



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment Program 2007 Allocations

Date:	October 15, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommendations for the organizations that applied for municipal support under the 2007 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program. Of the 40 applicants, 17 are recommended for funding totalling \$150,000.00. An amount of \$15,000 has been held for appeals.

The Identify 'N Impact Investment program enables a wide variety of community organizations and youth-led groups to provide engagement opportunities for youth. The 2007 recommended projects enhance the range of opportunities to engage youth across the city, particularly African Canadian youth and youth in priority communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that:

- 1) Identify 'N Impact allocations, totalling \$150,000.00 to 17 applicants as recommended in Appendices A and B of this report be approved, and an amount of \$15,000.00 be available for appeals;
- 2) this report be forwarded to the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee for the purpose of hearing appeals and reporting on the allocation of the appeals fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2007 Approved Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In 2006, City Council approved the Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund for youth-led projects to enhance engagement opportunities for youth through community organizations and groups. The funding is provided under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c.11).

The 2007 Approved Operating budget includes an amount of \$165,000.00 for the Identify 'N Impact Investment program to support youth-led projects.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Youth Cabinet identified the need for the City of Toronto to support more youth-led activities, and included the concept of a special fund for this purpose in its information to Council during the 2006 budget process. The City's Community Safety Plan has also clearly identified the contribution that meaningful engagement opportunities for youth make, both to healthy youth development and to broader community safety. The Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund supports youth engagement and activities that help young people to turn their ideas into actions in their communities.

COMMENTS

The 2007 INI Priorities and Goal:

The purpose of the 2007 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program is to provide a new way for the City of Toronto to support youth-led activities in the community. INI's primary goal is to support projects initiated by youth-led organizations and groups in the City's 13 priority neighbourhood areas, particularly youth-led organizations comprised of and/or working with racialized youth, with a key focus on African Canadian youth. Priority is given to projects that involve youth in all aspects of the planning and delivery of activities, and reflect youth culture and communication styles.

2007 INI Outreach and Support:

For 2007, organizations were able to access a variety of supports to prepare an INI application. Five information sessions were held to provide applicants with an overview of the program, information on priorities, lists of projects funded in the past and information on preparing an application. Agency Review Officers and Community

Development Officers supported applicants with information on meeting the program requirements and understanding the application process.

Applications for the 2007 process were available in hard copy and through the City of Toronto web-site at www.toronto.ca/grants/ini. Notices were mailed and emailed to groups to inform them of the availability of the application. The City web-site provided the full application package including application form, guidelines, relevant City of Toronto policies, contact information and lists of previously funded projects. Most organizations and groups used the web-site to access the application package.

Application and Review Process:

Youth Review Panel:

The INI fund has been set up to involve youth from the beginning, all the way through the process. A panel of youth from the priority neighbourhoods was selected to consider all the eligible requests and make recommendations about which projects should be funded. Representatives of the Toronto Youth Cabinet worked with staff to select panel members through a screening and interview process. Panel members for the 2007 process were appointed by Council at its meeting of July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, and included representatives from seven priority neighbourhood areas and from Toronto Youth Cabinet.

The panel members participated in six training workshops covering topics of team building, the City's granting process, grants accountability and risk management framework, developing and using evaluation tools, etc. A representative from the Laidlaw Foundation delivered one workshop based on their experience as a long term funder of youth leadership activities. Staff supported the panel during the assessment process with information on city policies and best practices for funding. Information about the panel is posted on the city web-site.

Assessment process:

The assessment process for each application included a discussion among the panel members based on a review of documents such as program descriptions and data, project work plans; project budgets, DVDs and videos of other activities of the applicant, organization by-laws, letters patent and audited financial statements. The process included the use of an evaluation tool to determine the fit of the project proposal with the INI goals, priorities and criteria. A key area of assessment was the level of youth involvement, and panel members considered the level of involvement of youth in planning, managing and delivering the project, as well as the involvement of youth in the City's 13 priority neighbourhood areas and/or racialized youth, particularly African Canadian youth.

Applicants were contacted for additional information if needed, and in some instances, staff undertook consultation with other services and funding providers to ensure a better understanding of the application.

The review panel gave priority to youth-led groups who normally cannot access mainstream and other sources of funding that require developed organizational structure and a track record of services, but were able to demonstrate their creativity and effectiveness in addressing youth needs in the project. In order to be eligible under the 2007 INI newly established youth-led groups are required to work with a trustee who can provide guidance and budget management throughout the process. In addition, Community Development Officers support the projects including matching youth-led groups with trustees, monitoring the working relationships, and providing support that is essential to the successful implementation of the activities.

2007 Applications Overview:

A total of 40 applications were received for the 2007 INI, requesting \$482,659.00, almost three times the INI approved budget of \$165,000.00. 38 applications are from new organizations that had not received funding in 2006: 16 of these are recommended for funding. Two applications are from returning organizations: one of these is recommended for a 2007 project.

The number of proposals that demonstrated a strong fit with the INI goals, priority areas and funding criteria was larger than could be recommended within the total amount of funds available in the program. Allocation recommendations were made for those proposals that demonstrated the strongest fit and address the range of priorities in INI. In order to fund all the applicants that demonstrated their fit with the INI program, an additional amount of \$26,000.00 would be required.

2007 Allocation Recommendations and Summary:

The allocation recommendations for 2007 are included in Appendix A, which lists all applicants and their requested project amounts. Detailed information on individual applicants and the proposed project is included in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a project description for all recommended applicants. Applicants have been notified of the recommended allocation and have been informed about the appeal process.

Factors considered in the development of the 2007 INI funding recommendations include: the need to support projects in various parts of the city, addressing youth engagement and development of the youth leadership skills and opportunities, reflecting the diversity of INI priority communities and responding to the range of projects and organizations requesting support. As directed by Council, INI has given priority for funding to youth engagement projects in the 13 priority neighbourhoods.

The recommended projects provide focused activities in 8 of the 13 priority neighbourhoods. Two projects provide city-wide activities. All the funded projects reflect

youth culture and engagement choices through the nature of the activities and the approach to involving new participants.

Recommended projects by priority:

Support youth led activities:	8
Develop youth leadership:	5
Focus on racialized youth/African Canadian youth:	4

Applications by status with the INI grants program:

Number of new applicants:	38	New applicants recommended:	16
Number of returning applicants:	2	Returning applicants recommended:	1

Learning from youth-led projects:

The panel review process in 2006 and 2007, as well as the experience of the first round of applicants informed the type of information and support provided to applicants in the 2007 process. There are many challenges in developing local projects, and staff will continue to work with the funded projects, the INI funding program, TYC and funders of youth-led projects to improve our practices to better meet the needs of youth.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Identify “N Impact Investment Program 2007 Recommendations
Appendix B: Detailed Organization Recommendations – Summary Sheets
Appendix C: Descriptions of 2007 Recommended Projects