

COMMUNITY & RECREATION FACILITIES: NATURAL GAS/UTILITIES REBATE PROGRAM

HEADING

At the March 26, 2019 Council Meeting, it was requested of administration to provide a report on options for funding community associations to assist in subsidizing their operational costs.

CURRENT PROGRAM: the existing Community Enhancement and Recreation Grants do currently subsidize operational costs. The Halls and Facilities grants specifically fund a portion of Utilities and Insurance and thus are already assisting these community groups with their natural gas expenses.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM IDEAS: should Council wish to increase the budget allocated to the Recreation Grants to provide additional support, it is recommended to distribute funds in one of the following manners. These options have minimal impact on administration work and would not require complex adjustments to existing natural gas accounts in order to implement. The new program would be implemented within the current Community Enhancement and Recreations Grants program.

OPTION A: continue to encourage all halls and facilities to utilize the existing grants that are available, but not implement additional programs at this time.

OPTION B:

- As per initial Council direction, implement a Natural Gas Rebate program that would benefit those facilities and halls that are currently customers of the CVR Natural Gas Utility (but will exclude those that are not customers)
- There are currently 22 recreation facilities and community halls that are customers of CVR Natural Gas Utility (there are approximately 52 halls and recreation facilities within CVR – this does not include churches)
- These customers would qualify for the Rebate by doing the following:
 - Apply for one of our Operations Grants (for Halls or Recreation Facilities)
 - Indicate their Gas Utility customer number on the application form
 - If they complete the above 2 items, they would be eligible for a base rebate which would be added to their grant funding.
- Rebate Amount Options:

BUDGET AMOUNT	REBATE AMOUNT per applicant (based on 22 possible applicants)
\$6,000	\$275
\$7,000	\$315
\$8,000	\$360
\$9,000	\$410

OPTION C:

- To provide support to all potential facilities and halls, an additional budget amount would be added to the total amount available to the applicants. As the utilities are already being subsidized by the program, this would add additional funds to all applicants.
- If Council wished to support only those low-use facilities, (defined as those with less than 50 user days in a year) there would be approximately 15 facilities that would qualify for the rebate.

TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	REBATE AMOUNT per applicant (based on estimated 15 applicants with less than 50 user days in a year)
\$6,000	\$400
\$7,000	\$465
\$8,000	\$530
\$9,000	\$600

OPTION D:

- Alternatively, if Council wished to provide consistent assistance to all facilities and halls of all sizes, a set amount would be given to all applicants

TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	REBATE AMOUNT per applicant (based on 52 possible applicants)
\$6,000	\$115
\$7,000	\$135
\$8,000	\$150
\$9,000	\$175