

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Cora Janzen - Cash Grants for Social Programs - CK 1700-1
Attachments: IA ED Letter Re Grant FundingFINAL.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 1:26 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Cora Janzen - Cash Grants for Social Programs - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to contact@interagencyresponse.ca ---

Submitted on Monday, November 27, 2023 - 13:24

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Cora

Last Name: Janzen (on behalf of a collective of nonprofit agencies)

Email: contact@interagencyresponse.ca

Address: 101-310 Idylwyld Drive N

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7L 0Z2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): On behalf of a collective of nonprofit agencies serving people experiencing income, housing, or food insecurities

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: 2024/2025 final budget review

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Cash grants for social programs

Comments:

We are writing as a collective of nonprofit organizations in Saskatoon that provide services and support for people who are disproportionately impacted by income insecurities, along with housing and food insecurities, mental health and addiction inequitable outcomes, as well as other systemic and societal barriers to well-being.

Attachments:

- [IA ED Letter Re Grant FundingFINAL.pdf](#)388.82 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

November 27, 2023

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
Office of the City Clerk
222 – 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5

Dear His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

We are writing as a collective of nonprofit organizations in Saskatoon that provide services and support for people who are disproportionately impacted by income insecurities, along with housing and food insecurities, mental health and addiction inequitable outcomes, as well as other systemic and societal barriers to well-being.

It has come to our attention that the Governance and Priorities Committee directed that the inflationary increases to a number of grant programs be eliminated from the 2024 and 2025 operating budgets.

We want to take this opportunity to express our concerns about the impact of this decision and urge reconsideration, specifically as it relates to the Cash Grants for social programs.

In 2023, City Council, with guidance from the Social Services Subcommittee, allocated funding to 24 nonprofit agencies in our community through the Cash Grants. These grants, totaling \$565,000 have been used to leverage considerable funding from other sectors and deliver community-building and community-serving programs that residents rely on. From the provision of drop-in space, to eviction prevention, summer snacks, to outreach, the programs you help to support are tackling the challenges in our community head-on.

This funding is essential. And it isn't enough. In 2023, your team received applications from 63 agencies requesting a total of \$1,867,980. Only 30% of the requested funding was available for granting. Though the inflation increases for 2024 and 2025 are minimal in terms of the Civic budget, they represent the capacity to award funding to one more applicant/program, or recognize the inflation that nonprofit agencies also face in their service delivery. Any reduction to the potential impact of this program is a step in the wrong direction, especially at a time when residents are facing worsening social challenges.

Your administration has identified this program as a pressure in the Community Services area, and identifies a target of \$4/capita for this program by 2027. It is currently funded at \$2/capita.

Saskatoon benefits significantly from the nonprofit organizations within Saskatoon, many of which do not receive any grant proceeds from the City of Saskatoon. Furthermore, the \$565,000 ear-marked for the Cash Grant Social programs is a small amount when compared to the combined operational expenses of the nonprofit organizations in Saskatoon. In a time of record houselessness, a mental health crisis, increasing food insecurity, and an opioid pandemic, Saskatoon's nonprofit agencies are stepping up and increasing their efforts to support the community's most vulnerable citizens. Will the City of Saskatoon do the same? To further diminish the modest pool of funding to the nonprofit agencies that are serving citizens in greatest need does not make sense for a City that is already having difficulty addressing the social realities of many of our residents.

Please reconsider this decision, and reinstate the inflationary adjustment to the Social Services Cash Grant: \$15,800 in 2024 and \$8,800 in 2025. These increases will maintain this program's capacity in the short term while the program is reviewed to assess necessary future capacity.

Sincerely,

Gord Androsoff, CHEP Good Inc.

Andrea Cessna, Chokeycherry Studios Inc.

Chantelle Johnson, Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. o/a CLASSIC

Dwayne Docken, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. o/a CUMFI

Corinne Anthony, Crocus Co-operative

Nicole Obrigavitch, Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan

Sheryl Harrow-Yurach, Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan

Dionne Miazdyck-Shield, Haven Family Connections

Lanelle Big Eagle, Iris Akbar, and Analu Alvarez, OUTSaskatoon

Christine Daniels, Persons Living With AIDS Network of Saskatchewan

Kayla DeMong, Prairie Harm Reduction

Kristen Thoms, QUINT Development Corporation

Chantalle Morrow-Fesciuc, River Bend Integrated Community Ministries Inc.

Gordon Taylor, Salvation Army, Crossroads Residential Services

Jess Hamm, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association

Jodie Semkiw, Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services

Lisa Clatney, Saskatoon Community Clinic

Laurie O'Connor, Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre

Sandra Kary, Saskatoon Friendship Inn

J. Robert LaFontaine, Saskatoon Housing Initiative Partnership o/a SHIP

Tanya Wiggins, Saskatoon Interval House

Ali Abukar, Saskatoon Open Door Society

Caitlyn Cottrell, Saskatoon Sexual Health

Karen Cederwall, Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centre

Lisa Munroe, Saskatoon Tribal Council

Jolon Lafond, Saskatoon Tribal Council, White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Hayden McQuire, Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health o/a SWITCH

Russ Misskey, Str8 UP Saskatoon

Dean Dodge, YMCA Saskatoon

Cara Bahr, YWCA Saskatoon

As partners with SPRP