



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Appeal of 2009 City of Toronto Homelessness Initiatives Fund and the Provincial Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program by Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre

Date:	January 28, 2009
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Wards:	14
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report responds to an appeal made by Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre to the Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Sub-Committee, requesting a review of PARC's 2009 allocation for extended hours and requesting funds for increased staffing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, recommends that the appeal for \$20,357.00 by Parkdale Activity & Recreation Centre be approved to enable the organization to provide extended hours of drop-in service.

Financial Impact

The recommendation in this report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2009 Interim Operating Budget for January 1 through April 30, 2009. Council approved \$37,000.00 from the 2009 Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP) for appeals of City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund (CT-HIF) and/or CHPP 2009 allocations. Appeal funding is a one-time decision and does not have financial implications beyond 2009.

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

DECISION HISTORY

Council approved the delegation of funding to ongoing projects to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, on June 23, 24, 2008, Report CD 16.5, recommendation 4: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-13492.pdf>

Council approved funding for new or changed projects on December 1, 2 and 3, 2008, Report CD 20.15, subject to approval of the 2009 Operating Budget: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-17260.pdf>

This report also noted that up to \$37,000 for appeals of funding decisions was set aside, subject to approval of the 2009 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Appeals were considered by the Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Sub-Committee on January 23, 2009, and the Sub-Committee referred all appeals to Shelter, Support and Housing Administration staff for further consideration. The Sub-Committee also requested that the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in making his report on appeals, review other eligible organizations that provide food security.

The Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC) appealed the decision of funding allocated for weekend and statutory holiday operating hours of their drop-in. PARC also requested additional funding for their food service program.

COMMENTS

Weekend and Statutory Holiday Drop-in Operating Hours

PARC requested \$81,773.00 in their application for funding for extended hours from May 1 to December 31, 2009. They were allocated \$62,416.00 and requested the additional \$20,357.00 on appeal. The reduced funding recommended was based on the intention that service hours could be reduced below those proposed in the application. PARC has since advised that the proposed staffing costs were based on the minimum payable when staff are called in to work.

Upon review, staff recommend that the full amount of the appeal by PARC, \$20,357.00, be approved.

Food Service Program

PARC also requested \$25,390.00 to hire relief staff to work in the kitchen. This proposal, along with other business cases invited for increased staffing to improve service to drop-in clients, was not considered in the recommendations made to Council for 2009 funding given the magnitude of requests and available funding. PARC's request is, therefore, not eligible for appeal.

Food is a cornerstone of drop-in services. People who come to drop-in centres depend on the meals provided to meet daily nutritional needs. Starting in 2007, the City undertook a pilot project in partnership with the Daily Bread Food Bank, Second Harvest and Toronto Public Health to assist drop-in kitchens to serve healthier meals through bulk-purchasing of nutrient rich foods. In 2009, Council approved \$200,000 to continue the project and Daily Bread has agreed to continue its contribution of \$100,000. PARC participates in this project, and is eligible for continued participation in 2009.

CONTACT

Katherine Chislett
Director, Housing and Homelessness Supports and Initiatives
Phone: 416-397-0260
Fax: 416-338-1144
E-mail: kchisle@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Phil Brown
General Manager
Shelter, Support and Housing Administration