

Access Fund Guidelines 2016 – DRAFT

City Commitment

The City of Peterborough (City) is committed to demonstrate leadership for accessibility in the community. Our goal is to meet the diverse needs of all people, and follow the principles of dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity. We will strive to achieve an inclusive environment for our facilities, goods, services, employment, information and transportation.

Introduction

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005) has a goal of an accessible Ontario by the year 2025. The City is obligated to follow the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards which includes a general requirement that accessibility must be considered for all procurement, as well as requirements for Employment, Transportation, Information and Communication and the Design of Public Spaces. Improvements to accessibility of the built environment are being implemented via revisions to the Ontario Building Code (2015). As such, most City projects now include accessibility as a legislated requirement and are budgeted accordingly.

Guidelines

The Access Fund is to be used to assist with the costs associated with removing and preventing barriers, initiatives that the City might otherwise not get to, or where the minimum legislated requirement should be enhanced. The costs can be related to the design of public spaces, transportation, built environment, customer service, or information and communications.

The Access Fund can only be used for City owned facilities and services.

Process

- All requests for funds must be sent to the Accessibility and Communication Specialist through an Access Fund Request Form.
- Where possible, each request shall be accompanied by at least three (3) quotes.
- Each request must be reviewed for approval by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) in a timely manner.
- It is the responsibility of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist to communicate the decision of the AAC with each applicant regarding the request for funds.
- If the request is approved, the Accessibility and Communication Specialist will arrange for the transfer of funds to the applicant and communicate the transfer of funds is complete to the AAC.

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- Without prior approval, the AAC will not reimburse any additional costs that are incurred by the applicant.
- At minimum, the Accessibility and Communication Specialist will provide a quarterly update to the AAC.