

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 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. As such, most City projects now include accessibility as a legislated requirement and are budgeted accordingly.

Guidelines

What is a project?

A project is when the City initiates an improvement to a good, service or facility. For example: purchase of a product, construction of a facility or a change to a process.

What projects are eligible?

The Access Fund may be used to finance project costs that will:

- a) Enhance accessibility in public spaces, transportation, the built environment, customer service, or information and communications;
- b) Remove and prevent barriers; or
- c) Help exceed minimum legislated accessibility requirements.

What are our Roles?

The Access Fund may be used by City Staff only. It may finance additional scope of work for existing projects or be used to open new projects.

AAC or AAC Sub-Committee members may recommend using the Access Fund to finance additional scope of work for existing projects. They may also recommend new projects. Recommendations must not delay, cancel or supersede Council approved projects, and must fit within existing or future work-plans.

How is an Access Fund Request Evaluated?

All Access Fund requests will be evaluated by the AAC to ensure the proposal is eligible. AAC Sub-Committees may also provide feedback for requests that relate to their committee work.

Process

1. City Staff will complete an Access Fund Request form. They will ensure the proposal complies with applicable legislative standards, City plans, policies, and by-laws. The form will include at least three (3) quotes, where possible.
2. All requests for funds must be sent to the Accessibility and Communication Specialist through an Access Fund Request Form.
3. Each request will be reviewed for approval by the AAC in a timely manner.
4. The Accessibility and Communication Specialist will communicate the decision of the AAC with each applicant regarding the request for funds.
5. If the request is approved, the Accessibility and Communication Specialist will arrange for the transfer of funds to the applicant and notify the AAC.
6. AAC will not reimburse any additional costs that are incurred by the applicant without prior approval.
7. At minimum, the Accessibility and Communication Specialist will provide a quarterly update on the Access Fund to the AAC.