

Admin Report - Stand-Alone Funding Agreements for 2020 and 2021.docx

ISSUE

The Recreation and Community Development Division oversees the administration of the Stand-Alone Grant Funding Program. Stand-Alone grant recipients are those organizations not currently part of a defined granting program. They are part of a long standing group of agencies within a non-competitive, Council directed, grant funding category. There are four agencies in the program: Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services; Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre Inc. (EGADZ); Wanuskewin Heritage Park; and Saskatchewan Health Authority–Brief Social Detox Unit. In order to align with the multi-year Business Plan and Budget, the four agencies will be entering into two-year funding agreements for 2020 and 2021. Of the four, Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services and Wanuskewin Heritage Park are requesting an increase to their current funding level.

BACKGROUND

At its November 24, 2014 meeting, City Council considered a report from the Administration recommending a defined, transparent and consistent process for receiving and reviewing funding requests from grant recipients and approved, in part, the following:

“That the process for approving non-competitive City Council directed grants (stand-alone grants), as set out in the November 3, 2014 report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, be approved.”

The report, which was in response to an audit of the grants administration processes, also recommended multi-year funding agreements for stand-alone grants and a formal application and accountability process for ongoing funding requests.

A new formalized process, for receiving and approving funding requests for the Stand-Alone Grant Program, was approved in 2014 for implementation in the 2016 fiscal year. This process facilitated three-year funding agreements for grant recipients, for the period 2016 to 2018, and subsequent one-year agreements for 2019.

CURRENT STATUS

The four agencies that are funded through the Stand-Alone Grant Program have a long history of providing valuable services and programs to community. As a condition of their funding, grant recipients provide the City of Saskatoon (City) with an annual program report, a report on outcomes, audited financial statements and proof of insurance. All four grant recipients have complied with these requirements and in addition, have demonstrated that:

1. their work aligns with the City’s vision and strategic priorities;
2. they have a proven track record of successfully delivering programs; and
3. they leverage the grant funds from the City for other funding.

The four agencies currently receive the following levels of funding:

Agency	2019 Funding
Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services	\$125,200
Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre Inc. - EGADZ	\$120,000
Wanuskewin Heritage Park	\$184,000
Saskatchewan Health Authority – Brief/Social Detox Unit	\$100,000

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

None of the four agencies in the Stand-Alone Funding Program have had a funding increase for many years, as shown in Appendix 1. The previously presented 2020-2021 Indicative Business Plan and Budget to maintain existing service levels includes funding for all four grant recipients at the 2019 level. At the time of 2020 - 2021 Budget Options discussion at the August 19, 2019 Governance and Priorities meeting, an option for Committee to consider could be to approve a cost-of-living increase of 2% to the four agencies, see Appendix 2. This would require an increase to the operating budget of \$10,600 in 2020 and \$10,700 in 2021 equivalent to a 0.01% property tax increase over the two years.

Another option could be to approve the specific funding increases being requested by the two agencies: Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services is requesting an increase of \$71,675 for a total grant of \$196,875 equivalent to a 0.03% tax increase. The additional funding is to address unprecedented increases in emergency service volumes given the agency's role in the emergency continuum along with Police, Fire and hospital emergency.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is requesting an increase of \$18,400 for a total grant of \$202,400 equivalent to a 0.01% property tax increase. For the past five years, Wanuskewin has been in a state of revitalization with extensive renovations and expansions as it works towards UNESCO World Heritage Site status. The funding increase is to support new expanded program offerings.

Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre Inc. – EGADZ and Saskatchewan Health Authority – Brief/Social Detox Unit have not submitted a request for increase to their funding.

NEXT STEPS

Administration will process the 2020-2021 Stand-Alone Grant Agreements based on the funding approved through the 2020 and 2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget Process.

APPENDICES

1. Stand-Alone Grant Recipients Funding History
2. Stand-Alone Grant Recipients Funding Options for 2020-2021

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Report Approval

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