



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Service Development Investment Program (SDIP) 2009 Allocation Recommendations and Program Update

Date:	May 26, 2009
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends that \$399,840.00 be allocated to 13 organizations for capacity development activities within priority neighbourhoods, and provides an update on the review of program priorities and local needs.

The Service Development Investment program (SDIP) provides multi-year project funding to support the organizational capacity of coalitions and non-profit organizations in order to develop a community's capacity to understand local issues and build effective responses and partnerships. SDIP is a unique funding program, offering opportunities for non-traditional groups and groups that may be high risk due to lack of a track record. The particular focus is on developing capacity within priority neighbourhoods for identifying issues and initiating local responses. In 2009, some allocations have been recommended for projects that address an expanded mandate of supporting service stabilization for priority neighbourhoods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the 2009 Service Development Investment Program allocations totalling \$399,840.00 to 13 organizations as described in Appendix A and B of this report;

2. City Council approve the expanded mandate of Service Development Investment Program to include support for service stabilization opportunities for organizations serving priority neighbourhoods;
3. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) budgets are provided for specific program purposes and Service Development Investment Program recommendations are presented to City Council for approval on an annual basis. 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, c11).

In December, 2008 City Council approved the report "CPIP 2008 Community Services Funding Allocations and Program Update" including information on consultations related to future directions and administrative options for the program.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/reports/2008-11-14-cd20-cr.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Council has identified 13 priority neighbourhoods where investment is required to build local capacity for partnerships that can build and sustain social infrastructure. The Service Development Investment Program was established in 2005 to address this need through funding that supports the organizational capacity of coalitions and not-for-profit organizations.

COMMENTS

Updates to the SDIP guidelines and administration:

The report "CPIP 2008 Community Services Funding Allocations and Program Update" identified several components of the SDIP program that required revision, specifically the allocation priorities and ways to improve the program in order to achieve its goals. Community organizations agreed that SDIP has been effective in addressing the developmental stages of its recipient organizations and helped them work together, develop local strategies and facilitate new and coordinated service responses. The SDIP

focus has been on developing organizational capacity, and not service provision. In the past year, a growing number of youth-led and youth engagement groups have demonstrated effective service models for programs serving youth in priority neighbourhoods. These programs have been developed through a variety of funding and community partnership initiatives, including participation by City of Toronto community development staff. These groups are not yet stable service providers for priority neighbourhood youth because their organizational structure and capacity does not give them the ability to move on to stable, ongoing funding sources. As a result of this environmental scan, it is recommended that Council approve an expanded mandate for SDIP to include service stabilization projects. This additional flexibility for SDIP will respond to the identified need for developmental support for youth-led and youth-focused organizations with proven program activities in priority neighbourhoods.

Change in timelines:

The SDIP timeline has been changed to bring the program in line with the funding timelines of other project funding programs. All 2009 recommendations are made for funding to be used within the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 period. Those projects that were approved for funding from the 2008 SDIP are recommended for a pro-rated funding allocation to bring them in line with the new timeline.

Service Development Investment Program -- 2009 Allocation Recommendations

A targeted call was undertaken through Community Development staff working within priority neighbourhoods to identify suitable applicants for 2009 SDIP funding. Seven new applicants and six returning applicants were identified through this process. Three previously funded projects have received the planned fourth and last year of funding, and one previously funded project is not eligible to reapply at this time. Recommendations are provided for all seven new allocations and six returning allocations in 2009.

The allocation recommendations for 2009 are included in Appendix A, which lists all applicants and their requested project amounts. Project descriptions for each organization are provided in Appendix B. Because of the limited overall size of the budget and the number of multi-year applicants, no appeals fund has been set aside.

Four of the new applications are from coalitions of youth service providers which will focus on building effective responses to local youth issues in Lawrence Heights, Weston-Mount Dennis, Jamestown and Flemington Park-O'Connor.

Three new organizations are recommended for support to address the expanded mandate for service stabilization projects. Two groups are focused on building the capacity of youth service providers across the priority neighbourhoods, and are recommended for three year projects to continue services, refine the service delivery model to reflect resource availability, formalize the governance model and work to diversify and stabilize ongoing funding sources. One organization is recommended for a project to expand the

understanding and capacity of community service organizations to use social enterprise models and skills to meet community needs and develop stable services. The SDIP funding will specifically work with this project to make its resources available to organizations and youth-led groups working in priority neighbourhoods.

Returning SDIP projects will continue to be supported according to their multi-year plans. Of the returning organizations, two are in their second year of funding and two organizations are applying for a third and final year of funding. The SDIP budget was increased by 2% to address ongoing issues of rising costs for program delivery in the community services sector. This 2% funding level adjustment has been applied to returning, multi-year projects and is not dependent on an organization's requested amount.

Two returning applicants, The Black Creek West Community Coordinating Committee and Chester Le Community Development Project have developed to the stage where they are ready to apply to the City's Community Services Partnership (CSP) program for ongoing program funding. The groups have worked with staff to identify their program suitability and organizational eligibility, and their CSP applications will be reviewed during the next annual CSP review cycle. While no commitment to future CSP support can be provided at this stage, SDIP funding is recommended for 6 months in order to bridge the timeline from the SDIP funding cycle to the Community Services Partnership program approval timelines.

Recommended projects for 2009 include three that work in multiple priority neighbourhoods and ten that focus on addressing needs in nine priority neighbourhoods.

CONTACT

Barbara Finlay, Supervisor, Community Funding
Social Development Finance and Administration
Tel: 416-392-9126 Fax: 416-392-8492
bfinlay@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger, Acting Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2009 Service Development Investment Program Allocation
Recommendations

Appendix B: 2009 Service Development Investment Program Project Descriptions