



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Community Safety Investment Program (CSI) 2009 Allocation Recommendations

Date:	May 15, 2009
To:	Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Sub-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 2009 Community Safety Investment program. Of the 59 applicants, 24 are recommended for funding totalling \$664,400.00. An amount of \$18,800.00 has been held for appeals.

The Community Safety Investment program enables a wide variety of community organizations to participate in making a safe city safer by providing education and prevention activities, building community capacity, reaching vulnerable groups, addressing systemic issues and developing effective models of community-based service. The 2009 recommendations provide communities with important opportunities to address their priority prevention issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. the Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Sub-committee approve the allocations for the Community Safety Investment program totalling \$664,400.00 to 24 applicants as recommended in Appendices A and B; and an amount of \$18,800.00 be held for appeals;

2. this report be forwarded to the Community Development and Recreation Committee; and,
3. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report recommends that the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP)'s 2009 Approved Operating Budget for the Community Safety Investment program of \$683,200.00 be allocated as per Appendices A and B (\$664,400.00), with \$18,800.00 set aside for appeal purposes.

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Community Safety Investment (CSI) program supports non-profit organizations across the City of Toronto for community-based project activities that increase community safety and prevent violence. 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).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The recommended allocations under the 2009 Community Safety Investment program support community-based activities that fit within the directions of the City's Community Safety Plan at <http://www.toronto.ca/communitysafety/index.htm>. The CSI program makes resources available to organizations that are in a unique position to reach vulnerable communities with information, prevention activities and responses that reduce violence and increase safety for the most vulnerable groups in Toronto.

COMMENTS

The 2009 CSI Mission, Priorities and Goals:

The mission of the Community Safety Investment (CSI) program is to create safe communities for people in Toronto. CSI's two primary goals are to increase access for communities to information, skills and supports that prevent violence and increase safety, and to increase the capacity of communities to address systemic causes of violence.

The CSI recognizes that not everyone is equally affected by violence. The experiences and perceptions of safety vary for individuals and communities, depending on age, gender, income levels, race, access to information, available resources and a variety of other circumstances. Communities have a range of different assets and different structural

issues to address. In order to ensure that the CSI projects will have a significant impact, funding is directed to vulnerable communities.

CSI allocations give priority to projects addressing safety and violence prevention needs of:

- Children and youth
- Women and girls
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- Aboriginal community
- Neighbourhoods
- Immigrants and refugees
- Gay/Lesbian/bisexual/transgender/transsexual community.

Each year, CSI applications are reviewed in the context of emerging issues and strategic directions of the City of Toronto. An emerging issue in 2009 was the need to build neighbourhood capacity for community crisis response. A total of \$93,000.00 is recommended for three projects that address this issue. Details of funded projects can be found in Appendices B and C.

In keeping with Council's Community Safety Plan, 2009 CSI funding is recommended for projects that develop community capacity, model gang prevention initiatives, address the violence prevention needs of low-income women of colour, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/transsexual community and seniors, and serve the 13 priority neighbourhood areas.

2009 CSI Outreach and Support:

For 2009, organizations were able to access a variety of supports to prepare a CSI application. Three 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. Two workshops were organized to help applicants prepare the logic model workplan in the CSI application. Agency Review Officers were available by telephone to address agency-specific questions and provide technical support related to criterion clarification.

Applications for the 2009 process were available in hard copy and through the City of Toronto web-site at www.toronto.ca/grants/csi. Notices were mailed to organizations to inform them of the availability of the application. The web-site provides the full application package including fact sheets, organization self-assessment forms, application forms, guidelines, contact information and lists of previously funded projects. Most organizations used the web site to access the application package: three organizations requested packages through the mail.

Applications were accepted by mail postmarked by the deadline and by hand delivery at City Hall.

Application and Review Process:

The assessment process for each applicant includes a review of documents such as project descriptions and data, project logic model work plans, evaluation plans, financial statements, organization by-laws, letters patent and audited financial statements to assess the capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed work, and to determine the fit of the project proposal with the CSI goals, priorities and criteria. The review of applications included contact with applicants for additional information and site visits if needed, consideration of other community resources and programs, and consultation with other services and funding providers.

2009 Applications and Allocations Overview:

A total of 59 applications were received for the 2009 CSI, requesting a total of \$2,224,290.00 almost 3.3 times the CSI approved budget of \$683,200.00. In 2009, the CSI 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.

In 2009, the City of Toronto began implementation of options to streamline and improve funding processes in Partnership Programs. The streamlining of the application process for multi-year approved Investment Programs has been initiated, especially in relation to deadlines, applications and assessments.

In 2009, 44 applications are from new organizations that had not received funding in 2008, 11 of these are recommended for funding. The average size of requests increased and 68 % of the applications are for multi-year projects (2008: 49%, 2007: 46%). The average funding recommendation size has increased to \$27,683.00 (2008: \$27,159.00, \$2007: \$25,038.00) and the overall number of recommended projects is 24 (2008: 25, 2007: 26). This year, 4 organizations are recommended for one-year projects (2008: 9, 2007: 13), and 20 (2008: 16, 2007: 13) are for multi-year projects.

The shift to multi-year funding, which allocates a portion of the CSI annual budget to support previously funded projects, has allowed for longer term planning and stable project budgets. The reduction in available funding for new projects has resulted in fewer applications to the program.

The number of proposals that demonstrated a strong fit with the CSI 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 CSI. In

order to fund all the applicants that demonstrated their fit with the CSI program, an additional amount of \$404,336.00 would be required.

2009 Recommendations Overview:

The allocation recommendations for 2009 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 2009 CSI funding recommendations include: the need to support projects in various parts of the city, addressing emerging violence issues, reflecting the diversity of CSI priority communities and responding to the range of projects and organizations requesting support.

As directed by Council, CSI has given priority for funding to violence prevention projects for youth in the 13 priority neighbourhoods of Jamestown, Jane/Finch, Weston-Mount Dennis, Lawrence Heights, Westminster-Branson, Crescent Town, Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village, Steeles-L'Amoureux, Dorset Park, Eglinton East-Kennedy Park, Scarborough Village, Malvern and Kingston/Galloway. Six recommendations are for youth projects in these neighbourhoods, for a total of \$142,800.00.

2009 Allocation Summary:

Status with the CSI program:

Number of new applicants:	31	New applicants recommended:	11
Number of re-applying applicants:	15	Re-applying applicants recommended:	0
Number of returning applicants:	13	Returning applicants recommended:	13

Recommended projects by priority:

Children and youth:	8
Women and girls:	7
Seniors:	1
Aboriginal community:	0
Neighbourhoods:	2
Immigrants and refugees:	3
Gay/Lesbian/bisexual/transgender/transsexual community:	2
People with disabilities:	1

Recommended projects by timeline:

Year 1 of 1:	4 projects
Year 1 of 2:	5 projects
Year 1 of 3:	2 projects

Year 2 of 2:	1 project
Year 2 of 3:	9 projects
Year 3 of 3:	3 projects

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Community Safety Investment Program 2009 Recommendations
Appendix B: Detailed Organization Recommendations – Summary Sheets
Appendix C: Descriptions of 2009 Recommended Projects