

Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment Program 2008 Allocations

Date:	August 25, 2008
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 2008 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program. Of the 38 applicants, 16 are recommended for funding totalling \$149,000.00. An amount of \$16,000.00 has been held for appeals.

The Identify 'N Impact Investment program enables a wide variety of youth-led groups and community organizations to provide engagement opportunities for youth. The 2008 recommended projects provide opportunities to engage youth across the city, particularly African Canadian youth and youth in priority neighbourhoods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) City Council approve the Identify 'N Impact allocations totalling \$149,000.00 to 16 applicants as recommended in Appendices A and B, and an amount of \$16,000.00 be held for appeals; and
- 2) the Community Development and Recreation Committee forward this report to the Community Partnership and Investment Program 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 2008 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 2008 Approved Operating budget includes an amount of \$165,000.00 for the Identify 'N Impact Investment fund to support youth-led projects.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City's Community Safety Plan and the Toronto Youth Cabinet have 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 activities that help young people to turn their ideas into actions in their communities.

COMMENTS

The 2008 INI Priorities and Goal:

The purpose of the 2008 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program is to provide support to youth-led activities initiated in the City's 13 priority neighbourhood areas and/or organizations comprised of, 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.

2008 INI Outreach and Support:

For 2008, organizations were able to access a variety of supports to prepare an INI application. Information sessions were held in North Etobicoke and Scarborough 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 2008 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. The majority of organizations and groups used the web-site to access the application package. To facilitate youth in submitting their applications, 2008 INI accepted electronic version of applications in pdf format through e-mail.

Application and Review Process:

Youth Review Panel:

The INI fund has been set up to involve youth throughout the process including the review of applications. Representatives of the Toronto Youth Cabinet worked with staff to recruit and select panel members through an outreach and interview process. A 12 member panel of youth from priority neighbourhoods and the Toronto Youth Cabinet were appointed by Council at its meeting on June 23, 24, 2008.

Panel members participated in ten training workshops covering topics of team building, the City's granting process, anti-oppression, grants accountability and risk management framework, developing and using evaluation tools, assessing effective trustee relationships, etc. Information about the panel is posted on the city web-site.

Assessment process:

The applicant organization and the requested project must meet the INI eligibility criteria and be assessed as having a strong fit and appropriate performance level using the assessment criteria. The assessment process for each application included a discussion among the panel members based on a review of documents such as project description and data, work plan, budget, 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. Applicants were contacted for additional information if needed. Staff supported the panel during the assessment process with information on City policies and best practices for funding.

A key area of project assessment is the level of youth involvement. 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.

2008 Applications and Recommendations Overview:

A total of 38 applications were received for the 2008 INI, requesting \$401,440.00, almost 2.5 times the INI approved budget of \$165,000.00. Thirty-six applications are from new organizations that had not received funding in 2007: 15 of these are recommended for funding. Two applications are from returning organizations: one of these is recommended for a 2008 project.

For 2008, allocations totalling \$149,000.00 are recommended to 16 applicants.

The recommended projects provide focused activities in 8 of the 13 priority neighbourhoods (Eglinton East-Kennedy Park, Jamestown, Jane/Finch, Kingston-Galloway, Lawrence Heights, Scarborough Village, Steeles-L'Amoureux and Weston-Mt. Dennis) and two projects serve citywide. A large number of recommended projects are in the three neighbourhoods of Jane/Finch (5), Jamestown (3) and Weston-Mt. Dennis (3) which reflects that the majority of the applicants (22 out of 38) proposed to work in those neighbourhoods. All the funded projects involve youth engagement and the development of youth leadership skills and opportunities. An amount of \$16,000.00 is available for appeals.

The number of proposals that demonstrated a strong fit with the INI goals, priority areas and funding criteria is 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 addressed the range of priorities in INI. In order to fund all the applicants that demonstrated a strong fit with the INI program, an additional amount of \$40,000.00 would be required.

Recommended projects by priority:

Support youth led activities:	3
Develop youth leadership:	7
Focus on racialized youth/African Canadian youth:	5
Reflects youth culture/engagement choices	1

Applications by status with the INI grants program:

Number of new applicants:	36	New applicants recommended	15
Number of returning applicants:	2	Returning applicants recommended:	1

The allocation recommendations for 2008 are included in Appendix A, which lists all applicants and their requested project amounts. Detailed information on individual applicants and their 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.

Program Model:

The Identify 'N Impact funding program is now in its third year of operation. The INI program model provides civic engagement opportunities for youth to be involved in the ongoing operation and implementation of this program. Feedback from applicants and panel members has identified the need to review the program timelines. The current timeline is not a good fit for many youth projects, which would benefit from summer implementation. Identifying trustees that are committed to helping youth-led groups in the process has been a challenge for some projects. Community Resources staff will continue to explore ways to make the process of working with a trustee better for funded projects. Before the 2009 cycle, staff will work with stakeholders to consider timeline and administrative options to improve the implementation of the program to support effective youth engagement activities.

With the assistance of this program, many youth-led groups that normally cannot access mainstream and sources of funding were able to gain the necessary support to demonstrate their creativity and effectiveness in addressing youth needs.

CONTACT

Kin-Wah Siu, Agency Review Officer
Community Funding Programs Unit
Social Development, Finance & Administration
Phone: 392-9207; Fax: 392-8492
E-mail: ksiu@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger
Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Identify 'N Impact Investment Program 2008 Recommendations
Appendix B: Detailed Organization Recommendations – Summary Sheets
Appendix C: Descriptions of 2008 Recommended Projects