



SLED Grants 2023

The 2023 SLED (Supporting Local Economic Development) program funds projects that address the strategic priorities from Huron County Economic Development’s 2022/25 plan including: workforce re-engagement, education, attraction and retention projects; business district and specific sector support programs; community economic development projects, tourism initiatives; youth and newcomer programs that support encouraging a sense of belonging.

Community Futures Huron contributes \$10,000 to the grant program, which awards up to a total \$100,000.

The program is offered annually to municipalities and registered non-profits. Applications are assessed on a merit basis and evaluated by a panel of local economic development professionals. Grants of up to \$10,000 can be applied for. Projects are assessed by a panel of three judges made up of two Huron Economic Development Board members and a Community Futures Huron Board member.

The 2023 SLED grant program recipients:

Applicant Name	Amount Awarded	Payments
Successful Applications		
Seaforth BIA	\$4,000	To enhance the downtown with environmental improvements – plantings to attract butterflies, and enhancement of the new mural with lighting.
Bayfield Lion’s Club	\$9,000	To acquire a refurbished Tom Penhale Landau carriage and build a two-cow barn behind the Archives, as a nod to the Disney history and to create a tourism attraction. Penhale grew up in Huron County and went on to build some of the most beautiful horse-drawn carriages in North America, including carriages for Disney, the Rose Bowl Parade Grand Marshall, Weston Foods and Wells Fargo.
Cultural Collective South Huron	\$6,000	To create a Community Exchange Program to provide activities for marginalized groups. This organization - which comprises more than 50 local artists, musicians, and cultural workers – centres on providing creative opportunities and enriching our local communities through arts and culture.
Eat Local Huron	\$7,500	To offer a second year of summer farm crawls. On three dates, folks who are interested in where their food comes from will drive to three or four farms for tours and treats. Eat Local Huron is a not-for-profit online farmers’ market that delivers locally sourced food to the doorsteps of Huron County residents.

Exeter & District Heritage Fund	\$2,000	To offset costs of the Exeter 150 th celebrations, a four-day event from June 29 to July 2 in and around the South Huron Rec Centre grounds.
Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health	\$9,000	To fund the SHARP Healthcare Camp to expose local youth to career opportunities in the healthcare sector.
Goderich Celtic Roots Festival	\$5,000	To bring Loreena McKennitt as headliner for the 31 st Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Aug. 11 to 13.
Goderich Little Theatre	\$3,000	To mount the first Festival of One Act Plays – First Time for Everything. This new festival allows newbies to theatre to give it a try.
Goderich Tourism	\$7,000	To bring back the Salt Festival, a three-day event to celebrate the town's salt history.
Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre	\$7,500	To fund a program that provides welcome food box for newcomers to Canada. Many newcomers face food insecurity. HCFBDC is a warehouse that distributes food to food banks and local aid agencies in Huron County.
Municipality of Huron East	\$6,700	Guidebook and audio component for existing walking tours, to highlight the area's heritage, stories and folklore.
Huron Waves Music Festival	\$8,660	To offset costs of the Gaia Installation, which highlights the fragility of Earth. This installation at Trivitt Anglican Church in Exeter, from June 1 to July 3, will be promoted to educators and students, and to the general public. Huron Waves creates music festivals featuring local, provincial, national and international musical talent.
St. Joseph's Kingsbridge Community	\$4,640	Two-day Taste of Huron event in conjunction with Kingsbridge the Musical V – What a Year it Was! in early June, held at the Kingsbridge Centre. This former church is now a multi-use facility run by volunteers. The upstairs is used for cultural activities while the downstairs is being renovated for an education centre.
Municipality of North Huron	\$7,500	To fund the new Wingham Arts Markets.
Pioneer Park Association	\$5,000	To co-ordinator summer entertainment & programming for youth, seniors and visitors in the community.
Zurich Bean Festival	\$7,500	To help replace the roof in the bean kitchen, where the beans are cooked for the annual event, which will be held Aug. 22 and 23 this year.
Total Awarded	\$100,000	