

Report to Council



Date: March 13, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grant Funding
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office dated March 13, 2023, with respect to the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grant Funding.

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for grant funding for the Kelowna Food Systems Mapping and Innovation Project through the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grant.

AND THAT Council support staff to execute all documents necessary to complete the grant, if successful.

AND FURTHER THAT, if the grant application is successful, the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of funds.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grant, and to receive support to apply for the grant funding.

Background:

The Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program is to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and to support the provincial TogetherBC: British Columbia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. Mandated through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, the strategy set targets to reduce the overall poverty rate in British Columbia by at least 25%, and the child poverty rate by at least 50%, by 2024.

The Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program provides two streams of funding: 1) Poverty Reduction Plans and Assessments and 2) Poverty Reduction Action. Through a regional approach, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan, alongside partner municipalities including the City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, City of West Kelowna, and the District of Peachland, led the development of a Poverty Reduction Plan and Assessment for the area, referred to as the Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy. The Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy (COPAWS) charts a path towards opportunities for everyone in the Central Okanagan where every

person and family can meet basic needs, cultivate resilience, and feel a sense of meaningful inclusion. Food security, which was identified as a priority through COPAWS, has emerged locally as a key area for action.

As only municipal and regional governments are eligible to apply for funding under the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Grant program, the City of Kelowna will be the applicant for this funding on behalf of the community and key partners to advance this critical work in our community. If the funding application is successful, United Way BC will be a lead partner in facilitating the proposed project.

Discussion:

The City of Kelowna will be applying to UBCM for stream 2 to develop and implement an action plan focused on food security in Kelowna. The Kelowna Food Systems Mapping and Innovation Project is being designed to support the collaborative implementation of food security and capacity building within the sector. The project will have three key components:

1. Development of a Food Systems Map that helps all system actors understand the food system touch points and how they function, the interconnections between different components of the system, identify places to strengthen the system, and support innovation and action to improve services.
2. Facilitation and collaboration among the food system actors, creating momentum with a specific focus on action within the key areas of food distribution, food waste diversion, innovation, and food literacy. The intent will be to develop new partnerships and identify projects to move the dial on each of these areas.
3. Designing a framework to support the development of a food hub model in Kelowna, through the collaborative systems mapping and action work. This framework will provide the foundation for building a governance infrastructure to address issues related to poverty and to support the ongoing implementation of actions derived from the Regional Poverty Reduction Plan.

This project will be completed with guidance from individuals and families experiencing economic disadvantage, in partnership with key food security and community partners.

Conclusion:

The City actively pursues grants to reduce municipal taxation and to leverage City funding for infrastructure, services, and program to support Council, corporate and community priorities.

This funding opportunity will enable important food security collaboration and actions in Kelowna.

Internal Circulation:

Social Development
Financial Services

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

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Approved for inclusion:



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cc: