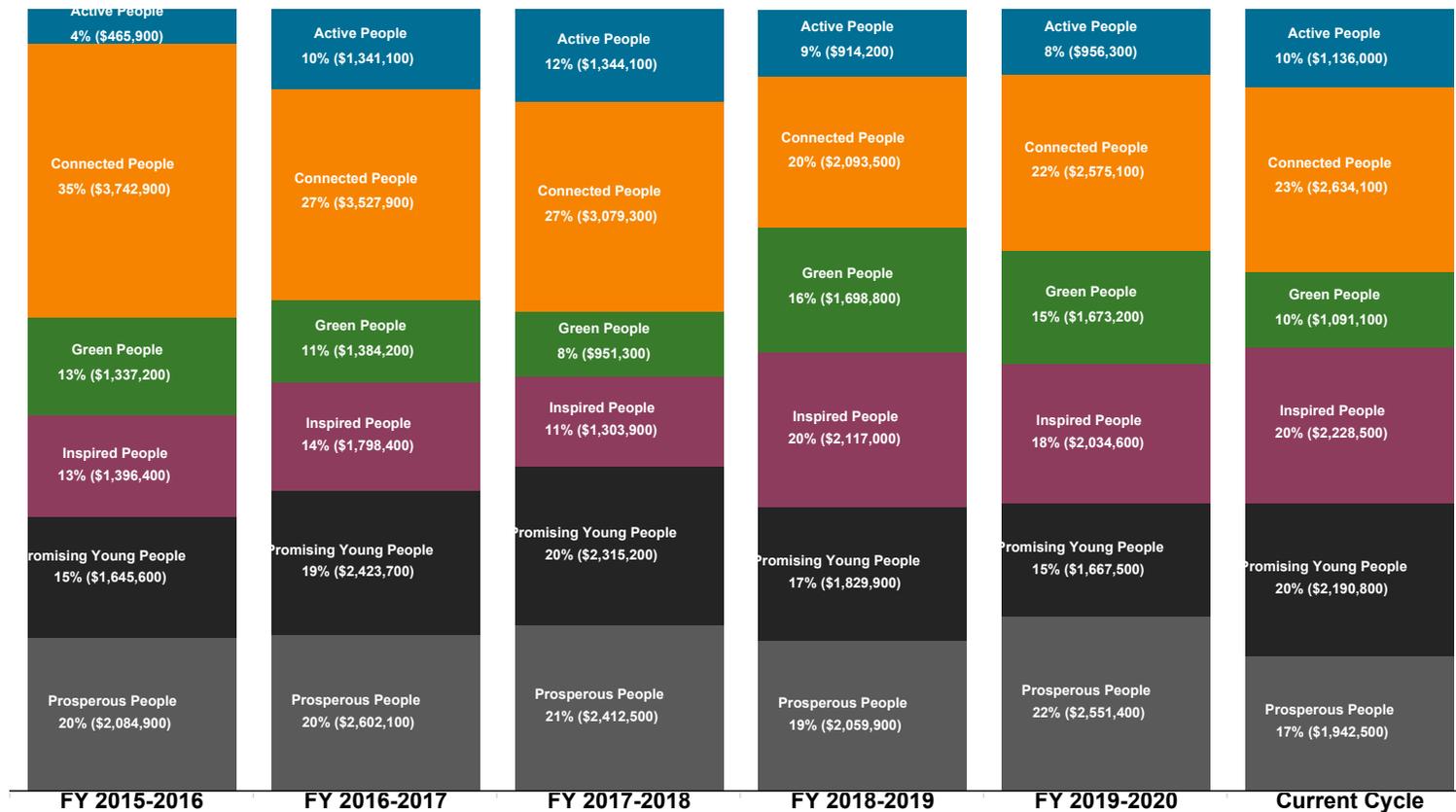
Dollars Requested vs. Dollars Recommended Current Cycle



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## 2.2 Action Area Overview

Recommendations in Green People Action Area declined significantly from last fiscal, from 15% to 10% of recommended dollars. A sizeable decline was also seen in Prosperous People, from 22% to 17% of total recommended dollars. Inspired People saw an increase, from 18% to 20% of overall, Promising Young People saw an increase, from 15% to 20% of overall recommendations and Active People saw an increase, from 8% to 10% of overall recommendations. Recommendations to Connected People remained stable from last fiscal, making up 23% of overall recommendations.



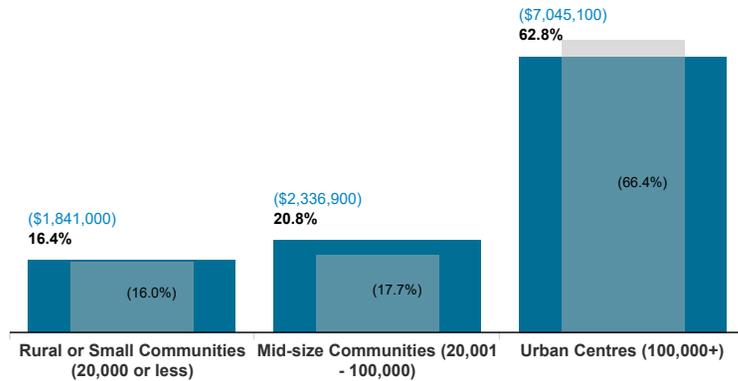
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## 2.3 Community Size, Age Group, and Populations Served Overview

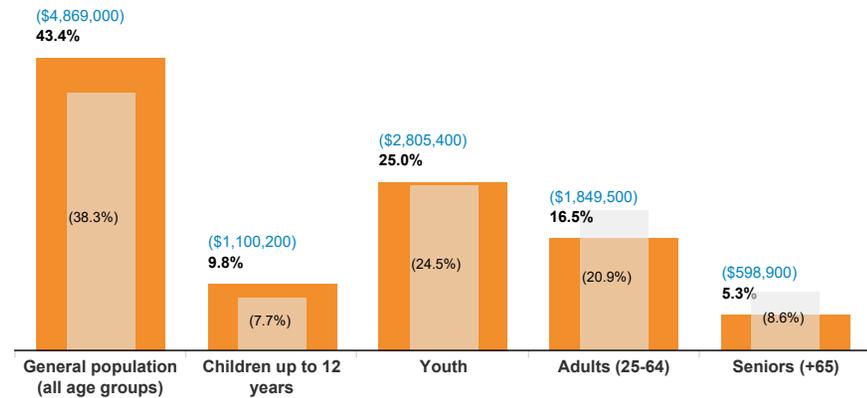
After a decline last fiscal, recommended investments in mid-sized communities have recovered to being one-fifth (20.8%) of overall recommended investments. Investments in urban centres saw a small decrease, while investments to rural or small communities have held steady.

Fewer investments are being recommended this cycle to serve the general population (population served), while more are being recommended to serve LGBTQ+ communities (137% increase), Francophones (100%), Women (26% increase), People with disabilities (10% increase), and Indigenous communities (13% increase). Diverse cultural communities saw a 3% decrease in its share of overall recommendations.

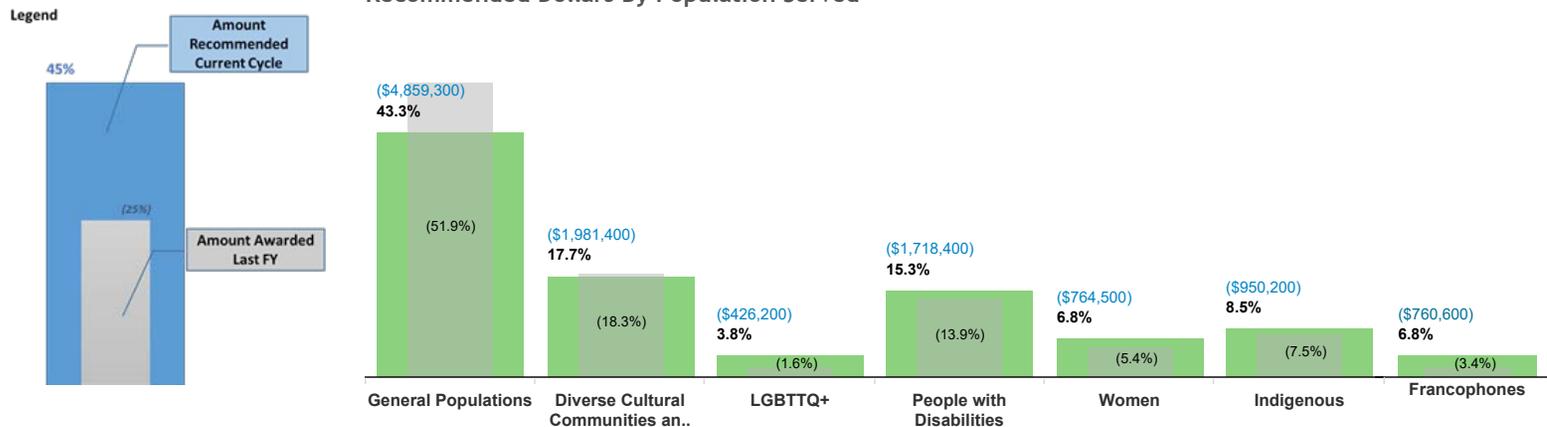
Recommended Dollars By Community Size Current Cycle



Recommended Dollars By Age Group



Recommended Dollars By Population Served

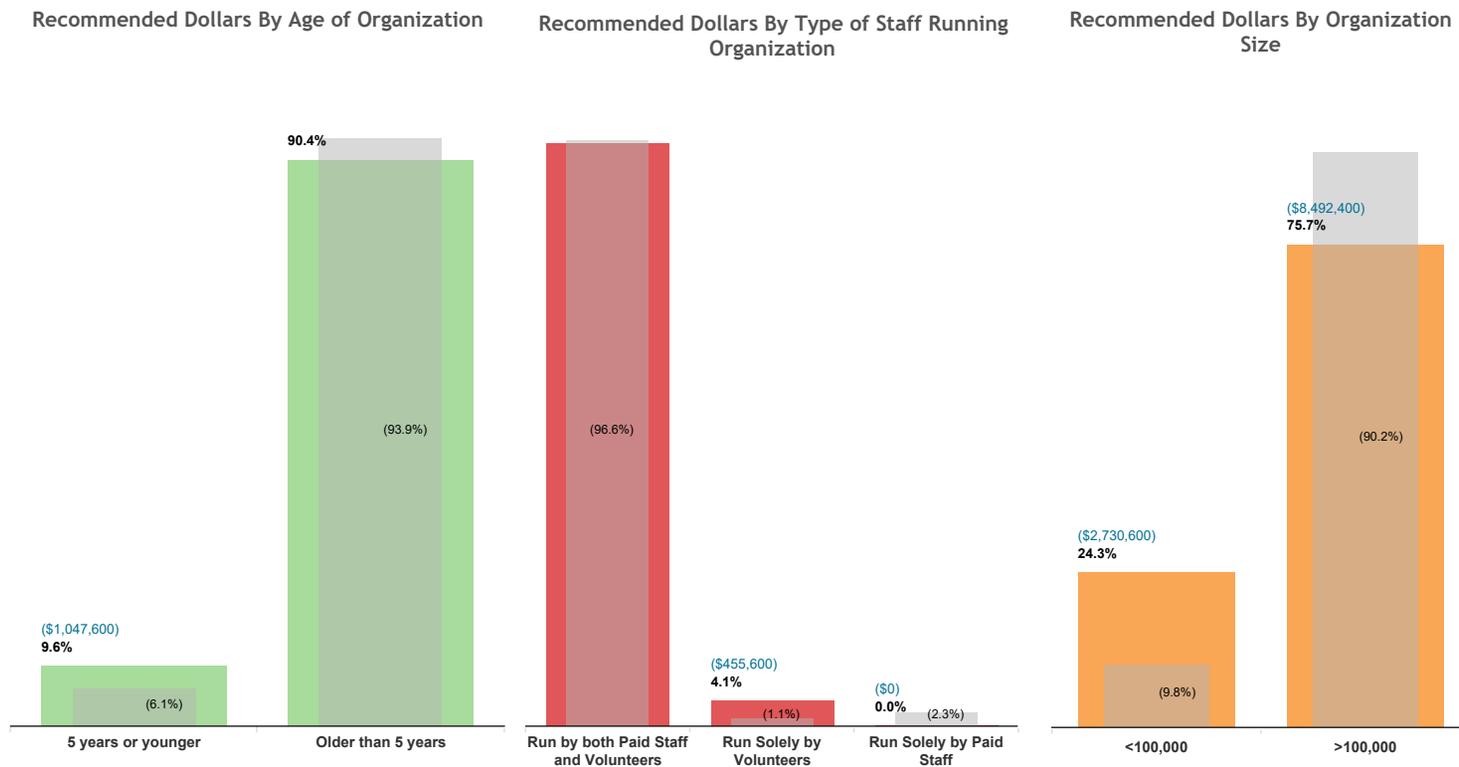


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## 2.4 Organizational Info Overview

Interrupting a trend of recommending projects from larger and more established organizations, this cycle saw a 57% increase in recommendations to organizations 5 years or younger, a 272% increase in recommendations to organizations run solely by volunteers, and a 147% increase in recommendations to organizations with annual revenues of less than \$100,000. This increase is driven by a significant increase in demand from organizations in these categories.

Organizations with annual revenues under \$100k had a demand rate of \$7.83 requested per dollar recommended, compared to \$3.86 for organizations over \$100k. Organizations under 5 years of age had a demand rate of \$8.79 requested per dollar recommended compared to \$4.42 for organizations over 5 years. Volunteer-run organizations had a demand rate of \$11.40 requested per dollar recommended.



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## Schedule 3: Concluding remarks

This Investment Summary provides the details of recommended investments for the Seed Investment Stream of the 2020-2021 FY. A total of 923 applications were received for \$54M of investment, a historical high. One hundred and ninety-three applications, valued at \$11.2M, are recommended for approval.

A list of investments recommended for approval follows.