

Appendix 2: Benefits of Granting

Benefits for Potential Applicants:

- No cost associated with application submission to reduce barriers for community partners seeking funding through granting.
- Flexibility to design application questions with community partners in mind, using accessible and direct language.
- Equity and Inclusion considerations can be built into granting framework, allowing for priority groups, including those that have been traditionally underrepresented and/or marginalized from access to service, to be adequately represented in funding allotment.
- Collaborative program design allows for community to partner with Niagara Region Community Services and determine joint priorities while maintaining transparency, integrity, and adherence to the Regions' legal requirements.
- A simplified application process enables administrative efficiencies for applicants, creating a positive user experience.
- Recruiting community members, subject matter experts, and those with lived experience to comprise the Grant Selection Panel allows for a transparent and collaborative review process while still maintaining consistent guidelines and clear expectations by using a standardized Grant Evaluation Matrix.
- Granting also supports an iterative program development and evaluation process, allowing staff to work with community partners to refine their programs to support program objectives and the rapidly changing needs of the community.

Benefits For Niagara Region Community Services/Niagara Region:

- A supportive approach to working with agencies that focused on collaboration and partnership. This allowed the Niagara Region to execute contracts with agencies that have historically not received municipal funding in the past. This includes agencies serving equity deserving groups, and those with limited resources.
- Granting, and the grant management platform, allows for customisable applications which can reflect the individual areas of focus and target populations of each grant.
- Simplified processes shorten timelines, which can allow funds to be flowed quicker to agencies. This could increase overall time for program implementation.
- Granting relies on support from Community Services staff in collaboration with community, therefore reducing the burden on procurement resources.
- Involving non-region staff in the grant selection panel increases transparency and builds trust within the community.