

Report to Council



Date: November 9, 2016
File: 0710-01
To: City Manager
From: Jim Gabriel, Division Director, Active Living & Culture
Subject: Regional Grant-in-Aid Funding Transition
Report Prepared by: S. Kochan, Cultural Services Manager

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report of the Division Director, Active Living & Culture dated November 9, 2016 regarding Regional Grant-in-Aid Funding Transition.

Purpose:

To update Council regarding the transition of grant-in-aid funding from the Regional District of Central Okanagan to the City of Kelowna.

Background:

Staff provided a report to Council on September 28, 2015 with action items arising from a Grant Program Review in the Active Living & Culture Division.

Included in that report was information about the City of Kelowna's participation in the Regional District of Central Okanagan's Grant-in-Aid Program (GIA), and the potential implications of changing or eliminating Kelowna's participation.

Council directed staff to commence discussions with the Regional District of Central Okanagan and report back to Council. Staff were advised by RDCO staff that the RDCO Board had decided to discontinue the GIA program and that communications would be forthcoming.

In May 2016, the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) advised grant recipients by letter that 2016 would be the final year for the GIA Program, and that all applicants are directed to submit any future requests directly to the individual municipalities or the electoral areas directors.

Staff have analyzed Kelowna's GIA funding contributions for the years 2010 to 2016 and information from that analysis is provided in Appendix A. Of note:

- Kelowna's contribution to GIA ranged from \$178,061 in 2013 to \$119,370 in 2016. Between 2014 and 2016, contributions decreased each year.
- Although some organizations have been supported by Kelowna only once or twice in the seven grant cycles between 2010 and 2016, there are eight organizations which have consistently received funding each year since 2010 or 2011.
- Organizations supported by Kelowna in the GIA can be grouped into four broad categories: health (approximately 12% of Kelowna support between 2010 and 2016); social service (57%); arts/culture/heritage (11%); community (20%). These patterns can inform future allocation of funds in existing City of Kelowna grant programs, depending on other emerging priorities and needs.
- Although City staff have not reviewed all GIA applications received by RDCO for the period 2010 to 2016, a partial scan indicates that support for health and social service organizations was often dedicated to specific projects rather than ongoing operations.

Based on the analysis, staff have prepared a 2017 budget request for Council's consideration for \$100,000 in transitional funding to ensure that elimination of the RDCO GIA program will not create undue hardship in the community in 2017. After completion of the 2017 grant cycle, staff will have more information about the impact that elimination of regional GIA will have in the community and upon City of Kelowna grant programs.

The following discussion points emerge:

- If the 2017 transitional funding is approved, staff will return to Council in early January 2017 with recommendations for allocation of the transitional funding between various grant programs administered by the Active Living & Culture Division. These include Community Social Development, Sport, Event and Culture Grants. Allocation recommendations will be informed by previous funding patterns, but may also reflect new opportunities and priorities emerging in the community;
- The RDCO GIA program typically called for applications at year end, with a mid-January deadline. Some applicants may not be aware that the program has been eliminated. Pro-active and early communication from the City can reassure the non-profit community that funding opportunities through City of Kelowna grant programs continue to be available.
- Some important regional initiatives, such as Community Gardens, may not meet eligibility criteria in existing City of Kelowna programs, and merit consideration for ongoing funding through a mechanism other than an annual grant process.

Internal Circulation: Financial Planning Manager, Communications Supervisor, Social Development Manager, Community and Neighbourhood Services Manager

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

If the 2017 budget submission is not approved, transition funding will not be injected into existing City of Kelowna grant programs. Applicants previously supported through RDCO GIA may apply to City of Kelowna grant programs, thereby increasing the demand for the current funding envelope. Some programs are already over-subscribed. For example, in 2016, there were 18 applications, requesting \$178,126, in the Community Social Development Grant program which had a total of \$102,000 available. Increasing the demand without increasing the size of the funding envelope means that worthwhile social development initiatives may be under- or un-funded. This may create hardship for the organizations and the people they serve.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
Personnel Implications
External Agency/Public Comments
Communications Comments
Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by: J. Gabriel, Division Director, Active Living & Culture

Approved for inclusion:

Included:

Appendix A: RDCO GIA Applications supported by City of Kelowna 2010-2016

cc: Financial Planning Manager
Communications Supervisor
Social Development Manager
Community and Neighbourhood Services Manager
Manager - Corporate Services, Regional District of Central Okanagan