

OTF Investment Summary Report 2019/2020 Seed Cycle



Prepared for the Board of Directors, June 6, 2019
2019-2020 SEED Cycle
OTF Granting Investments

OTF Investment Summary Report 2019/2020 Seed Cycle

Introduction

This is a summary of the Grant Review Team recommendations for investments for the Seed Stream of the 2019-2020 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 B: List of Declined Applications for Board Approval

Appendix C: List of Technically Declined Applications

Schedule 1: Executive Summary

1.1 Cycle Summary: Seed Investment Stream

This cycle, we received **578 applications requesting \$34M. 194 of these applications have been recommended for approval**, for a total of **\$11.5M of investment** in Seed projects in communities across Ontario. The request for funding for this stream was 2% lower than in the 2018-2019 FY, in terms of dollars requested. As well, the demand rate, at \$2.97 requested for every dollar recommended, is 8% lower than the previous fiscal year.

95% of all received applications were deemed technically eligible for funding this cycle. This is well above OTF's overall technical eligibility rate of 77% of all applications received. Of those that were eligible, 54% went on to be reviewed by members of Grant Review Teams (GRT).

The distribution of funding across Action Areas is comparable to last Seed cycle. Active People saw the smallest proportion, at 8% of overall recommended funding. Connected and Prosperous people saw the highest proportions, each at 22% of overall recommendations.

Recommended investments to vulnerable groups and populations are varied this cycle. Recommendations benefitting Indigenous communities have more than doubled, from 3.2% to 7.5% of overall investments. While recommended investments in Francophone communities have halved, from 6.5% last fiscal to 3.4% this cycle.

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Fewer recommendations are benefitting rural and small communities (16.0% vs. 17.4% last FY) and mid-size communities (17.7% vs. 21.2% last FY), while more recommendations point to benefitting urban centres (66.4% vs. 61.3% last FY).

This cycle, **98%** 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, outstanding applications for funding. Below, we highlight some of the applications that are being recommended:

Active People

With **\$956,300 worth of recommended investment to 20 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.

Over a 12-month period, the **Ottawa Sport Council with a \$63,500 grant** will deliver 30 in person trainings to **450 Ottawa community sport coaches, officials and volunteers** focused on responding to potential concussions, which will lead to **higher quality sports programming**. The delivery of this educational program responds not only to the local needs but also to recommendations that have emerged around **concussion safety** and have resulted in the passing of Rowan's Law at the provincial level.

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 \$2.5M worth of investments** to support **41 programs** across the province are recommended.

Over a 12-month period, the **Cochrane District Social Planning Council** will lead a process of **engaging diverse groups** within the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty to gather the data necessary to create a community hub that will offer social programming. Ideas and input gathered will identify **intergenerational and intercultural activities** that will help strengthen ties between groups and help individuals develop a greater sense of belonging. **Francophone residents of Val Rita-Harty** are the target population of this Connected People grant. With **OTF support of \$74,400** the lives of **570 people in the community** will be impacted.

Green People

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Twenty-eight programs for \$1.7M of funding to implement innovative ideas to promote a healthy and sustainable environment for the people of Ontario are recommended this cycle.

With OTF support, **The Art Gallery of Burlington** will implement the 'Artist Material Fund' - a waste management and recycling program for cultural institutions which will **provide local artists and the general public free useable materials** slated for disposal from galleries and museums. With **\$25,700 in recommended OTF investment**, the project is an economical and environmentally friendly service reaching **5,000 people in the community**.

Inspired People

Thirty-eight proposals for \$2M are recommended this cycle to enrich people's lives with arts, culture, and heritage.

With **OTF support of \$74,800**, the **Museum of Ontario Archeology in London** will update its interpretive plan by involving **Indigenous and First Nations in caring for and interpreting the province's material cultural heritage**. This will support the gallery to move forward respecting the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and incorporating multiple perspectives of Ontario's heritage. The project will initially impact **over 13,000 visitors annually** and the learning will be shared with other organizations.

Promising Young People

This cycle the GRTs are recommending **\$1.7M in investments to 29 projects in the Promising Young People portfolio**. These investments will support the positive development of children and youth in communities across Ontario.

Over a 6-month period this Promising Young People grant of **\$50,200** will allow the **IISD Experimental Lakes Area** to work with the **Elders and youth of Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation**, a small First Nation community located 40 kms to the east of Fort Frances on highway 11. This Seed project will pilot a youth-teaching-youth program that will **build connections between language, culture and science**. This project will provide an opportunity for **Indigenous youth to reconnect with their culture** by interacting with their Elders, participating in storytelling, observing changes in land and water, cooking traditional foods, and participating in cultural ceremonies. Youth will work together to teach one another, develop leadership skills as youth mentors, build connections with traditional culture and western science, and encourage youth to think historically about their environment and future. This initiative is helping youth be involved in creating solutions to challenges facing their community and will have an impact on **30 people in the community**.

Prosperous People

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Over **\$2.6M** in recommended investments to **38 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.

Over a 12-month period, **\$74,600** will be invested into **The Canadian National Institute for the Blind** to create cutting edge virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) software targeted to **improve job readiness for 180 individuals in Toronto with significant sight loss**. This critical training will provide an outstanding opportunity for this statistically disadvantaged group in the community, of whom 60% are unemployed, compared to 27% of the sighted population.

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 VP, Community Investments confirms that all recommended grants are within the granting policies of the Foundation.

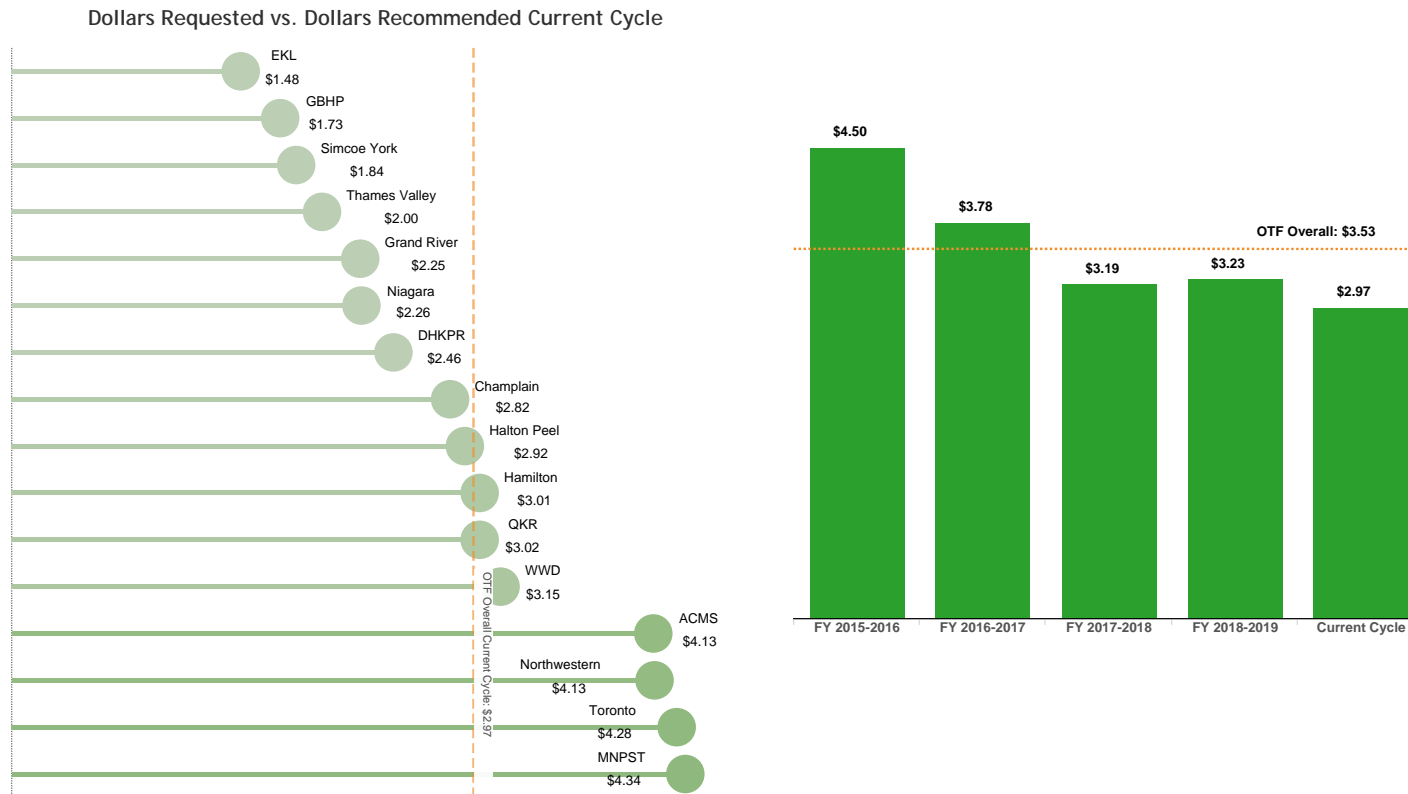
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Schedule 2: Community Investments Overview and Analysis

2.1 Demand Overview

The dollars requested to dollars recommended ratio for this cycle is \$2.97, 8% lower than the previous cycle and 16% lower than the OTF Seed Stream average. This is the third consecutive year with lower than average demand, suggesting that the measures taken in 2016-17 to reduce demand have been and continue to be successful.

Toronto, and the Northern catchments of ACMS, Northwestern, and MNPST remain competitive with over \$4 requested for every dollar recommended. In contrast, EKL, GBHP, Simcoe York, and Thames Valley have low demand, with demand ratios of \$2 or under requested per dollar recommended.



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2.2 Action Area Overview

Investments across our six Action Areas has remained stable since last fiscal year. Active People remains the Action Area with lowest investment at 8% of total, followed by 15% investment in Green and Promising Young People. Recommended investments in both Action Areas are commensurate with demand. Connected People and Prosperous People each saw the largest share of recommended investments, at 22% of overall recommendations. For Connected People, which saw 26% of overall demand, the recommendation rate reflects slightly poorer quality applications. For Prosperous People, which saw 17% of overall demand, the higher rate of recommendations reflected higher quality proposals.

Recommendations by Action Area

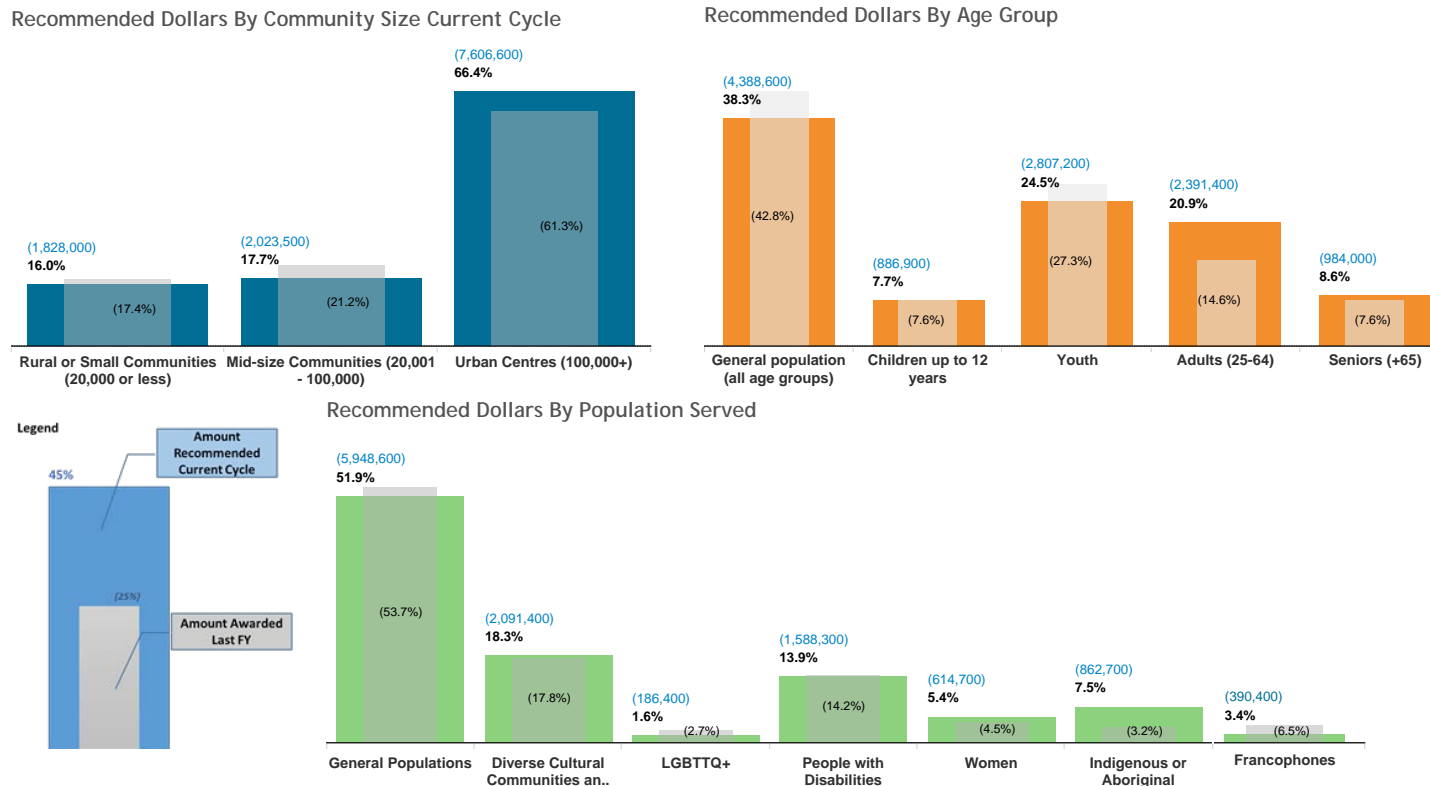


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2.3 Community Size, Age Group, and Populations Served Overview

Recommended investments in rural or small communities are 1.4 percentage points lower this cycle. This decrease was a result of lower quality proposals, rather than low demand. Investments in mid-sized communities are 3.5 percentage points lower, while urban centres saw a 5.1 percentage point increase. While the demand ratio from mid-sized communities matched the OTF average this cycle, the comparatively lower demand ratio in urban centres (\$1 recommended for every \$2.87 requested) suggests higher quality proposals are the reason behind the surge in those proposals recommended.

Recommended investments to Indigenous communities were 4.3 percentage points higher than was awarded the previous Seed cycle, reversing a downturn observed last fiscal. Investments to the Francophone community have decreased by 3.1 percentage points, from 6.5% to 3.4% of overall investments. This decrease is a combined result of lower demand (5.2% of total requests) and lower quality proposals.

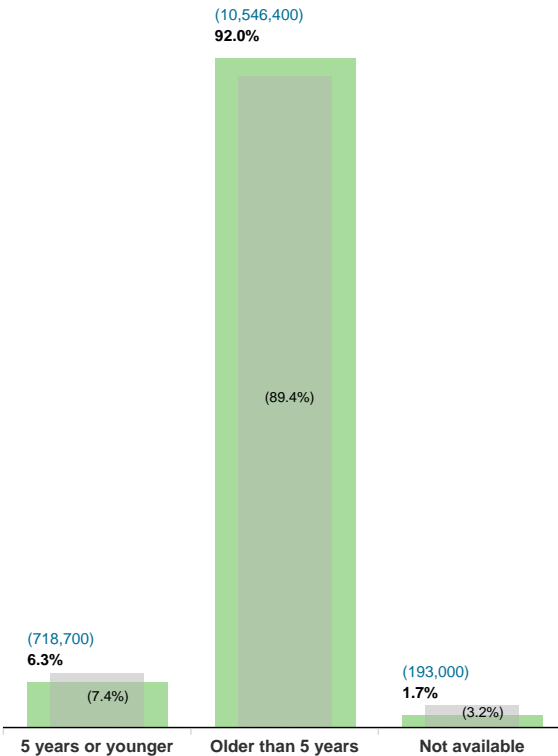


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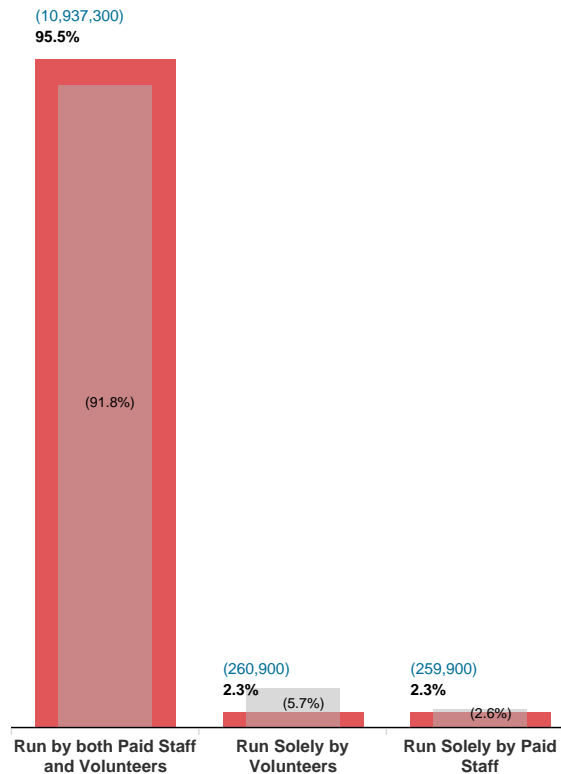
2.4 Organizational Info Overview

This cycle saw increased recommendations to larger and more established organizations. 92% of recommended dollars are going to organizations older than 5 years, up 2.6 percentage points from last year. 89.4% of recommended dollars are going to organizations with budgets greater than \$100,000, up 4.9 percentage points from last year. Recommendations to organizations run solely by volunteers are less than half the level seen last fiscal, dropping from 5.7% of recommended dollars last Seed cycle, to 2.3% this cycle. This difference is made up by increases to organizations run by both paid staff and volunteers, which at 95.5%, makes up most recommendations this cycle.

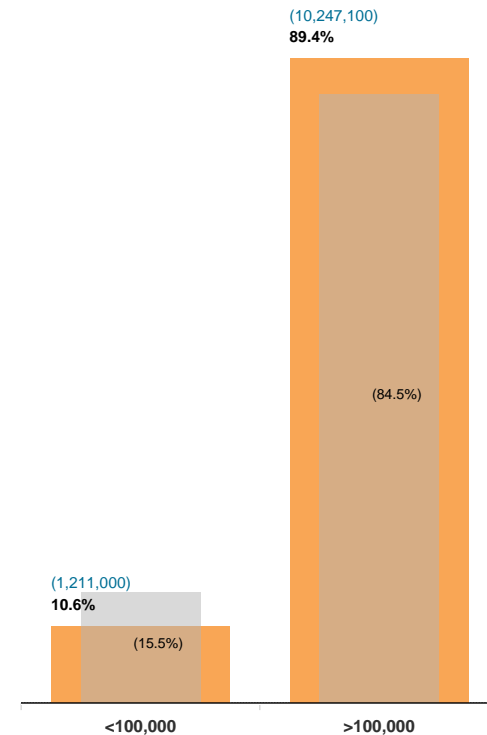
Recommended Dollars By Age of Organization



Recommended Dollars By Type of Staff Running Organization



Recommended Dollars By Organization Size



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Schedule 3: Concluding remarks

This Investment Summary provides the details of recommended investments for the Seed Investment Stream of the 2019-2020 FY. A total of 578 applications were received for \$34M of investment. 95% of these were deemed technically eligible, a historical high, indicative of improved applicant understanding of OTF's Investment Strategy. 194 applications, valued at \$11.5M, are recommended for approval by the Board of Directors. The past two cycles also saw stable demand and recommended allocation across Action Areas. The combination of high proportion of eligible applications, stability of demand, and stability of Action Area portfolios may indicate maturation of an Investment Strategy four years into implementation.