

Agri-Food Innovation Program Guidelines

Grant Details

50% of total project cost (excluding taxes) up to \$3500. If Spruce the Bruce grant program is open, apply there first and your application will be automatically enrolled in our program.

Usage of Funds

Funding is for agricultural operators to improve or implement new value-added and innovative programs or technologies, software, and hardware.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to infrastructure related to the following:

- Agri-tourism experiences (e.g., adding a corn maze)
- Bioproduct farming (as defined by OMAFRA)
- Direct consumer sales (e.g., pick-your-own, roadside stands)
- Organic farming (e.g., free-range chickens)
- Small-scale Food & Beverage Processing (e.g., making jam on-site from grown raspberries)
- Specialty crops farming (as defined by Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA))
- Other projects approved by Township of Huron-Kinloss that include value-added or innovative purchases or implementation

Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Temporary, 'removable', or consumable project materials or elements
- New building construction
- General maintenance repairs

Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must be the tenant or the property owner. A letter of support from the property owner is required if the applicant is the tenant.
- **The business must be zoned agricultural, commercial, or mixed use and be located within the priority Community Improvement Plan (CIP) area 1-4.**
- The project must comply with all necessary Municipal, Provincial, Federal, and local food and safety regulations, and have received appropriate permits and permissions.
- Project work must not have started (including purchasing any materials) until the application has been approved.
- Properties previously awarded grants are not eligible for additional funding under the same grant category unless:
 - The grant was provided more than five years ago; or
 - Either the tenant and/or property owner changed since the last grant was provided; or
 - The application is clearly for different physical elements of the building/property

Review Criteria

The Downtown Improvement Grant Committee at the Township will review applications against the following criteria:

- Date and timing of the application
- Suitability of project and relation to eligibility guidelines
- Balance of funding available and any previous applications made at the time of application
- Evidence of the applicant's ability to fulfill responsibilities related to the project

Application Process

Applicants must complete an application form in order to be given consideration for a grant. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. If approved, funds will be allocated following completion of the project and proof of eligible expenses is received.

The terms and conditions of any grant or loan program and administrative procedures may be changed, altered, amended, or modified by the Township of Huron-Kinloss without the necessity of an amendment to the Community Improvement Plan. The Township may discontinue, suspend, or cancel any program, or decrease program funding without requiring an amendment to this Plan.

Applications to this program are available at the Township's municipal office at 21 Queen Street, Ripley or online at www.huronkinloss.com

519-395-3735

