

Report to Council



Date: June 5, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Complete Communities Program Grant
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office Department dated June 5, 2023 with respect to the Complete Communities Program Grant;

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for grant funding for the Urban Centre Planning project through the UBCM Complete Communities Program;

AND THAT Council support the current proposed activities and endorse staff to provide overall grant management;

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

Purpose:

To support a grant application through the UBCM Complete Communities Program to fund a data-driven framework for Urban Centre planning efforts.

Background:

The Ministry of Housing is providing \$10 million of funding through the UBCM Complete Communities Program to support local governments to enhance their ability to make evidence-based land use planning decisions. Staff is proposing to leverage these resources to advance planning efforts for Kelowna's Urban Centres. This would provide needed directions for growth management for those neighbourhoods while helping deliver on Council Priorities, including:

- **Affordable Housing.** In conjunction with the Housing Needs Assessment and Infill Options Program, advancing Urban Centre planning allows for additional opportunities to deliver more housing options in Kelowna.
- **Transportation.** Urban Centre planning identifies transportation needs to accommodate growth beyond the 2040 OCP projections, addressing Council Priority Actions such as improving transit service, improving traffic flow, and enhancing traffic safety.

- **Climate and Environment.** Urban Centre planning applies a climate lens to neighbourhood planning, speaking to these neighbourhoods can both mitigate and adapt to climate change, addressing Council Priority Actions such as increasing the urban tree canopy.

Discussion:

Through the UBCM Complete Communities Program local governments are eligible for up to \$150,000 in funding to undertake planning work that analyzes and identifies strengths, opportunities, challenges, and potential actions that support the creation of more complete communities. The grant focuses on creating complete communities through planning efforts that include a lens on housing (need, supply and location), transportation (options including increasing walkability), and making connections to infrastructure and daily needs.

The Complete Communities grant funding will allow staff to create a unique interactive data-driven mapping tool that would assist the City, development community and Kelowna residents in decision making ahead of the completion of detailed Urban Centre Plans. This tool would also position the City to deliver those much needed Plans more quickly and would include revised population and employment projections for each Urban Centre, as assessment of areas that are more likely to see redevelopment and other information typically provided in the early stages of an individual Urban Centre planning process. This work would be undertaken in conjunction with development of the next Urban Centre Plan, making more efficient use of staff time and resources.

Conclusion:

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

Urban Centres are evolving rapidly, and an approach that advances planning efforts more quickly across those neighbourhoods is an important step in advancing Council's Priorities and implementation of the 2040 OCP. The Complete Communities funding can enhance decision making and livability in Urban Centres.

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Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Should the City be successful in this grant application, the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of funds. These funds would supplement the \$75,000 of annual funding for Urban Centre Planning identified in the Policy and Planning base budget. Should the City not be successful in the Complete Communities Grant application, staff would explore options to accelerate Urban Centre planning work, with possible 2024 budget considerations.

Submitted by: M. Kam, Grants and Special Projects Manager

Approved for inclusion:



BE, Partnerships Office Director

cc: Policy & Planning