

Report to Council



Date: November 28, 2022
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Revised Reaching Home – Designated Communities Intermediary Agreement
Department: Active Living & Culture

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report from Active Living & Culture dated November 28, 2022, regarding a revised Reaching Home – Designated Communities Intermediary Agreement with the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society;

AND THAT Council approves the revised Intermediary Agreement to accept the Reaching Home – Designated Communities grant funding over the next year to increase grant funding by \$80,850 for a grand total amount of \$149,573 from the Central Okanagan Foundation on behalf of the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture, to execute all documents necessary to complete the revised Agreement for 2022-2023;

AND THAT Council supports a \$149,573 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 FURTHER THAT the Financial Plan be amended to include receiving and granting the revised amount of an additional \$80,850 for 2022-2023.

Purpose:

To approve a revised Intermediary Agreement between the City and the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society (COJHS) for the receipt and granting of an updated amount of Reaching Home, Designated Communities funds for 2022-2023 to COJHS.

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. 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.

The Reaching Home directive required that all Designated Communities had a coordinated access system in place by March 31, 2022. A coordinated access system is the process by which the support needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness are assessed in order to prioritize and match them to housing support services. Quality coordinated access systems include a centralized database based on 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.

Locally, COJHS is leading a process designed to develop a system of coordinated access that highlights service gaps and allows for seamless service delivery for individuals. This includes a shift to an outcomes-based approach, utilizing more comprehensive data to establish baselines against which progress toward important outcomes—like the reduction of chronic homelessness—can be measured.

Previous Council Resolution

| Resolution | Date |
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| <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>AND THAT the Financial Plan be amended to include receiving and granting of \$187,132.00.</p> | <p>June 21, 2021</p> |

Discussion:

Kelowna’s CAB-H has directed that 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 currently reviewing whether or not they will reapply to Revenue Canada to become a registered charity.

The Reaching Home coordinated access funds are being distributed to Designated Communities over a series of years. At the June 21, 2021 meeting Council approved an Intermediary Agreement between the City and COJHS for the City to accept the funding for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 on behalf of COJHS. The agreement noted that should COJHS obtain charitable status during this timeframe, the Intermediary Agreement will be terminated.

The original Intermediary Agreement addressed Reaching Home Coordinated Access funding for the fiscal years 2021/2022 (\$118,409) and 2022/2023 (\$68,723). However, as a Designated Community, Kelowna will receive incremental funding due to the Government of Canada's Budget 2021 announcement of \$567.2 million over two years (2022-2023) for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. As a result, the Intermediary Agreement needs to be revised to reflect the increased funding in 2022-2023. Once the revised Intermediary Agreement between the City and COJHS is in place, COF will enter into a new 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, COJHS will continue to lead the work to develop, manage, and operationalize a comprehensive coordinated access system. Through this work our community will be better equipped to support individuals experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness with more effective and timely access to housing support services.

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Considerations applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The Reaching Home program is currently providing funding to Designated Communities across Canada over three years. Subject to the terms of the June 21, 2021 Reaching Home Intermediary Agreement with COF, the City was to receive up to \$187,132 over three years (2021-2023) and in turn grant the funds to COJHS. Due to incremental funding through the 2021 federal budget, Kelowna will now receive a total amount up to \$267,982, \$118,409 of which was received during the first fiscal year (2021-2022) of the original Intermediary Agreement.

The revised Intermediary Agreement reflects the additional funding in 2022-23:

- In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 – Agreement is being revised to reflect an additional \$80,850, increasing the total for this fiscal year from \$68,723 to up to \$149,573.

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

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

cc: L. Bentley, Deputy City Clerk
M. Antunes, Financial Planning Manager
L. Thornimbert, Communications Advisor
M. Kam, Grants & Special Projects Manager

Attachment: 2022-11-21 City-COJHS Revised Reaching Home Intermediary Agreement