

Report to Council



Date: December 4, 2017
File: 0710-30
To: City Manager
From: Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager
Subject: 2018 Community Social Development Grants and Transitional Grant-in-Aid Funding

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager dated December 4, 2017, regarding the Community Social Development Grants and transitional grant in aid funding;

AND THAT Council approves the on-going allocation of \$100,000 as per the 2017 Transitional Grant-in-Aid allocation:

- \$85,000 to the Community Social Development Grant program; and
- \$15,000 to the Organization Development Grant program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve the resiliency approach to prioritize Community Social Development Grant applications for the 2018 grant intake as outlined in the report of the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager, dated December 4, 2017.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval for the ongoing allocation of the transitional grant-in-aid funds as distributed in 2017 and introduction of the resiliency approach for the 2018 Community Social Development Grant intake.

Background:

RDCO Transitional Funding

As part of the 2017 preliminary budget Council approved the allocation of \$100,000 to address the elimination of the RDCO Grant-In-Aid funding. Of that budget, \$85,000 was directed to the Community Social Development Grant and \$15,000 was committed to the Organization Development Grants. Dividing the funding between these two streams enables the City to support social sustainability

initiatives and also to develop the capacity of non-profit organizations to deliver their services in the sport, event, culture and social service sectors.

At the January 23, 2017 Council meeting, Council directed staff to report back with recommendations for allocation of transitional Grant-in Aid funds for 2018 and subsequent years. At the conclusion of the 2017 budget year, the allocation of this transitional fund has been sufficient for both grants.

- Social Development Grant - 14 applications approved for a total of \$169,348
- Organization Development Grant – 8 applications approved for a total of \$25,431

Staff recommend that this level of funding be maintained for both the Community Social Development Grants and the Organization Development Grants. A report regarding updated guidelines for the Organization Development Grants will be coming to Council early in 2018.

Community Social Development Grants

Also at the January 23, 2017 Council meeting, Council reviewed and approved amendments to Council Policy 218 – Community Social Development Grants. The revisions were made to make it more intentional in addressing the social health of our community. Staff reported to Council that more work would be done on the Community Social Development Grant program in 2017 as other major projects continued to take shape.

The City is committed to social sustainability as demonstrated through Social Policy 360, the Official Community Plan (Chapter 10), the Social Framework and through the following Council Priorities:

- Housing diversity
- Public safety
- Homelessness
- Ensuring a healthy, safe, active and inclusive community

Resiliency Approach

As noted in the Social Framework, “social sustainability is about connections between people.” It is about building diverse networks of people that can rely on and support each other. It is about building trust, compassion and collaboration. Social sustainability has a broad scope and consequently, awarding social grants proves challenging without defined parameters. To align with Council priorities and community needs (as identified in current research), staff recommend introducing a resiliency approach to become more intentional with this grant program. Using the definition of resiliency from the Housing Needs Assessment, *resiliency refers to the ability of a system to respond to, absorb and recover from sudden or unexpected changes*. In other words, the Community Social Development Grants have an opportunity to build capacity in the community which will enable organizations and individuals to respond to emerging social challenges.

Drawing from Social Policy 360, the Social Framework, the Official Community Plan and linking these guiding documents to current objectives identified in plans such as the Housing Needs Assessment (Journey Home Strategy) and the Community for All Action Plan, staff have identified prominent themes that build social resiliency:

- Create a culture of inclusivity and increase opportunities for social connections and support, particularly for residents who are isolated or vulnerable

- Support initiatives that focus on capacity building to prevent homelessness and provide housing support

The table below demonstrates how the Community Social Development Grant becomes more strategic when the various filters are applied. While the “Guiding Documents” are intended to be relevant over an extended period of time, Council priorities and current objectives look at the prominent issues of today. Supporting aspects of each of these, the far right hand column captures the potential of the Community Social Development Grants to build capacity and make an impact.

Guiding Document	Council Priority(ies)	Current Objective(s)	Resiliency Theme
Council Policy 360 – Diversity and inclusion: Collaborate with other agencies to deliver programs and services which improve diversity, equity and inclusion Official Community Plan – Socially sustainable communities promote mutual respect, with people living together harmoniously	Ensuring a healthy, safe and inclusive community	Community for All Action Plan - Expand programs that identify and connect with isolated and vulnerable residents - Foster intergenerational opportunities	Create a culture of inclusivity and increase opportunities for social connections and support, particularly for residents who are isolated or vulnerable
Official Community Plan – Socially sustainable communities allow residents to meet basic needs for food, shelter, education work, income, recreation and safe living and working conditions	Homelessness; Ensuring a safe and inclusive community	Journey Home Strategy - Develop a made-for-Kelowna long-term strategy to prevent homelessness and, if it does occur, to ensure that it is rare, short-lived, and non-reoccurring	Support initiatives that focus on capacity building to prevent homelessness and provide housing support

These Resiliency Themes were selected as they lay the groundwork for social connection and capacity building. Highlighting these themes within the grant guidelines does not change the eligibility of the grant; however, in the event that the grant is over-subscribed, those applications which align with the Resiliency Themes, and meet the conditions outlined in Council Policy 218, will be given priority. This practice of using themes as a filter to make the program more responsive to community needs will be evaluated after the 2018 grant adjudication period. Staff will report back to Council in May on the effectiveness of this addition as part of the report notifying Council on the grant recipients.

Next Steps:

Should Council approve the resiliency approach for the 2018 Community Social Development Grants, staff will work with the Central Okanagan Foundation to create guidelines and an application to reflect this. The Community Social Development Grant deadline for 2018 is February 23. Council will be notified of recipients in May, 2018.

Internal Circulation: Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture; Divisional Director, Financial Services; Social Development Manager; Cultural Services Manager; Community Communications Manager; Sustainability Coordinator; Deputy City Clerk

Existing Policy:

Council Policy 218 Community Social Development Grants

Council Policy 360 Social Policy

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Social Development Grant – base budget for this program is \$187,000 which includes the 2017 increase of \$85,000. This program is administered through a service agreement with the Central Okanagan Foundation.

Organizational Development Grant – base budget for this program is \$30,000 which includes the 2017 increase of \$15,000. This program is administered through City staff.

External Agency/Public Comments

This report has been prepared in consultation with the Central Okanagan Foundation in their role as the contractor providing arms-length administration and review of the Community Social Development Grant program.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements

Personnel Implications

Communications Comments

Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:

M. Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

Attachments:

Council Policy 218 Community Social Development Grants

Cc: Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Financial Services
Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments