

Report to Council



Date: January 14, 2019
File: 0710-01
To: City Manager
From: Tom Clark, Community Recreation Coordinator
Subject: Community Child Care Planning & Needs Assessment Grant Application

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager dated January 14, 2019 with respect to the Union of BC Municipalities grant for the Community Child Care Planning Program.

AND THAT Council directs staff to submit a grant application for a Community Child Care Planning & Needs Assessment as the primary applicant in a collaborative submission with the City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country and District of Peachland for a grant funding request of \$100,000, which the City of Kelowna would be responsible to manage on behalf of the co-applicants.

Purpose:

To provide Council with information on a grant funding opportunity and a recommendation to proceed with a joint application for \$100,000 with the District of Lake Country, the City of West Kelowna and the District of Peachland.

Background:

On September 11th, 2018 the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development announced two new funding programs to support local governments to better understand local child care needs and to develop new child care spaces in their communities. One of the funding programs, named the Community Child Care Planning program will be administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. There is \$2.85 million earmarked for this program, with eligible projects able to receive up to \$25,000 per local municipality or regional district included in the application. Funded projects will collect information regarding the child care needs of the community; create an inventory of existing child care spaces; identify space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identify actions that can be taken to meet those space creation needs.

This funding is only available for local governments in BC to apply for child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. This puts the onus on local government to assess the needs of the community in order to plan responsibly for future needs.

The City of Kelowna delivers licensed child care in the form of Afterschool Care at Bankhead Elementary and Watson Road Elementary School as well as Licensed Preschool and before school care at Watson Road Elementary School. The Active Living and Culture department is also involved in children's programming across the City, so this assessment can help better understand children's needs in our community in order for the City to be more intentional in future planning.

The information gathered will be shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to inform future space creation investments through programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund, and the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, which both have up to \$1 million available in future project funding. The collection of this information will help local governments better understand the child care needs regionally and in their community, and make informed decisions on future child care planning. This project will also help to understand the specific needs of underserved populations in the Central Okanagan, and identify actionable steps to address them.

Collaborative Project

It has been noted that collecting data on the entire Central Okanagan would be very valuable in terms of future planning because there are already so many crossovers in child care between communities. For example, families from outlying communities may use child care in Kelowna or vice versa because Licensed child care spaces are full or unavailable in their community, or do not meet their specific need. This project would help improve the understanding of the full scope of care across the Central Okanagan, and produce beneficial strategies for actions to address the needs.

Representatives from the City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country and District of Peachland have expressed their support on a joint application to complete a child care planning and needs assessment. Through regional collaboration, a comprehensive understanding of child care needs across the Okanagan can be assessed providing valuable information for short, mid and long range planning. Each local government is required to provide council resolutions to accompany the grant application. Staff members from local governments will collaborate on the project, with budget from the grant allocated towards consulting and public engagement costs.

In addition to other local government collaboration, the Child Care Council of Central Okanagan has been identified as a key community partner. The Child Care Council of Central Okanagan includes child care owner/operator/managers, post-secondary educators, as well as Early Childhood Educators and parent representatives from the Central Okanagan. Stakeholders from child care facilities and community groups across the region will participate in surveys and community research as well.

Each municipality is eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in funding; with four municipalities collaborating, the regional request will be for \$100,000. As the primary applicant for the project, the City of Kelowna accepts the responsibility to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on the other local governments' behalf. The primary applicant is responsible for completion of the project as approved, meeting reporting requirements and maintaining proper fiscal management, with UBCM reserving the right to audit records.

Outcomes

The project consists of four main components:

1. Community child care space inventory: to gain a comprehensive overview of the current spaces available for child care.
2. Community stakeholder engagement workshops: to further assess the needs in the region and gain information for implementing the child care survey.
3. Child care survey for child care providers and parents: to build more context for the needs of the communities with an emphasis on underserved populations. Questions will be oriented around community needs, such as convenience of location, hours, space availability, special requirements and co-location opportunities. The trends identified from these surveys will highlight whether the number and types of child care spaces are sufficient and which locations and populations are in most need.
4. Community child care space creation action plan: interpreting trends in the data in order to create action plans for each local government to meet the needs assessed. A review of local plans, policies and bylaws will identify any barriers to the creation of licensed care spaces in the community and actions that can encourage growth.

Next Steps

In order to submit the grant application by the January 18th deadline, a council resolution supporting the City of Kelowna as the primary applicant for the grant is required. Co-applicants will also provide resolutions from their respective councils as well.

Applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 90 days of the application deadline. If the funding application is approved, staff will convene a steering committee with the local government co-applicants and key community partners. A Request for Proposal will be issued to secure the services necessary to conduct the research and reporting.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Communications Advisor
Grants & Special Projects Manager
Sustainability Coordinator
Payroll and Internal Controls Manager

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: \$100,000 grant is requested to UBCM on behalf of four municipalities. There is no matching component to the grant and therefore no financial impact to the City. The City will be accountable for the distribution and reporting of the grant monies received.

External Agency/Public Comments: Council resolutions to co-apply with the City are expected from the District of Lake Country, the City of West Kelowna and the District of Peachland. A letter of support is expected from the Child Care Council of the Central Okanagan.

Existing Policy:

- **Council Policy 360 Social Policy** - Child Care Collaboration: Collaborate with community, government and agencies for the provision of child care in the city.
- **Community for All Action Plan** – Create a city that is healthy, safe, active and inclusive for seniors, children and those with diverse abilities.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: M. Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel; Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Attachments: Presentation – Community Child Care Planning and Needs Assessment

cc:

Divisional Director, Financial Services

Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments