

Municipal Modernization Funding

Thank you!

We would like to thank the Province of Ontario for its considerations over the years for several of our projects and look forward to a stronger relationship moving forward.

Proposal

The County of Renfrew is requesting that the Province fund and launch a new round of funding of the Municipal Modernization Fund that would enable municipalities of all sizes to build on the progress and efforts made during previous iterations.

Background

Building on the success of previous funding streams the County of Renfrew would like to discuss additional funding opportunities with regards to continuous improvements and modernization (i.e. the Municipal Modernization Fund).

As an upper tier government, we are not eligible for funding towards progressive initiatives through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and must rely on the municipal tax levy to fund innovation.

The County of Renfrew was one of the successful recipients of the first rounds of the Municipal Modernization Fund, and we accomplished an incredible amount of innovation.

We completed:

- A Service Delivery Review of our operations, which we continue to roll out efficiencies and modernization of our workforce.
- A reimagined and renovated workplace, bringing all services together under one common roof and administration building, creating a true integration of our services; many delivered as the Service Manager for Provincial programs.
- A Planning Services Review, with an effort to determine the path forward to modernizing the approval process to improve our housing stock.
- An IT and Digital Modernization strategy, with a keen view of rolling out technological infrastructure that would better serve the ratepayer.
- An online portal for community engagement.
- Modernization of our meeting live-streaming equipment.
- Installation of online phone technology (VOIP).
- Engagement of a Human Resource Information System (HRIS).

the DETAILS

Moving Forward

The County of Renfrew is looking past the extreme pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, as we continue to find innovative ways to deliver our programs and services, while ensuring financial pressures on the County/City taxpayer are kept to a minimum.

We are seekers of innovation; our efforts with the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre are a testament to that fact. We want to build on our strategies and continue to find and fund new programs that will streamline our processes and invigorate our workforce.

We are working together with our community partners, and many of our municipalities, on shared service efforts:

- Bringing together the numerous independently operated programs to combat the housing, homelessness, and mental health crisis under a unified direction without an overlap or duplication of service through;
 - A Warming Centre;
 - A Housing and Homelessness Hub; and
 - A Mobile Model of Care;
- A modular housing strategy and pilot project;
- Electronic land use permitting;
- Human Resource and Information Technology capacity sharing; and
- Automation of our meeting minutes and agenda software programs.

However, we have a severe shortfall of funding available to achieve the goals. While these initiatives will generate savings over the long term, we require funding to support the up-front investment costs to prevent additional burden to the County/City taxpayer.

We are hopeful that the Province will, once again, see the benefit of launching additional funding supports for municipalities that have continued to make service level enhancements and modernize the delivery of services.