

## **Assistance to Community Groups – 2025 Cash Awards**

### **ISSUE**

The Social Services Subcommittee completed the adjudication process for the 2025 Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program, Social Services Category and respectfully submits this report and recommendations for approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That cash grants totalling \$589,000, under the Social Services Category, Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program, be approved, and
2. That Administration execute the one-year funding agreements with Flagship organizations.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Social Services Subcommittee (Subcommittee) is appointed by recommendation of the Governance and Priorities Committee to City Council and consists of:

- Gary Beaudin, Chairperson, United Way of Saskatoon and Area;
- Jody Glines, Saskatoon Public Schools;
- Emily Gabor, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- Shawna Pickrell, Ministry of Social Services; and
- Tayyaba Sultana, 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 2025 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 which provide grants to community groups. 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 partners use the same application form. Each partner retains their own funding priorities, eligibility criteria and review processes. They make collaborative efforts to the funding process which allows for applicants to receive awards from one or both partners. This collaborative funding process enables them to make strategic decisions in community

investment, ensuring that applicants and their associated programs are adequately funded for success, while eliminating the risk of an over investment in any one grant request.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

#### Sub-Committee Recommends Support to 27 Saskatoon Agencies

The Subcommittee reviewed 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 56 applications requesting a total of \$2,727,141.65; and
- Recommendations include one-year support totalling \$589,000.00, which represents funding 27 agencies total, 8 flagship organizations and 19 community-based organizations being recommended for cash grants (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). 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 renewed through a one-year agreement for 2025.

#### Program Review: started Fall 2023

In Fall of 2023, a program review was initiated for the Assistance to Community Groups – Social Services grant program, which included an environmental scan, an online survey and a community forum. Through this review, Administration identified areas of potential change within the program, such as contemporizing the policy and innovating practices to better meet the needs of community.

Administration will bring forward recommendations for program changes in a future report, including the options to move to multi-year (2 year) funding that aligns with the City of Saskatoon's budget process, 4-year funding periods for Flagships and adjustments to levels of assistance.

#### The Collaborative Funders Address Community Needs

The Subcommittee is pleased to once again participate in the Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership, which allows funders to address needs in the community in a more collaborative manner and encourages 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, Community Investments and Support Service Line. The approved 2025 Operating Budget includes funding of \$599,000.00. Recommended cash grants total \$589,000.00, with the remaining \$10,000.00 to be allocated to costs related to administration of Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership and a community forum to be held this year on the topic of grant policies and application instructions.

**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 applicants by June 16, 2025.

**APPENDICES**

1. Assistance to Community Groups - 2025 Cash Awards

**REPORT APPROVAL**

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Approved by: Celene Anger, General Manager, Community Services

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