

OTF Investment Summary Report
Approval of Community Investments and Ontario Fund
Prepared for the Board of Directors, September 29, 2016



2016/2017 Cycle 2
OTF Granting Investments

OTF Investment Summary Report

2016/2017 Cycle 2

Introduction

This is a summary of OTF investments for the second granting cycle of the 2016/17 fiscal year, and the fourth granting cycle of the new investment strategy.

In the report below, all historical comparisons are against the 2015/16 fiscal year, unless otherwise indicated. This includes the first 2 cycles of the new Investment Strategy combined, and excludes the 3rd cycle, in which only Seed stream grants were made. The choice of these cycles is intended to produce an “apples-to-apples” comparison of cycles containing both Grow and Seed Streams.

This Investment Summary Report includes:

Schedule 1: Executive Summary Community Investments and Ontario Fund

Schedule 2: Community Investments and Ontario Fund Granting Overview and Analysis

Schedule 3: Concluding remarks

Appendix A: List of Recommended Applications Community Investments for Board Approval

Appendix A1: List of Recommended Applications Ontario Fund for Board Approval

Appendix B: List of Declined Applications Community Investments for Board Approval

Appendix B1: List of Declined Applications Ontario Fund for Board Approval

Schedule 1: Executive Summary Community Investments and Ontario Fund

1.1 Highlight: Historically high demand ratio

Demand for funds this cycle was at historically high levels, at \$6.91 per dollar recommended. This is 29% higher than previous cycles under the new Investment Strategy, in which demand was \$5.37 per dollar funded. This increase in the demand ratio is due to the budget cut. The levels of demand remained high while the budget decreased by 22%.

1.2 Cycle Summary: Grow and Seed Investment Streams

We received **943 applications** requesting **\$218M**. It is expected that within the next 36 months, the recommended investments will impact almost **474,000 Ontarians**. Of these applications, a total of **152** for **\$31.62M** are recommended for approval, a decrease from previous cycles due to the recent OTF budget cut. **Community Investments total 133 for \$26.37M with Ontario Fund Investments total 19 for \$5.2M.**

The new Investment Strategy continues to enable **larger and deeper grants** to be made. In fact, the average grant (\$208,015) in this cycle is even larger than it was in the first year under the new investment strategy. This represents an **8% increase** over the average grant size of \$192,152 we saw in the last fiscal year.

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We continue to track several results to understand trends in internal and external understanding of and engagement with the new investment strategy.

- Alignment with Grant Results– 90.2% of recommendations are aligned with the selected grant result. This is a 13 percentage point increase from 76.7% last cycle, and is indicative of continued improvement in our implementation of the strategy through a commitment to ongoing staff training.
- Technical Declines – 71% of all applications received were technically eligible for OTF funds, a similar proportion to previous cycles.
- Volunteer scoring – Volunteers are showing continued high engagement, with 95% of volunteers scoring all assigned files. This is the same percent as last cycle.

While these three indicators show strong levels of understanding and engagement with the new investment strategy, we are continually seeking to improve. The Evaluation team, Strategy Leads, and Communications department, through the Knowledge Management strategy and eLearning tools are continuing to work together to deliver outreach and training to volunteers and the public. These efforts ensure we improve our ratio of good applications and build knowledge about our investment strategy amongst our GRT members. With more insight gleaned from our data model, these outreach and training sessions can become more targeted and impactful.

1.3 Action Area Summaries and Noteworthy Grants

Active People

Investments in the Active People Action Area are expected to foster healthy lifestyles in over **13,000 Ontarians** of all ages and abilities. Targeted initiatives for individuals with a disability were particularly prevalent within the Active People investment portfolio this round. A recommended grant that embodies this trend is to Community Living Essex County, which will partner with the University of Windsor to deliver the Adapted Physical Exercise Program (APEX) to increase physical activity rates for **130** adults with autism spectrum disorder and an intellectual disability (ASD-ID) in Windsor-Essex County. APEX provides participants with one-on-one cardiovascular and strength exercises delivered by trained volunteers, and access to fun sports and games within a community facility at no cost. The program will challenge the typically low levels of physical activity and fitness, and high levels of obesity and co-morbidities among adults with ASD-ID.

Connected People

Collectively, the investments in Connected People recommended this cycle will help over **23,000 people** develop connections in their community. A notable grant from this round is to the South-East Grey Community Health Centre, which will implement the Langs model to increase access to recreation, health and wellness services to **4500** isolated individuals, with an emphasis on vulnerable, elderly and those who cannot afford traditional primary health care services. This investment will expand the community-based centre's service to priority populations who are socially

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isolated, and experience barriers to access. These include seniors, youth and individuals with mental health challenges. The success of this program will increase the opportunities for these beneficiaries to make the social connections that are vital in order to reduce their social isolation.

An example of our grants that support people from marginalized groups to take on leadership roles in their communities is our investment to MIAG Centre for Diverse Women and Families to adapt the proven 'Building Bridges' program in the Peel region. It is focused specifically on empowering immigrant, marginalized women to be active, confident, and influence change in their community. The program consists of classroom activities and practicum in a multicultural group setting, and will target **300 marginalized women**. By building their group facilitation, leadership and communication skills, the program increases their involvement in the social service sector and provides the opportunity for them to demonstrate their leadership skills.

Green People

We received many very strong Green People applications this cycle from across the province. Applications in the Green People Action Area make up 19% of total recommendations. These investments will collectively impact the lives of over **249,000 Ontarians** through supporting a healthy environment. OTF supported several projects that enable non-profit organizations to facilitate change across sectors in order to achieve broad environmental outcomes. For example, OTF's grant to the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario will support the expansion of a farmer-led research network model, well established in Iowa and previously piloted in Ontario. Using a combination of farmer-led research, information-sharing and mentorship, this model has been proven to stimulate direct on-farm action to benefit the environment. It is expected that 1,500 farmers will adopt more ecological practices in their farming as a result of this grant. This grant is complemented by another grant influencing the food sector – Provision Coalition, which is working to enhance the sustainability practices of small and medium sized food and beverage manufacturers.

Inspired People

Investments in the Inspired People Action Area this cycle are expected to result in **800 people** engaging in community-based arts creation, over **26,000 people** experiencing arts and culture projects, and over **300 people gaining the skills and knowledge** for success in the arts and culture sector. A large number of the individuals impacted are children and youth.

The recommended grant to the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton exemplifies the investment to Inspire children and youth. Through expansion of their comprehensive programming in Northern Hamilton, **750 youth** will have access to arts-based programming that is rooted in the history and heritage of their community. The impact of this program will go beyond the arts and culture sector to improve school performance, increase youth community engagement, and increase participants pride and sense of belonging in their community.

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Promising Young People

Over **30,000 people** are expected to benefit from recommended investments in Promising Young People this granting cycle. This number includes over **8,000 parents**, caregivers, and adult allies who will gain skills to support the children and youth in their lives. It also includes over **23,000 children and youth** who will develop their social and emotional strengths or engage in their community. Programming for children and youth to improve their social and emotional strengths will come in a variety of sectors and manners, including through the arts.

One such recommended investment that will improve the social and emotional strengths of **400 children and youth** facing barriers through the arts is a grant to Sistema Toronto. Sistema Toronto runs an evidenced program that uses music education to help children from marginalized communities in Toronto to realize their full potential. Using music, Sistema Toronto will support children's overall development, self-esteem, empathy, and community engagement.

Prosperous People

In this granting cycle, OTF investments in Prosperous people will impact the lives of over **127,000 Ontarians**. Many of the recommended investments this cycle supported a number of innovative and emerging approaches that supported an increase in people being employed. For example, OTF's grant to Npower Canada will support a "sector-based workforce development" approach that addresses youth unemployment. Evidence shows that employer-led workforce development programs are most effective in connecting marginalized job seekers to sustainable employment. By working in partnerships with technology companies and universities, NPower Canada will scale its model to York Region and launch over **180 low-income youth** into meaningful careers by providing free technical and professional training, paid internships, job placement and post-hire supports. NPower Canada has more than 85% of alumni employed and/or in postsecondary education within 6 months of program completion. NPower Canada is known for its agile employer-driven model, having been championed as a CivicAction 2014 Escalator initiative and recognized in the Healthy City Stewardship Centre report as a model for a successful, proven youth employment initiative.

1.4 Sign-Offs

Sign-Off from Chairs: Each GRT Chair and the Chair of the Ontario Fund Committee have signed off on the final list of grants recommended by the GRT or Ontario Fund.

Compliance with OTF Policy: The CEO has met with the Vice-President, Community Investments, and the Vice-President, Provincial Programs and Partnerships to review granting policy compliance. The CEO confirms that all recommended grants are within the granting policies of the Foundation.

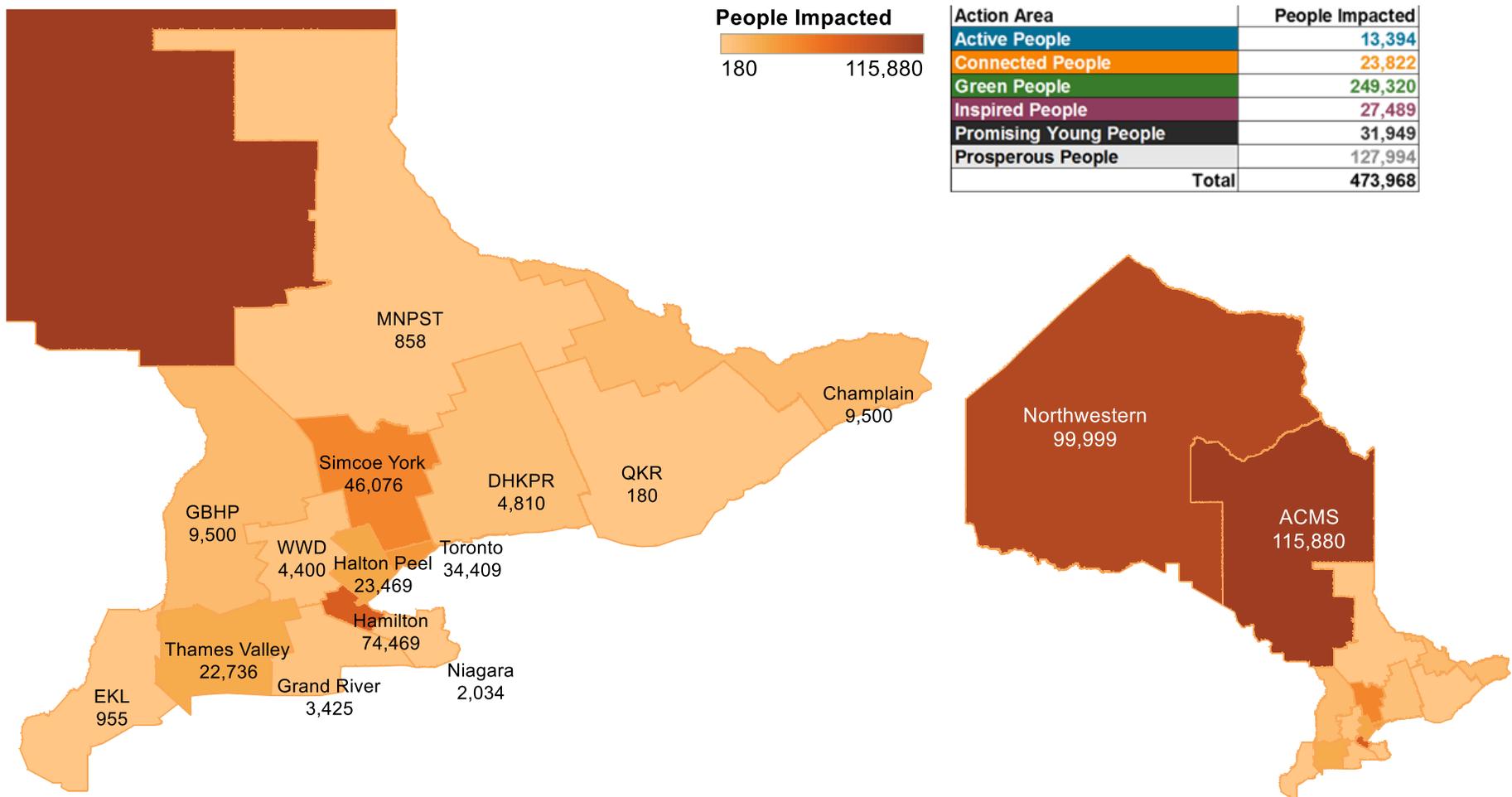
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Schedule 2: Community Investments Granting Overview

2.1 People Impacted in next 3 years through Grow Grants

Within the next one to three years, we expect more than **470,000** Ontarians will be impacted by initiatives funded by OTF this cycle. Notably, over **240,000 Ontarians** will take deliberate actions to benefit the environment and over **127,000 people** will realize increased economic stability and opportunity. A majority of the people impacted live in Northern Ontario, where ACMS and Northwestern each have recommended grants impacting around 100,000 people.



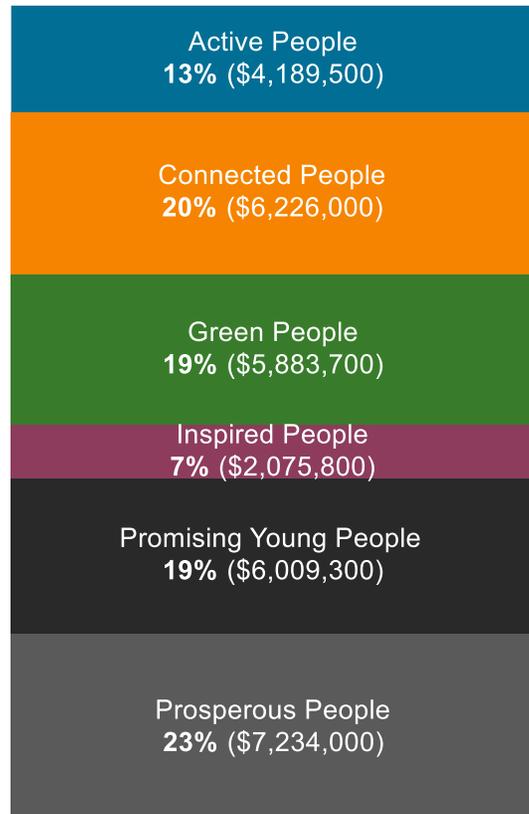
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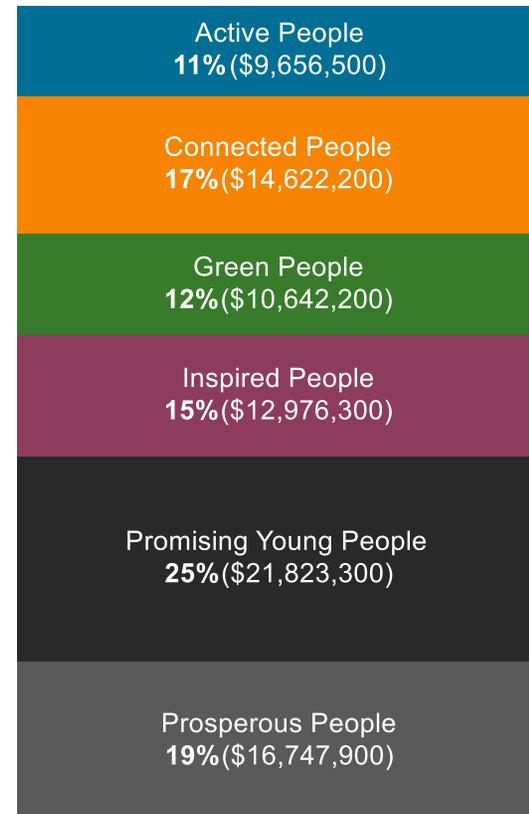
2.2 Action Area Overview

The recommended investment to Green People nearly doubled, from 12% last fiscal year, to 19% this cycle. This increase reflects high quality applications as only 9% of dollars requested were for Green People. Inspired People received a lower proportion of total recommended investments this cycle, falling in half to 7% of recommended dollars. This decline is concentrated in the Grow stream, and appears to be driven by lower quality applications, rather than a reduction in demand.

Recommended Current Cycle



Total Awarded Last Fiscal Year

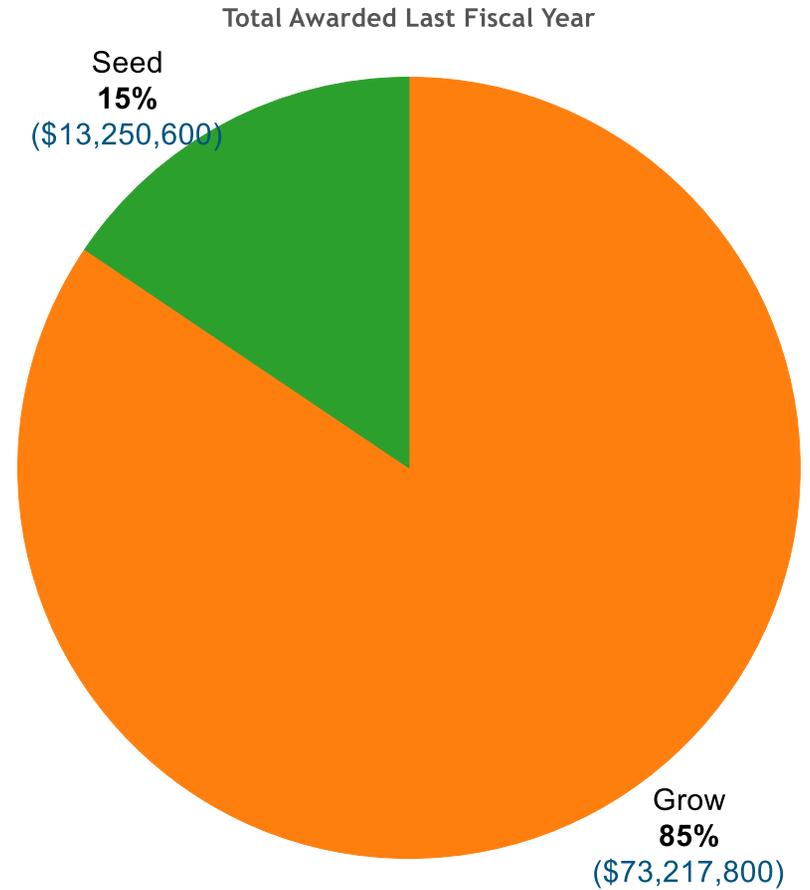
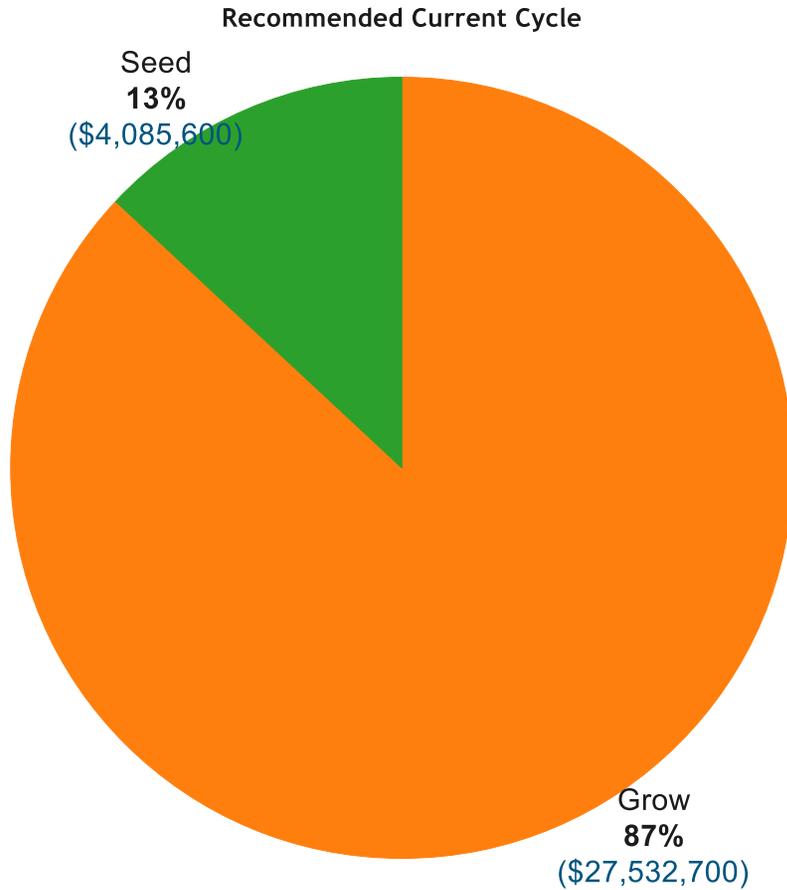


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2.3 Community Investment Stream Overview

There is little change in the share invested across the Seed and Grow streams from previous cycles to the current cycle.

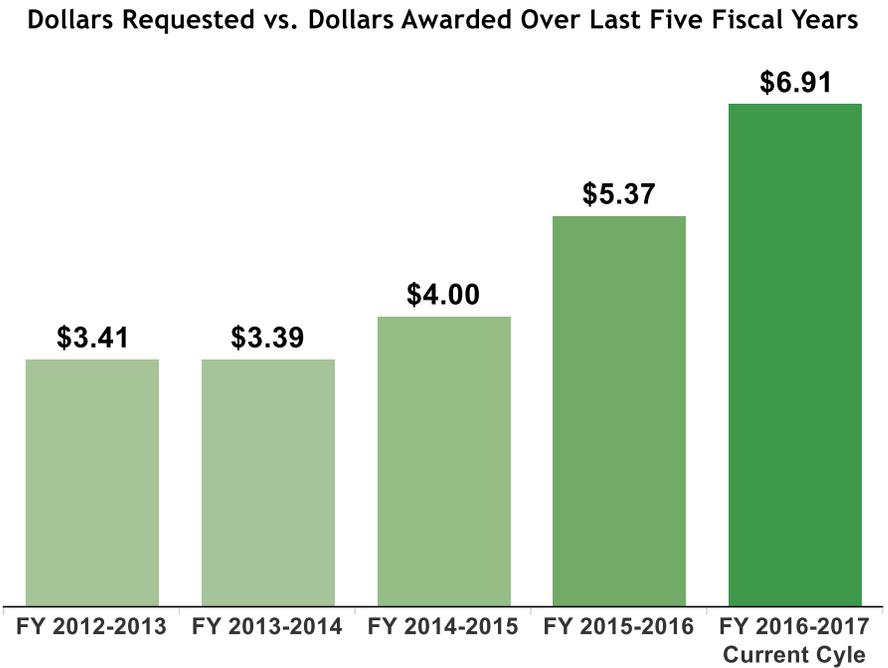
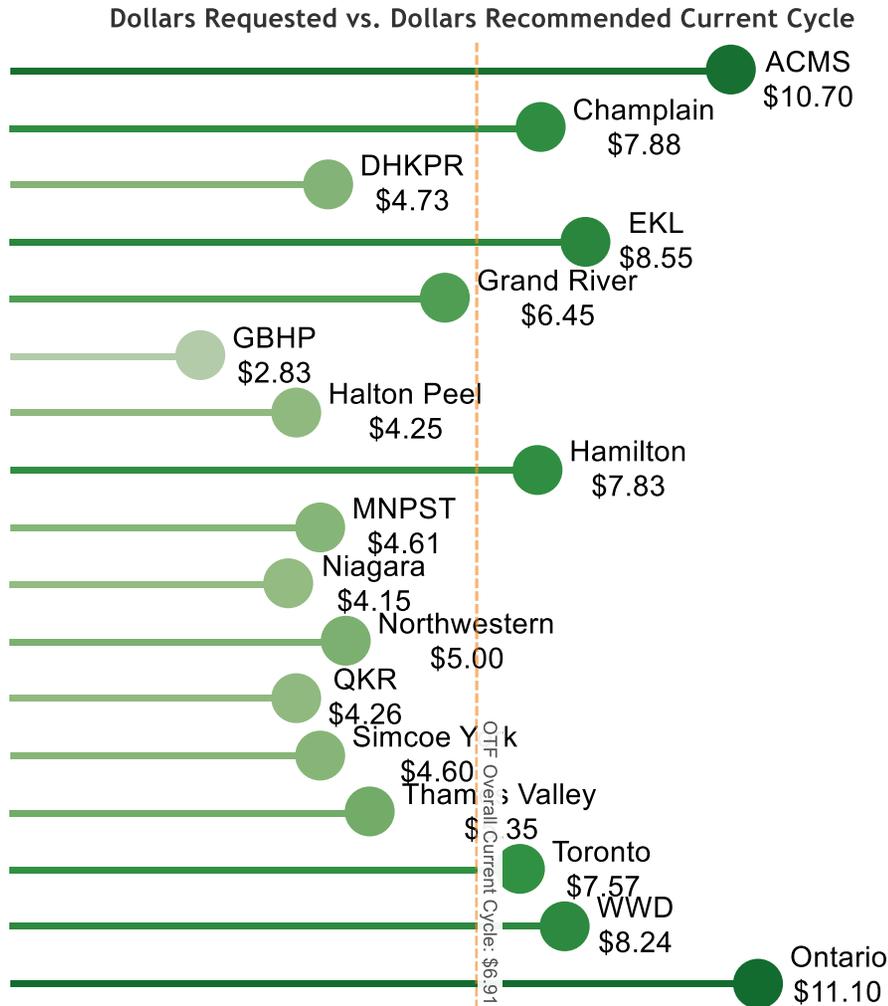


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2.4 Application Demand

Demand in the current cycle is **\$6.91 per dollar requested**, significantly higher than the (already record high) demand of \$5.37 per dollar requested in the last fiscal year. This historically unprecedented increase is primarily due to cut in the OTF budget, reducing supply of granting funds compared to previous cycles. The demand rate is higher in some catchments due to decisions to not spend to the full threshold this cycle.



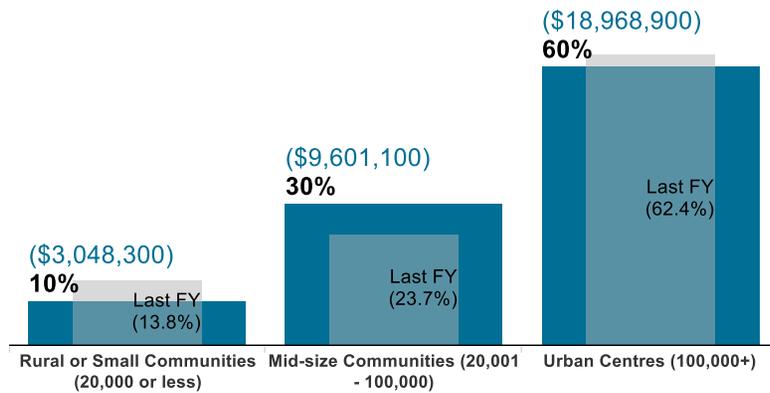
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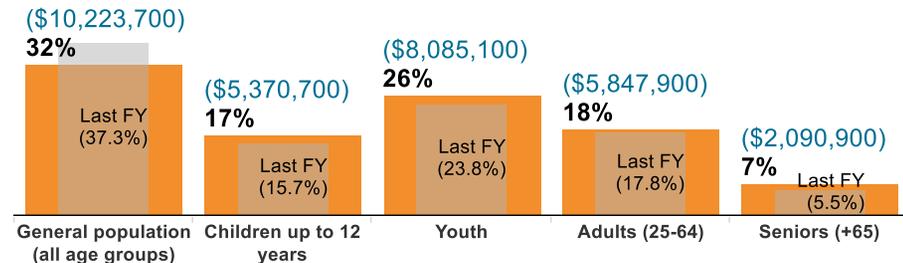
2.5.1 Investment Equity – Populations

Recommended investments benefiting rural communities (which make up 21.8% of the population) decreased from 13.8% of total granting, to 10% this cycle. This is due to an increase in recommended investments to mid-size communities (8.9% of the population) from 23.7% last fiscal year to 30% this cycle. The share of recommended investments benefiting urban communities has remained relatively unchanged. **Recommendations benefiting Children (increase of 8%) and Youth (increase of 9%) have increased this cycle.** Much of this increase is observed in Active and Inspired People, rather than in Promising Young People. Recommended investments benefiting the Francophone community and the LGBTQ community is lower this cycle. Only 1.5% of recommended dollars will benefit the Francophone community and **no recommendations will benefit the LGBTQ community.** We are looking into how we can ensure equitable access to our investments.

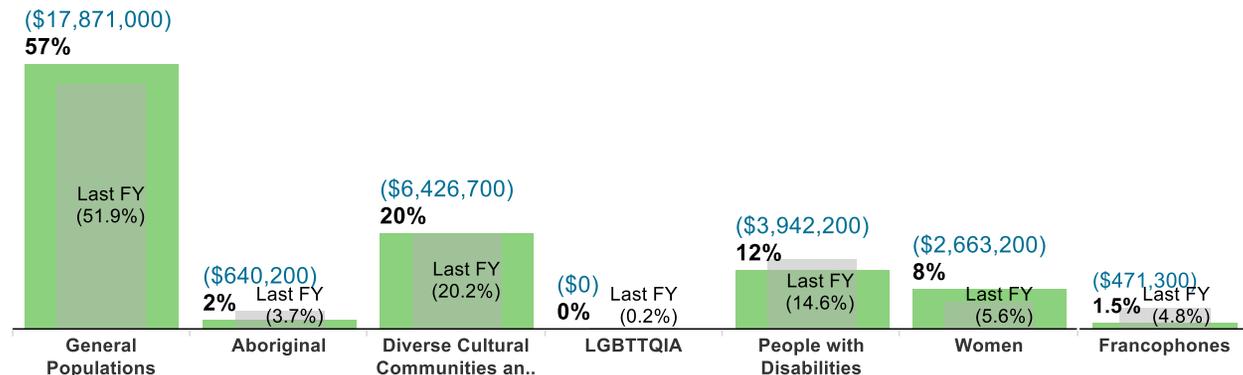
Recommended Dollars By Community Size Current Cycle



Recommended Dollars By Age Group



Recommended Dollars By Population Served Current Cycle

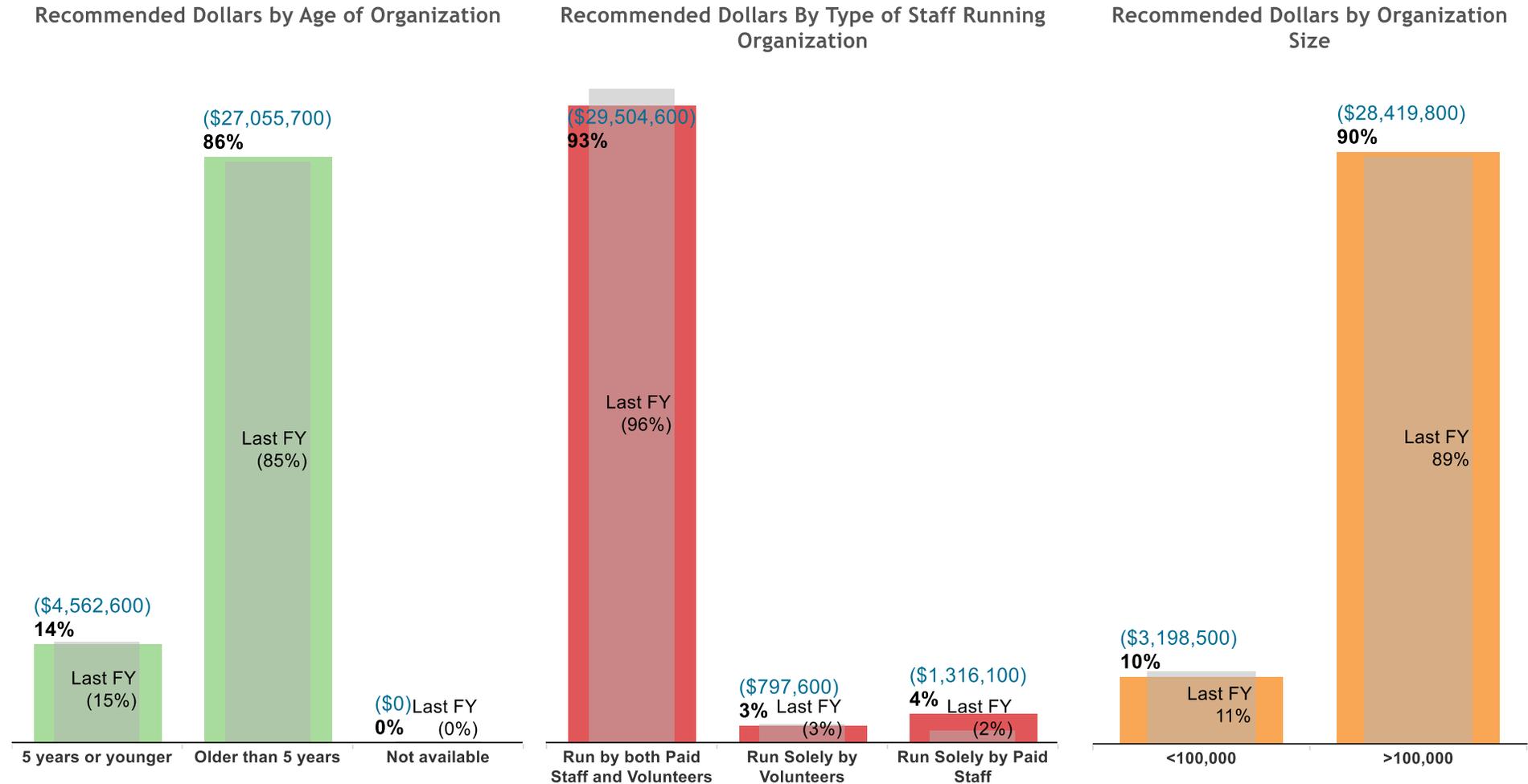


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2.5.2 Investment Equity – Organizations

Recommended investments across organization types remains stable from last cycle to this cycle. A majority of recommended investments go to large organizations, well established organizations, and organizations with paid-staff. However, 14% of recommended investments are for organizations less than 5 years old and 10% are for low-revenue organizations.



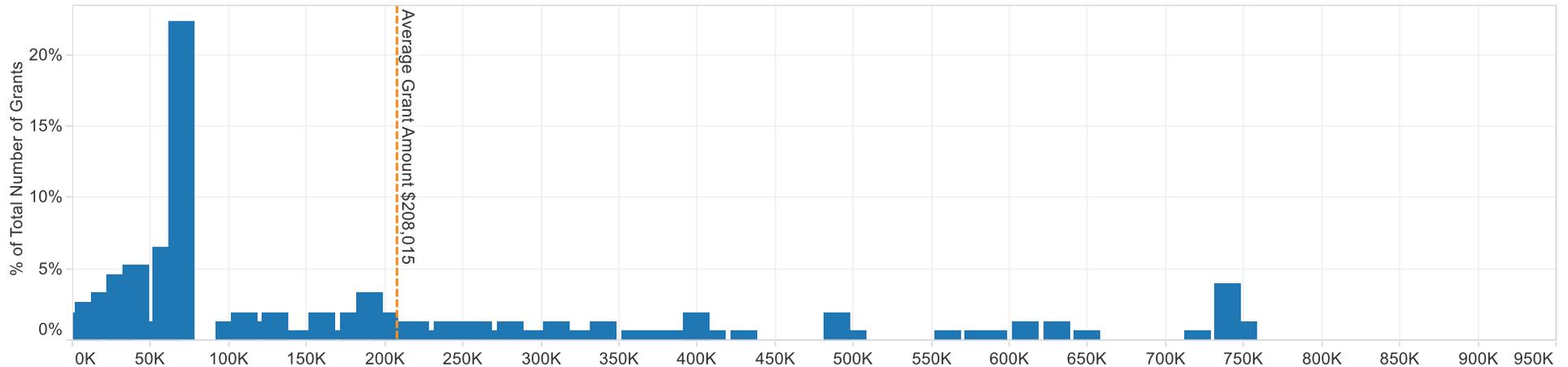
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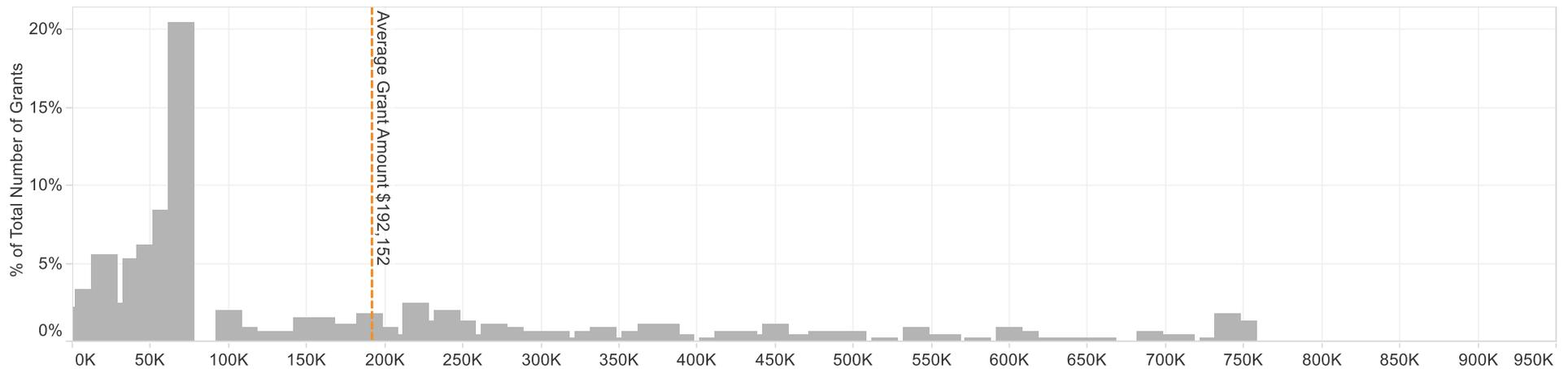
2.6 Larger, Deeper Grants – Grant Size

The new Investment Strategy continues to achieve one its key goals towards larger and deeper grants. The average grant this cycle is \$208,015, 8% greater than last fiscal year average of \$192,152. We are seeing an increase in the size of grants in both Seed and Grow streams, compared to last fiscal year. In Grow, this is due to an increase in the number of recommended investments of over \$700,000.

Amount Recommended for Approval - Size Distribution Current Round



Amount Awarded - Size Distribution Last Fiscal Year



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3.0 Concluding Remarks

This OTF Investment Summary Report outlines key highlights and insights from this cycle of recommended investments. It provides context to the data so that we can continue to make decisions grounded in evidence. With over \$30M in recommended investments, the impact of this cycle is expected to be felt by over **470,000 Ontarians**. This includes over **249,000 people who will be empowered to take deliberate actions that benefit the environment**, over **23,000 will develop meaningful connections in their communities**, and over **127,000 who will experience enhanced economic wellbeing**. This granting cycle experienced more competition for available funds resulting from the budget cut than ever before, particularly in rural communities. This emphasizes the continued importance and need for OTF funding, to help build thriving, vibrant communities.