

# Report to Council



**Date:** June 21, 2021

**To:** Council

**From:** City Manager

**Subject:** Reaching Home – Designated Communities Intermediary Agreement

**Department:** Active Living & Culture

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information the report from Active Living & Culture dated June 21, 2021, regarding a Reaching Home – Designated Communities Intermediary Agreement with the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society;

AND THAT Council approves the Intermediary Agreement to accept the Reaching Home – Designated Communities grant funding over the next two years in the amount of \$187,132.00 from the Central Okanagan Foundation on behalf of the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute all documents necessary to complete the Agreement;

AND THAT Council supports a \$187,132.00 grant to the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society to support the Society's work to develop and implement a coordinated access system to address homelessness in Kelowna;

AND THAT the Financial Plan be amended to include receiving and granting of \$187,132.00.

## **Purpose:**

**To approve receipt and granting of the Reaching Home, Designated Communities funds to the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society for development and implementation of a coordinated access system to address homelessness in Kelowna.**

## **Background:**

Reaching Home is a community-based federally funded program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 58 urban Designated Communities across Canada. Under the program directives, Kelowna as a Designated Community is provided with guidance to implement the funding program requirements. Reaching Home requires all Designated Communities to have a coordinated access system in place by March 31, 2022. Locally, these funds are administered

by the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF). In their role as Community Entity, COF is responsible for managing the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Strategy funds and supporting the local Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB-H) to develop a community plan and inform local priority setting and decision-making.

A coordinated access system is the process by which individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness are provided with community-level access points where trained workers use a common assessment tool to evaluate their support needs, prioritize them for housing support services, and then help to match them to available housing-focused interventions. Quality coordinated access systems share several features, including a centralized database that collects and displays real-time data and available housing and supports; clear access points of entry; common assessment; standardized protocols; and resources focused on ensuring that people can connect with appropriate housing and housing supports in an efficient and timely manner.

**Discussion:**

Kelowna's CAB-H has directed that the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society (COJHS), in its role as the local backbone organization supporting the work to move towards an integrated systems approach to addressing homelessness, be the recipient of the Reaching Home coordinated access funding. However, COJHS is not eligible to access the funds directly as they do not currently have charitable status. COJHS is continuing their work to prepare to reapply to Revenue Canada to become a registered charity.

The Reaching Home coordinated access funds are being administered to Designated Communities over a series of years, and this report recommends that the City accept the funding for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 on behalf of COJHS in accordance with the timeline of the current Memorandum of Understanding between COJHS and the City. Should COJHS obtain charitable status during this timeframe, the Intermediary Agreement will be terminated.

Under the Intermediary Agreement the City commits to receive the funds and then grant the funds to COJHS in a timely manner, upon receipt of invoices from COJHS. Once the Intermediary agreement between the City and COJHS is in place, COF will enter into a Reaching Home Designated Communities Funding Agreement with COJHS outlining the funding directives.

**Conclusion:**

Through the shift towards an integrated system approach supported by the Designated Communities Reaching Home coordinated access funding program, Kelowna will continue to work towards establishing a comprehensive data management system. Supported by COJHS as the lead to develop, manage, and operationalize a comprehensive data system, our community will be better equipped to support individuals experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness with more effective and timely access to housing and housing supports.

**Internal Circulation:**

Active Living & Culture  
City Clerks  
Finance  
Communications

**Considerations applicable to this report:**

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

The Reaching Home program will be providing funding to Designated Communities across Canada over the next three years. Subject to the terms of the Reaching Home Intermediary Agreement with Central Okanagan Foundation, the City will receive up to \$187,132 from 2021-2023 and in turn will grant the funds to COJHS. The funding will be paid as follows:

- In Fiscal Year 2021-2022 up to \$118,409
- In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 up to \$68,723

Staff are requesting that Council approve an amendment to the Financial Plan to include up to \$187,132 from Reaching Home, Designated Communities fund from the Central Okanagan Foundation and that these funds be granted to the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society for development and implementation of a coordinated access system to address homelessness in Kelowna.

Should COJHS obtain charitable status during this timeframe, the Intermediary Agreement will be terminated, and the remaining funds will be granted from the Central Okanagan Foundation to COJHS directly.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:***

***Existing Policy:***

***External Agency/Public Comments:***

***Communications Comments:***

Submitted by: S. Wheeler, Social Development Manager, Active Living & Culture

Approved for inclusion:



J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Attachment: 2021-06-21 City-COJHS Reaching Home Intermediary Agreement – DRAFT

cc: L. Bentley, Deputy City Clerk  
K. Hughes, Financial Planning Manager  
L. Thorimbert, Communications Advisor  
M. Kam Grants & Special Project Manager