

Building Safer Communities Fund

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (City) was successful in receiving a grant under the Building Safer Communities Fund. City Council approval is required for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Contribution Agreement on behalf of the City.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement from the Building Safer Communities Fund under the Corporate Seal; and
2. That if required, the Director of Recreation and Community Development be granted delegated authority to sign and submit and progress reports and financial claims related to the project.

BACKGROUND

Public Safety Canada invited the City to apply for funding under the Building Safer Communities Fund. The objective of the program is to aid municipalities in their efforts to bolster gang-prevention and intervention programming and address gun and gang prevalence in their communities. Eligible activities under the program can include the following:

- Development of a strategy on gun and gang violence.
- Development and delivery of prevention and/or intervention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development and recreational opportunities.
- Development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering and reporting on gun and gang crime or on results achieved.
- Development of knowledge to fill gaps at the community/recipient level, including research, and sharing of information and/or best practices related to gun and gang violence.
- Outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants.
- Public awareness and education.
- Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives related to gun and gang violence.
- Development of a plan to sustain successful preventative initiatives or intervention activities beyond the end of the contribution agreement.
- Any other prevention and intervention initiatives as developed in consultation with the program authority.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The initial Contribution Agreement which runs to July 3, 2024, will allocate a total of \$212,850 in grant funding with no requirement for funds from the City. Administration, with support from the Social Development Manager will engage with internal stakeholders to create a new stakeholder committee. Through community consultations the committee will develop a multi-year plan to bolster gang prevention and intervention programming to help ultimately combat gun and gang violence in the city. The overall outcome is the development of an action plan, to help bolster gang prevention and intervention programming, which will proceed concurrently with the evaluation framework and sustainability plan.

After creation of a new strategy, Public Safety Canada and Administration will amend the Contribution Agreement to extend to March 31, 2026, and begin implementation of the Strategy. Additional funds of \$2.5M will be made available from the program, again with no requirement for funds from the City.

The development and implementation of the action plan as described directly aligns with the City's Strategic Plan in the priority area of Community Safety and Well-Being. Specifically, the key action to develop a community-wide safety and well-being strategy that defines and evolves the City's role in addressing social challenges with an emphasis on crime reduction and neighbourhood safety.

City Council approval is required to give the Mayor and City Clerk the ability to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City. Additionally, more Federal funding programs are requiring a resolution of Council to give Administration the ability to submit claims and project status reports on the program. Administration is also requesting approval that the Director of Recreation and Community Development be granted delegated authority to sign and submit any progress reports and financial claims related to the project to meet all the administrative requirements of the funding program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Building Safer Communities Fund will grant the City \$2.74 million in total funding. The first phase as described in this report is \$212,850 in operating funds for the creation of strategy to bolster gang prevention and intervention programming, ultimately helping combat gun and gang violence. The remaining funding of approximately \$2.5M has been awarded to the City for execution and implementation of the multi-year strategy. No matching funds are required by the City under the fund.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Administration will report back on the strategy at the appropriate time.

REPORT APPROVAL

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