

2021 Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program

ISSUE

The Social Services Subcommittee (Subcommittee) completed the adjudication process for the 2021 Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program, Social Services Category and respectfully submits this report and recommendations for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the recommended grants, in the form of cash and property tax abatements totalling \$1,590,630.51 under the Social Services Category, Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program, be approved; and
2. That Administration continue to execute three-year funding agreements with flagship organizations.

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee is appointed by recommendation of the Governance and Priorities Committee to City Council and consists of: Andrea Howe, Chairperson, United Way of Saskatoon and Area; Janet Simpson, Saskatoon Public Schools; Emily Martell, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools; and Om Kochar, Member at Large. The Subcommittee reviews applications from non-profit social service organizations, pursuant to Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups, ensuring objectives of the policy are met.

The 2021 Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program, Social Services Category is administered as part of the Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership. The Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership is a collaboration between two Saskatoon organizations that provide grants to community groups. The partners associated grants are as follows:

- City of Saskatoon – Social Services Grant Program; and
- United Way - Community Initiatives Fund.

The Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership is organized so that the partners use the same application form. Each partner retains their own funding priorities, eligibility criteria and review processes. The partners collaborate for the benefit of the community yet maintain their own decision-making processes and control of the funds.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Sub-Committee Recommends Support to 48 Saskatoon Agencies.

The Subcommittee reviewed the requests for funding, following the guidelines set out by Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups. Funding support is provided via cash and tax abatements:

- The Subcommittee reviewed 62 applications requesting a total of \$2,022,366.66.

- Recommendations include support totalling \$1,590,630.51, which represents funding 48 agencies total, ten flagship organizations and 38 community-based organizations being recommended for cash grants and property tax abatements.
- The \$1,590,630.51 is made up of \$545,800.00 in cash and \$1,044,830.51 in tax abatements (see Appendix 1).

Flagship Agencies Currently Engaged in Funding Agreements

In 2009, City Council approved criteria to identify flagship organizations that were eligible for multi-year funding agreements (see Appendix 2). The multi-year funding agreements:

- reduce administrative workload with applicant agencies; and
- provide agencies with a stable funding source to assist them in strategically meeting the needs of vulnerable people in Saskatoon.

The Subcommittee recommends funding for flagship organizations be continued for the third and final year of the 2019 to 2021 three-year cycle. The funding for each organization is included in Appendix 1.

The Collaborative Funders Address Community Needs

The Subcommittee is once again pleased to participate in the Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership which allows funders to address needs in the community in a more collaborative manner and encourages the effectual use of funds. Through the funding process, the Subcommittee will successfully cross-reference grants with other funders to ensure as many agencies as possible receive assistance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This program is funded through the operating budget in the Community Support Business Line. The 2021 budgeted Service Line provides for \$552,600 in cash. The remaining \$6,800 is to be allocated to costs related to administration of Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership and maintenance of the online database.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications to consider.

NEXT STEPS

Final notification of funding decisions will be sent to all applications by June 15, 2021.

APPENDICES

1. 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant Social
2. City of Saskatoon - Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program Social Services Category – Flagship Category Multi-Year Agreements

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Andrea Howe, Chairperson, Social Services Sub-Committee
Reviewed by: Tenille Thomson, Social Development Manager
Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services